Sample questions for the revalidation assessment

The following are sample questions taken from each assessment. They show you the format and level of question you will be given in your assessment.

As we have given the correct response to each question, these sample questions will not be used in any of the assessments.

- Anaesthetics
- Emergency medicine
- Foundation paper
- General practice
- Histopathology
- Medicine
- Obstetrics and gynaecology
- Ophthalmology
- Paediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Radiology
- Surgery
Anaesthetics

Question 1
A 24 year old woman is scheduled for an urgent appendectomy. She has severe abdominal pain but is otherwise well. A rapid sequence induction is performed using fentanyl, propofol and suxamethonium. Soon after intubation her pulse rate is 140bpm, BP 60/40mmHg and she has significant bronchospasm.

Which is the single most likely cause?
A. Acute asthma
B. Anaphylaxis
C. Inadvertent intubation of right main bronchus
D. Septic shock
E. Tension pneumothorax

Correct response: B

Question 2
A 26 year old woman is undergoing a laparoscopic procedure using TIVA. Her pulse rate rises to 130bpm and BP rises to 150/95mmHg.

Which is the single most important initial factor to exclude?
A. Awareness
B. Inadequate muscle relaxation
C. Malignant hyperpyrexia
D. Pain
E. Phaeochromocytoma

Correct response: A
**Question 3**

A 55 year old man with aortic stenosis is due an emergency laparotomy for a large bowel obstruction. A recent transthoracic echocardiogram revealed an aortic valve orifice area of 0.75 cm² and good left ventricular systolic function. His medication includes clopidogrel.

*Which is the single most appropriate postoperative analgesia?*

A. Continuous lumbar epidural infusion of 0.1% bupivacaine and fentanyl 5 microgram/ml

B. Continuous thoracic epidural infusion of 0.1% bupivacaine and fentanyl 5 microgram/ml

C. IV patient controlled analgesia with 0.1% morphine sulphate

D. Nurse administered IM morphine sulphate as required

E. Patient controlled thoracic epidural analgesia with 0.1% bupivacaine and fentanyl 5mcg/ml

Correct response: C
Emergency medicine

Question 1
A baby with a bruise on his cheek is brought to the Emergency Department by his mother. She says he has rolled off his changing mat.

Which single factor in his history would most suggest non accidental injury?
A. He has an older brother
B. He is bottle fed
C. He is two months old
D. He was born at 36 weeks gestation
E. He was born by breech delivery

Correct response: C

Question 2
A 21 year old motorcyclist has been in a motor vehicle collision. His cervical spine has been stabilised in a collar. One hour ago his airway, breathing and circulation were satisfactory and morphine 10mg was given intravenously for pain. In the last 30 minutes his GCS score has fallen from 15 to 6.

Which is the single most appropriate immediate management?
A. CT scan of the head
B. Endotracheal intubation
C. Give naloxone
D. Perform peritoneal lavage
E. Rapidly infuse 1L of colloid

Correct response: B
Question 3

A 72 year old woman has left sided chest pain and shortness of breath, six days after a hysterectomy. Her BP is 110/70 mmHg and her respiratory rate is 30 breaths per minute.

Which single investigation is most likely to provide the definitive diagnosis?

A. ABG  
B. CXR  
C. CTPA scan  
D. ECG  
E. Spirometry

Correct response: C
Foundation paper

Question 1
A 67 year old woman has had intermittent diarrhoea and constipation with episodes of rectal bleeding for three months. Her father died of bowel cancer aged 65. Her haemoglobin is 94g/L with an MCV of 72fl.

Which is the single most appropriate course of action?
A. Dietary advice
B. Routine gastroenterology referral
C. Routine haematology referral
D. Stool microscopy and culture
E. Urgent referral for colonoscopy

Correct response: E

Question 2
A 64 year old woman had surgery earlier today. A blood test taken 20 minutes ago shows her serum potassium is 6.9mmol/L. She feels well but has not passed any urine in the last two hours. All other blood tests are normal. Her ECG is shown below:
Which is the single most appropriate immediate management?
A. IV calcium gluconate  
B. IV insulin and dextrose  
C. Nebulised salbutamol  
D. Recheck the potassium  
E. SC insulin  
Correct response: A

Question 3
A 43 year old nulliparous woman has had urgency, frequency and nocturia for six months. Her daily intake is a glass of orange juice, four mugs of coffee, a mug of tea, and two cans of coke. Her urine dipstick is negative.

Which is the single most appropriate initial management?
A. Replace caffeine containing drinks with other drinks  
B. Pelvic USS  
C. Prescribe duloxetine  
D. Prescribe local oestrogen cream  
E. Refer for cystoscopy  
Correct response: A
General practice

Question 1
A 78 year old man who lives with his wife, is socially withdrawn and has an unsteady gait. He loses his personal belongings and accuses his wife of misplacing them. He has reduced ankle reflexes, but examination is otherwise normal. His wife is worried that he might have Alzheimer's disease.

Which single additional feature in the history would support this diagnosis?
A. Atrial fibrillation
B. Hypertension
C. Insomnia
D. Progressive functional impairment
E. Visual hallucinations

Correct response: D

Question 2
A 68 year old man has had left peri-orbital swelling for two weeks. There is a painful swollen area medial to his left eye. His eye movements are normal and pupils are equal and reacting to light.

Which is the single most likely diagnosis?
A. Adenovirus conjunctivitis
B. Blepharitis
C. Dacryocystitis
D. Meibomian cyst
E. Orbital cellulitis

Answer C
**Question 3**

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*Which is the single most appropriate initial management?*

A. Replace caffeine containing drinks with other drinks  
B. Pelvic USS  
C. Prescribe duloxetine  
D. Prescribe local oestrogen cream  
E. Refer for cystoscopy

Correct response: A
Histopathology

Question 1
An 82 year old woman, previously treated for bladder cancer, is hospitalised for pneumonia. She develops profuse diarrhoea and dies. At autopsy, the large bowel mucosa is diffusely ulcerated and covered by a greenish exudate.

Which is the single most likely condition described at autopsy?
A. Crohn's disease
B. Ischaemic bowel
C. Pseudomembranous colitis
D. Radiation colitis
E. Ulcerative colitis

Correct response: C

Question 2
An 80 year old man with recent onset rectal bleeding has a colonoscopy. Biopsy histology demonstrates three fragments of normal colonic mucosa and a single tiny separate fragment of tissue from a poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma.

Which is the single most appropriate action to take?
A. Compare the block with the slide and macroscopic description
B. Perform tissue microdissection and DNA analysis
C. Report as normal colonic mucosa and ignore the malignant fragment
D. Report as normal colonic mucosa noting the presence of carry-over
E. Report as normal colonic mucosa with poorly differentiated carcinoma

Correct response: A
Question 3
A specimen is received during a cut up session with no patient identifying information written on the pot. A request form has arrived in the same bag as the specimen pot which appears completely filled in.

Which is the single most appropriate course of action?
A. Confirm the details with the surgeon at the next MDT
B. Label the pot yourself using the form details
C. Proceed to cut up the specimen
D. Request that surgeon comes in person to identify the specimen
E. Request that the surgeon confirms the details over the phone

Correct response: D
Medicine

Question 1
A 64 year old woman had surgery earlier today. A blood test taken 20 minutes ago shows her serum potassium is 6.9mmol/L. She feels well but has not passed any urine in the last two hours. All other blood tests are normal. Her ECG is shown below:

Which is the single most appropriate immediate management?
A. IV calcium gluconate
B. IV insulin and dextrose
C. Nebulised salbutamol
D. Recheck the potassium
E. SC insulin

Correct response: A
Question 2
A 70 year old man with hypertension has horizontal double vision. He has a right convergent squint which increases on distance gaze and when his face is turned to the right.

Which is the single most likely diagnosis?
A. Left 4th nerve palsy
B. Left 6th nerve palsy
C. Right 3rd nerve palsy
D. Right 6th nerve palsy
E. Right superior rectus weakness

Correct response: D

Question 3
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Which is the single most likely condition described at autopsy?
A. Crohn's disease
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C. Pseudomembranous colitis
D. Radiation colitis
E. Ulcerative colitis

Correct response: C
Obstetrics and gynaecology

Question 1
A 72 year old woman has left sided chest pain and shortness of breath, six days after a hysterectomy. Her BP is 110/70 mmHg and her respiratory rate is 30 breaths per minute.

Which single investigation is most likely to provide the definitive diagnosis?
A. ABG
B. CXR
C. CTPA scan
D. ECG
E. Spirometry
Correct response: C

Question 2
A 50 year old woman has a TAH and bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy for menorrhagia. Three days after her operation she has abdominal pain and vomiting. She has no PV blood loss.

Her temperature is 37.2°C, pulse rate 92bpm, BP 120/80mmHg. Her abdomen is distended, there is generalised tenderness and bowel sounds are absent. Her urine output is adequate. Her oxygen saturation is 98% on air. Her blood tests show:

- haemoglobin 125 g/L
- WCC 12×10⁹/L
- CRP 65 mg/L
- sodium 144 mmol/L
- potassium 3.6 mmol/L
Which is the single most likely diagnosis?

A. Paralytic ileus
B. Pelvic haematoma
C. Peritonitis
D. Pseudomembranous colitis
E. Ureteric injury

Correct response: A
**Ophthalmology**

**Question 1**
A 79 year old man suddenly loses vision in his left eye. He has noticed fluctuating vision in that eye for one week and has generally felt unwell for four weeks. He has a sore head and weak shoulders. Vision in his left eye is reduced to hand movements. He has an afferent pupillary defect and a pale, swollen optic disc. His ESR is 112mm/hr and WCC 11.6x10⁹ /L.

*Which is the single most appropriate treatment to prescribe to him?*
A. Alteplase  
B. Aspirin  
C. Clopidogrel  
D. Dorzolamide  
E. Prednisolone

Correct response: E

**Question 2**
A mother is concerned about the appearance of her baby, shown below:
Which is the single most appropriate management?
A. Cranial USS
B. Dermatology referral
C. Intraliesional steroid treatment
D. Ophthalmology referral
E. Reassurance
Correct response: D

Question 3
A 68 year old man has had left peri-orbital swelling for two weeks. There is a painful swollen area medial to his left eye. His eye movements are normal and pupils are equal and reacting to light.

Which is the single most likely diagnosis?
A. adenovirus conjunctivitis
B. blepharitis
C. dacryocystitis
D. Meibomian cyst
E. orbital cellulitis
Correct response: C
Paediatrics

Question 1
A baby with a bruise on his cheek is brought to the Emergency Department by his mother. She says he has rolled off his changing mat.

Which single factor in his history would most suggest non accidental injury?
A. He has an older brother
B. He is bottle fed
C. He is two months old
D. He was born at 36 weeks gestation
E. He was born by breech delivery

Correct response: C

Question 2
A 14 year old adolescent is in maintenance phase of therapy for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and last received intravenous chemotherapy 10 days ago. He has had a temperature of 38.6°C for one hour. He has a runny nose and mildly injected pharynx. His pulse rate is 90bpm and BP 105/70mmHg. His FBC shows:

- haemoglobin 95g/L
- white cell count 1.0x10⁹/L
- neutrophils 0.2x10⁹/L
- platelets 40x10⁹/L

Which is the single most appropriate management?
A. Admit for broad spectrum intravenous antibiotics
B. Admit for observation of temperature pattern
C. Discharge with advice regarding antipyretics
D. Discharge with oral antibiotics
E. Transfer to tertiary paediatric oncology centre

Correct response: A
Question 3
A mother is concerned about the appearance of her baby, shown below:

Which is the single most appropriate management?
A. Cranial USS
B. Dermatology referral
C. Intralesional steroid treatment
D. Ophthalmology referral
E. Reassurance

Correct response: D
Psychiatry

Question 1
A 78 year old man who lives with his wife, is socially withdrawn and has an unsteady gait. He loses his personal belongings and accuses his wife of misplacing them. He has reduced ankle reflexes, but examination is otherwise normal. His wife is worried that he might have Alzheimer's disease.

Which single additional feature in the history would support this diagnosis?
A. Atrial fibrillation
B. Hypertension
C. Insomnia
D. Progressive functional impairment
E. Visual hallucinations

Correct response: D

Question 2
A 22 year old man says that he can hear the voice of his deceased uncle telling him that he is being spied on. He is distressed by this, becoming low in mood and anxious and has not left the house for two weeks. He is starting to drink increasing quantities of alcohol. He has thought block and passivity phenomena.

Which is the single most appropriate medication to treat his symptoms?
A. Diazepam
B. Disulfiram
C. Fluoxetine
D. Lithium
E. Olanzapine

Correct response: E
Question 3
A 64 year old woman with previous episodes of depression has a severe relapse with psychomotor retardation, insomnia and weight loss. After two months she has failed to respond to antidepressants and she is now convinced that she is beyond help.

Which is the single most appropriate treatment?

A. Antipsychotic depot injection
B. CBT
C. ECT
D. Hypnotherapy
E. Supportive psychotherapy

Correct answer: C
Question 1
A 52 year old woman has had colicky central abdominal pain, vomiting and abdominal distension for 12 hours. She had an open cholecystectomy two years ago. Her temperature is 36.9°C, pulse rate 96bpm, BP 126/75mmHg and respiratory rate 18 breaths per minute. Her abdomen is distended and non tender and the hernial orifices are normal. Her plain AXR is shown:

Which is the single most likely diagnosis?
A. Acute diverticulitis
B. Acute pancreatitis
C. Large bowel obstruction
D. Perforated peptic ulcer
E. Small bowel obstruction

Correct response: E
Question 2
A 50 year old man has ischaemic heart disease, has increasing dyspnoea, cough and chest discomfort. His CXR is shown below:

What is the single most likely diagnosis?

A. Lung abscess
B. Pericardial effusion
C. Pleural effusion
D. Pneumonia
E. Pneumothorax

Correct response: C
**Surgery**

**Question 1**
A 36 year old woman has sudden blood loss during GA for a total abdominal hysterectomy with positive pressure ventilation. Her arterial systolic blood pressure falls to 70mmHg.

*Which is the single most appropriate immediate management?*
A. Administration of IV fluid rapidly and reassess after 500ml
B. Administration of IV ephedrine 15mg
C. Administration of IV epinephrine (adrenaline) 1mg
D. Administration of IV metaraminol 1mg
E. Transfusion of O negative blood

Correct response: A

**Question 2**
A 67 year old woman has had intermittent diarrhoea and constipation with episodes of rectal bleeding for three months. Her father died of bowel cancer aged 65. Her haemoglobin is 94g/L with an MCV of 72fl.

*Which is the single most appropriate course of action?*
A. Dietary advice
B. Routine gastroenterology referral
C. Routine haematology referral
D. Stool microscopy and culture
E. Urgent referral for colonoscopy

Correct response: E
Question 3
A 72 year old man in ICU had an abdominal aortic aneurysm repair eight hours ago. In the last hour, he has passed 10ml of urine via a catheter. His pulse rate is 125 bpm and BP 70/50mmHg.

Which is the single most likely diagnosis?
A. Acute renal failure
B. Blocked catheter
C. Cardiogenic shock
D. Hypovolaemia
E. Sepsis

Correct response: D