

**300-91W10**  
**Emergency Medical Technician-Basic**  
**Midterm Written Examination (August 2001)**

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1. The person who is often the first on-scene and provides initial stabilization of the patient is the:
  - a. first responder
  - b. EMT-Basic
  - c. EMT-Intermediate
  - d. EMT-Paramedic
  
2. Your 36-year-old male patient has injured the lateral bone of his left forearm. You recall that this bone is the:
  - a. radius
  - b. ulna
  - c. humerus
  - d. clavicle
  
3. Which of the following organs is located in the upper right quadrant of the abdomen?
  - a. stomach
  - b. spleen
  - c. appendix
  - d. liver
  
4. Which of the following patients would require a rapid trauma assessment?
  - a. a 4-year-old male who fell two feet and has an abrasion on his cheek
  - b. a conscious and alert female with a gunshot wound to the abdomen
  - c. a 43-year-old female who has a deformity to the left femur
  - d. any adult who falls from a height greater than 10 feet
  
5. Snoring respirations are generally an indication of:
  - a. asthma
  - b. fluid in the airway
  - c. airway swelling
  - d. a blocked airway
  
6. A patient with snoring respirations should be managed by:
  - a. administering a prescribed ventolin inhaler
  - b. suctioning the airway for no longer than 15 seconds
  - c. performing a head-tilt chin lift to open the airway
  - d. applying a non-rebreather mask with 100% oxygen

7. You are assessing a 22-year-old female who has sustained a gunshot wound to the upper left chest. When you examine her skin, you note that it is cool and clammy. This indicates a/an:
  - a. increased blood flow to the skin
  - b. decreased blood flow to the skin
  - c. critically high systolic blood pressure
  - d. systolic blood pressure of at least 100
  
8. An elderly male presents with right upper quadrant abdominal pain. During the initial assessment, you notice that the patient's skin has a yellowish color to it. He also tells you that his urine has been darker than usual. Which of the following might explain these findings?
  - a. hepatitis
  - b. tuberculosis
  - c. acute gastritis
  - d. a urinary infection
  
9. Which of the following cases represents abandonment?
  - a. an EMT-Basic transfers care to an emergency department nurse
  - b. a paramedic assumes care from an EMT-Basic
  - c. an EMT-Basic transfers care to a first responder
  - d. a physician assumes care from an EMT-Intermediate
  
10. Upon arrival at a multi-vehicle accident, you note that there are approximately 6 patients, all of whom appear to have been ejected from the vehicles. Your immediate action should be to:
  - a. set up a triage sector
  - b. begin treating the critical patients
  - c. call for additional ambulances
  - d. gather all of the patients together
  
11. You are called to the residence of a 76-year-old female who complains of generalized weakness. Her blood pressure is 100/58, pulse is 100 and regular and her respirations are 22 and unlabored. She tells you that she takes minipress, elavil, and one aspirin per day. Her medical history consists of a coronary artery by-pass approximately 4 months ago. Your initial management of this patient includes:
  - a. asking her if she has taken her medications today
  - b. performing a complete detailed physical examination
  - c. applying oxygen with the appropriate device
  - d. asking her if she is having chest pain

12. Which of the following pieces of equipment would be of least value when assisting the ventilations of an unconscious patient who has no gag reflex?
  - a. a nasopharyngeal airway
  - b. an oropharyngeal airway
  - c. a pocket mask with oxygen inlet
  - d. an oxygen cylinder and regulator
  
13. The scene size-up includes all of the following components, except:
  - a. immediate care of critical patients
  - b. evaluating the safety of the scene
  - c. determining the mechanism of injury
  - d. requesting additional assistance
  
14. You are managing a semiconscious patient who has overdosed on Darvon. As you are assessing the airway the patient begins to vomit. You should immediately:
  - a. suction the patient's airway
  - b. insert an oral airway
  - c. turn the patient on their side
  - d. begin assisted ventilations
  
15. Which is the recommended artery for obtaining a pulse in a 6-month-old patient?
  - a. carotid
  - b. brachial
  - c. radial
  - d. femoral
  
16. Your initial assessment of a trauma patient reveals massive facial trauma, absent radial pulses and clammy skin. Your immediate concern with this patient is that:
  - a. the patient is in severe shock
  - b. a nasal airway must be inserted immediately
  - c. the patient's legs must be elevated
  - d. broken teeth may have been aspirated
  
17. In which of the following patients would you insert an oral airway?
  - a. a semiconscious male who overdosed on heroin
  - b. an unconscious trauma patient with fluid drainage from the ears
  - c. an alert female who is complaining of chest pain
  - d. any patient who is suspected to be hypoxic

18. You arrive at the scene of a truck crash to find the driver lying on the road. After determining that the patient is unresponsive, you should next:
  - a. establish the patient's trauma score
  - b. open the airway using the jaw thrust
  - c. briskly rub the patient's sternum to attempt to arouse him
  - d. look, listen, and feel for respirations
  
19. The EMT's decision to perform a rapid trauma assessment is most dependant upon the:
  - a. initial baseline vital signs
  - b. condition of the patient's airway
  - c. mechanism of injury
  - d. amount of bleeding present
  
20. A patient's respiratory status is best assessed by:
  - a. listening to the chest with a stethoscope
  - b. examining the face and chest for cyanosis
  - c. evaluating the respiratory rate and rise and fall of the chest
  - d. evaluating capillary refill time and determining the presence of a radial pulse
  
21. Which of the following is the best method for determining whether or not a motor vehicle crash scene is safe to enter?
  - a. listening to the information that the dispatcher provides you
  - b. waiting for the police to arrive before entering the scene
  - c. carefully observing the scene prior to stepping out of the ambulance
  - d. asking bystanders to describe the events leading to the crash
  
22. When assessing a 23-year-old female with abdominal pain, you should:
  - a. palpate the painful area first
  - b. firmly palpate all abdominal quadrants
  - c. auscultate for the presence of bowel sounds
  - d. gently palpate the painful area last
  
23. When dealing with a patient with possible tuberculosis, your primary concern is:
  - a. the status of the patient's airway
  - b. to protect the patient from further harm
  - c. administering high flow oxygen
  - d. to ensure your own safety
  
24. Of the following, which disease is most commonly transmitted via blood or bodily fluids?
  - a. tuberculosis
  - b. HIV/AIDS
  - c. chickenpox
  - d. german measles

25. At the end of a busy shift, you and your partner receive a call for a building explosion. En route to the scene you notice that your partner is very irritable and abrupt with you. When you arrive at the scene, your partner immediately begins treating the non-critical patients first. Your partner is most likely:
- having an acute myocardial infarction
  - managing the situation appropriately
  - having a cumulative stress reaction
  - an undiagnosed psychiatric patient
26. Many states require that the EMT report certain situations. Of the following, which is usually not a reportable case?
- a drug overdose
  - a gunshot wound
  - elderly abuse
  - an animal bite
27. A set of regulations and ethical considerations that define the extent or limits of an EMT's job is called:
- duty to act
  - scope of practice
  - medical practice act
  - confidentiality
28. You are called to a local nursing home for a male patient who is not responsive. When you assess the patient, you note that he is pulseless and apneic. The nurse tells you that the patient is not to be resuscitated, but cannot produce a valid DNR order. In this case, the most appropriate action for the EMT would be to:
- not resuscitate the patient based on the nurses order
  - call the coroner to pronounce the patient dead
  - call a physician and request permission to start CPR
  - begin basic life support and contact medical control
29. The most superior portion of the sternum is called the:
- breast bone
  - xiphoid process
  - manubrium
  - axilla
30. Which of the following statements is false?
- a child's tongue is proportionately smaller than that of an adult
  - the pediatric patient's head is proportionately larger when compared to an adult
  - the infants cricoid cartilage is less rigid than the adults
  - none of the above statement are false

31. The primary function of the red blood cell (erythrocyte) is to:
- Protect the body from infection
  - supply the body with carbon dioxide
  - aid in the clotting of the blood
  - carry oxygen to the body tissues
32. The layer of skin that is rich in blood vessels and nerves is the:
- dermis
  - epidermis
  - subcutaneous layer
  - exodermis
33. Which of the following organs is most likely to bleed profusely if injured?
- the kidney
  - gallbladder
  - the liver
  - large intestine
34. You are called to the scene of an auto-pedestrian accident. A 9-year-old female has been struck by a car. She complains of pain to her upper left quadrant. You notice that there is a large bruise over that area. You suspect injury to which organ?
- the liver
  - the spleen
  - the appendix
  - the kidney
35. When lifting and/or moving a patient, you must:
- twist your body when reaching
  - keep your back in a locked-in position
  - keep the weight as far from your body as possible
  - keep your elbows extended
36. Which of the following conditions would be least likely to result in respiratory arrest?
- a drowning
  - airway obstruction
  - severe chest pain
  - severe chest injury
37. A patient with inadequate breathing is best managed with:
- a nasal cannula
  - a non-rebreather
  - a nasal airway
  - a bag-valve mask

38. When managing the airway of a trauma patient:
- you must always insert an oral airway
  - stabilization of the head is mandatory
  - the head-tilt should be used if possible
  - assist ventilations, regardless of the adequacy of breathing
39. Which of the following findings would be most significant when assessing an unconscious patient?
- a large open wound to the lower abdomen
  - multiple fractures to the lower extremities
  - broken teeth and bleeding within the mouth
  - a large hematoma to the forehead with blood draining from the ears
40. Endocrine organs produce hormones. Which of the following is not an endocrine organ?
- the gallbladder
  - the thyroid
  - the pancreas
  - the pituitary
41. You respond to a motor vehicle accident at night. A large bus has collided with a small passenger car. Which of the following factors should be considered first?
- how many patients are involved
  - which of the patients are critical
  - the presence of any scene hazards
  - whether any of the patients were ejected
42. In your initial assessment of a patient with a chief complaint of a headache and shortness of breath, you should:
- obtain a set of baseline vital signs
  - ask the patient what medications they are taking
  - assess the rate and quality of the patient's pulse
  - check the patient's pupils with a penlight
43. Which of the following findings is not a high priority condition?
- a patient with chest pain and a blood pressure of 90/60
  - a confused patient who does not follow commands
  - a patient with moderate pain in the abdominal region
  - a patient in labor with severe vaginal bleeding
44. Which of the following statements regarding capillary refill is false?
- normal capillary refill time is less than two seconds
  - capillary refill is best assessed in infants and children
  - capillary refill is a reliable indicator of perfusion in the adult
  - cold temperatures will increase capillary refill time

45. Flushed skin could be caused by all of the following, except:
- heat exposure
  - a lack of oxygen in the blood
  - high blood pressure
  - emotional excitement
46. Choose the correct statement regarding pupillary appearance:
- unequal pupils usually indicate severe blood loss
  - the pupils should dilate when a light is shone into them
  - barbiturate drugs will cause the pupils to constrict
  - narcotic drugs will cause the pupils to constrict
47. Your patient is a one-year old female who fell out of her playpen. When assessing her, you should:
- separate her from her mother if she is stable
  - take a blood pressure to determine the severity of injury
  - consider the possibility of spinal injury
  - accuse the parents of child abuse
48. You are assessing a patient who fell from a tree. Your initial assessment reveals no immediate threats to life. Your next action should be to:
- obtain baseline vital signs
  - perform a rapid trauma assessment
  - focus on the area(s) of injury
  - release control of the cervical spine
49. Upon arrival at the scene of a call for a “sick person”, you find an elderly man lying in his front yard. There are no bystanders to provide you with any information. You must assume that he:
- has had a heart attack
  - is having a diabetic reaction
  - sat on the ground and passed out
  - is a potential trauma patient
50. A detailed physical exam should be completed when:
- the patient is a critical trauma patient
  - the injury is localized and non life-threatening
  - the initial assessment reveals no life threats
  - the medical patient is stable and responsive

51. You are treating a patient with multiple stab wounds to the chest and abdomen. His level of consciousness is progressively decreasing and he has no radial pulses. At the scene, you provide high flow oxygen and treat the patient for shock. En route to the hospital, you should continue your treatment and:
- elevate the patient's head for comfort
  - reassess the patient every 5 minutes
  - start your written patient report
  - repeat the ongoing exam every 15 minutes
52. The spinal column consists of how many vertebrae?
- 24
  - 33
  - 36
  - 40
53. Deposits of cholesterol on the arterial walls are thicker in the elderly patient. This increases the patient's risk of:
- migraine headaches
  - falls with serious injuries
  - heart attack or stroke
  - thin, dry, wrinkled skin

**Read the following radio report, then answer question # 54.**

“We are en route to your facility with a 44-year-old male who complains of chest pain. He has a history of two previous heart attacks. His blood pressure is 100/70 and his pulse is 100 and regular. He takes nitroglycerin, procordia, and digoxin. We will arrive at your location in approximately 12 minutes.”

54. Which of the following components of the patient report are missing in the above report?
- history of present illness
  - past medical history
  - the chief complaint
  - age and sex of the patient
55. You and your partner respond to a local park for a child with breathing difficulty. When you assess the child, you note the presence of a total body rash. You should suspect:
- a heat-related emergency
  - an acute asthma attack
  - an allergic reaction
  - a poison oak reaction

56. Another name for Adrenalin is:
- epinephrine
  - activated charcoal
  - dextrose
  - norepinephrine
57. You assist a patient in taking her prescribed nitroglycerin for chest pain. In doing this, it is important to remember that the most significant side effect of this drug is:
- chest pain
  - headache
  - hypotension
  - severe nausea
58. Once it is determined that a patient is in cardiopulmonary arrest, the EMT should immediately:
- call for ALS assistance
  - begin assisting ventilations
  - attach the automated defibrillator
  - transport to the nearest hospital
59. Which of the following medications can the EMT-Basic administer without the permission of a licensed physician?
- oral glucose
  - epinephrine
  - prescribed inhaler
  - none of these
60. The most important initial treatment that can be rendered to an adult patient in cardiac arrest is:
- CPR
  - ventilation with 100% oxygen
  - early defibrillation
  - rapid transport
61. Your patient is a 56-year-old male with an extensive history of cardiac problems. He called EMS because of chest pain that began while he was moving some boxes from the attic. He tells you that he “put one of those little white pills” under his tongue and the pain subsided. Based on this information, you suspect:
- acute myocardial infarction
  - an aortic aneurysm
  - aortic aneurysm
  - angina pectoris

62. A finding that suggests anaphylactic shock rather than a mild allergic reaction is:
- a body rash
  - severe itching
  - a low blood pressure
  - a history of allergies
63. An 80-year-old male complains of difficulty breathing that gets worse while lying down. He has a history of hypertension and is a diabetic. His BP is 170/90 and his pulse is 120. You should suspect and treat this patient for:
- cerebrovascular accident
  - congestive heart failure
  - chronic emphysema
  - a diabetic reaction
64. Which of the following complaints or findings would be of least significance in a patient with suspected cardiac compromise?
- chest pain
  - headache
  - dyspnea
  - a feeling of impending doom
65. A cardiac patient complains of pain in the mid upper abdomen. This region of the body is referred to as the:
- flank area
  - retroperitoneum
  - supraclavicular
  - epigastrium
66. The best indicator of a patient's overall perfusion status is the:
- blood pressure and respiratory rate
  - quality of the peripheral pulses
  - reaction of the pupils to light
  - the patient's level of consciousness
67. Nitroglycerin possesses all of the following effects, except:
- relaxation of blood vessels
  - an increase in blood pressure
  - a decreased workload of the heart
  - relief of anginal chest pain

68. Your patient is in severe respiratory distress. His wife tells you that he has emphysema and the last time the EMT's gave him oxygen, he stopped breathing. Your assessment of the patient reveals a decreased level of consciousness, a heart rate of 140 and cyanosis around the mouth. Which of the following would be least appropriate for this patient?
- high flow oxygen with a non-rebreather
  - preparing for impending respiratory arrest
  - oxygen with a nasal cannula at 4 liters/minute
  - rapid transport to the nearest medical facility
69. Which of the following is least suggestive of a diabetic emergency?
- tachycardia
  - cold, clammy skin
  - combativeness
  - a slow heart rate
70. Patients who are hyperglycemic often have:
- cool, clammy skin
  - warm, dry skin
  - a low blood sugar
  - crushing chest pain
71. You suspect status epilepticus when a seizure patient has:
- two seizures in a row without regaining consciousness
  - an isolated petit mal seizure
  - been prescribed an anticonvulsant
  - an episode of apnea during the seizure
72. At the scene of a house fire, firefighters have rescued an elderly male from the burning building. When you assess him you notice that he has a brassy cough and singed nasal hairs. The most immediate threat to this patient's life is:
- airway closure
  - severe infection
  - severe burns
  - hypothermia
73. An excess amount of alcohol in the body will cause:
- an increase in a person's reflexes
  - depression of the central nervous system
  - stimulation of the central nervous system
  - an increased ability to remember

74. Which of the following patients would be at highest risk for suicide?
- a. a young male who is planning a family trip, but doesn't have enough money
  - b. a woman who just quit her job for a job that pays more money
  - c. a man who lost his job and a significant relationship
  - d. an EMT that just saved a drowning child and gets media attention
75. You are assessing a male patient who was scuba diving and is now complaining of fatigue, blurred vision, and aching in his joints. The best position to transport this patient in is:
- a. in the prone position
  - b. with his head elevated
  - c. supine or on his side
  - d. in the supine position only

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