

Art of Medicine – Midterm Exam Review Questions

1. The process of history taking involves all of the following EXCEPT:
 - a) Greeting the patient
 - b) Introducing yourself
 - c) Standing on the right side of the patient
 - d) None of the above
2. The following information is recorded in the health history: “The patient has had abdominal pain for 1 week. The pain lasts for 30 minutes at a time; it comes and goes. The severity is 7 to 9 on a scale of 1 to 10. It is accompanied by nausea and vomiting. It is located in the mid-epigastric area.” Which of these categories does it belong to?
 - a) Chief complaint
 - b) Present illness
 - c) Personal and social history
 - d) Review of systems
3. The following information is recorded in the health history: “The patient completed 8th grade. He currently lives with his wife and two children. He works on old cars on the weekend. He works in a glass factory during the week.” Which category does it belong to?
 - a) Chief complaint
 - b) Present illness
 - c) Personal and social history
 - d) Review of systems
4. The following information is recorded in the health history: “I feel really tired.” Which category does it belong to?
 - a) Chief complaint
 - b) Present illness
 - c) Personal and social history
 - d) Review of systems
5. The following information is recorded in the health history: “Patient denies chest pain, palpitations, orthopnea, and paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea.” Which category does it belong to?
 - a) Chief complaint
 - b) Present illness
 - c) Personal and social history
 - d) Review of systems
6. The components of the health history include all of the following except which one?
 - a) Review of systems
 - b) Thorax and lungs
 - c) Present illness
 - d) Personal and social items
7. A 50-year-old man comes to the primary care clinic. He tells you he is worried because he has had severe chest pains for the past 2 weeks. Which initial history interview question is most appropriate?
 - a) “Can you describe the pain?”
 - b) “The pain doesn’t radiate to your arm, does it?”
 - c) “Have you been treated for anxiety before?”
 - d) “Does your father have heart disease?”
 - e) “Are the pains worse after you eat?”

8. Which technique is most likely to result in the patient's understanding of questions?
- a) Use phrases that are commonly used by other patients in the area.
 - b) Use the patient's own terms if possible.
 - c) Use language that keeps the patient from being expansive in his or her answer.
 - d) Use proper medical and technical terminology.
 - e) Use the simplest language possible.
9. Periods of silence during the interview can serve important purposes, such as:
- a) allowing the clinician to catch up on documentation.
 - b) giving you a clue that you should speed up the interview.
 - c) providing time for reflection.
 - d) increasing the length of the visit.
 - e) promoting a calm environment.
10. During history taking, a patient complains of pain. Which of the following characteristics of the pain complaint is least relevant?
- a) Character
 - b) Site
 - c) Severity
 - d) Tolerance
 - e) Radiation
11. A patient complains of knee pain on your arrival in the room. What should your first sentence be after greeting the patient?
- a) How much pain are you having?
 - b) Have you injured this knee in the past?
 - c) When did this first occur?
 - d) Could you please describe what happened?
12. While taking history you notice that the patient is anxious, you should:
- a) let the patient take the lead
 - b) stop the interview
 - c) get the physician
 - d) let him talk about his feelings
13. The most important part of a history to get a differential diagnosis is:
- a) History of presenting illness
 - b) Past medical history
 - c) Chief complaint
 - d) Social history
14. Which of the following we do not ask about for a vomitus?
- a) color.
 - b) content.
 - c) smell.
 - d) amount.
 - e) taste.
15. Which of these answer is correct according to family history?
- a) Medical and drug history.
 - b) Current family illnesses.
 - c) Medical health information about the patient and his closed relative, in complete family history we talk information of three generation.
 - d) None of the above.

16. Which of these answer is false according to travel history:

- a) Ask him about the place he traveled and the date.
- b) Travel history, is a part of social history.
- c) **Returning travelers are not commonly present with illness.**
- d) None of the above.

17. When questioning a patient regarding alcohol intake, she tells you that she is “only a social drinker.” Which initial response is appropriate?

- a) “I’m glad that you are a responsible drinker.”
- b) “Many people who are really alcoholic say they are social drinkers.”
- c) **“What amount and what kind of alcohol do you drink in a week?”**
- d) “If you only drink socially, you won’t need to worry about always having a designated driver.”
- e) “Do the other people in your household consume alcohol?”

18. A patient becomes restless during the history and says, “I don’t have time for all of this conversation. I’ve got to get back to work.” Your most appropriate response would be to:

- a) stop using open-ended questions and become more direct.
- b) ask another open-ended question and insist on an answer.
- c) ask questions about his anger and move closer to him.
- d) **acknowledge his anger and proceed with the history and examination.**
- e) ignore his displeasure and become more assertive about getting answers

19. Which action would best promote accurate translations as well as confidentiality when the caregiver does not speak the patient’s language?

- a) **Ask a person unfamiliar with the patient to translate.**
- b) Have a friend of the patient translate.
- c) Ask simple leading questions that the patient may understand.
- d) Use a neighbor as translator.
- e) Involve the family with the translation.

20. Suzanne, a 25 year old, comes to your clinic to establish care. You are the student preparing to go into the examination room to interview her. Which of the following is the most logical sequence for the patient–provider interview?

- a) Establish the agenda, negotiate a plan, establish rapport, and invite the patient's story.
- b) Invite the patient's story, negotiate a plan, establish the agenda, and establish rapport.
- c) **Greet the patient, establish rapport, invite the patient's story, establish the agenda, expand and clarify the patient's story, and negotiate a plan.**
- d) Negotiate a plan, establish an agenda, invite the patient's story, and establish rapport.

21. Alexandra is a 28-year-old editor who presents to the clinic with abdominal pain. The pain is a dull ache, located in the right upper quadrant, that she rates as a 3 at the least and an 8 at the worst. The pain started a few weeks ago, it lasts for 2 to 3 hours at a time, it comes and goes, and it seems to be worse a couple of hours after eating. She has noticed that it starts after eating greasy foods, so she has cut down on these as much as she can. Initially it occurred once a week, but now it is occurring every other day. Nothing makes it better. From this description, which of the seven attributes of a symptom has not been mentioned?

- a) Setting in which the symptom occurs
- b) **Associated manifestations**
- c) Character
- d) Timing

22. Jason is a 41-year-old electrician who presents to the clinic for evaluation of shortness of breath. The shortness of breath occurs with exertion and improves with rest. It has been going on for several months and initially occurred only a couple of times a day with strenuous exertion; however, it has started to occur with minimal exertion and is happening more than a dozen times per day. The shortness of breath lasts for less than 5 minutes at a time. He has no cough, chest pressure, chest pain, swelling in his feet, palpitations, orthopnea, or paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea. Which of the following symptom attributes was not addressed in this description?
- a) **Severity**
 - b) Setting in which the symptom occurs
 - c) Timing
 - d) Associated manifestations
23. Mrs. T. comes for her regular visit to the clinic. She is on your schedule because her regular provider is on vacation and she wanted to be seen. You have heard about her many times from your colleague and are aware that she is a very talkative person. Which of the following is a helpful technique to improve the quality of the interview for both the provider and the patient?
- a) Allow the patient to speak uninterrupted for the duration of the appointment.
 - b) **Briefly summarize what you heard from the patient in the first 5 minutes and then try to have her focus on one aspect of what she told you.**
 - c) Set the time limit at the beginning of the interview and stick with it, no matter what occurs in the course of the interview.
 - d) Allow your impatience to show so that the patient picks up on your nonverbal cue that the appointment needs to end.
24. When you enter your patient's examination room, his wife is waiting there with him. Which of the following is most appropriate?
- a) **Ask if it's okay to carry out the visit with both people in the room.**
 - b) Carry on as you would ordinarily. The permission is implied because his wife is in the room with him.
 - c) Ask his wife to leave the room for reasons of confidentiality.
 - d) First ask his wife what she thinks is going on.
25. All are parts of past history Except:
- a) previous admissions
 - b) allergy
 - c) blood transfusion
 - d) **details of chief complaint**
26. A 22-year-old advertising copywriter presents for evaluation of joint pain. The pain is new, located in the wrists and fingers bilaterally, with some subjective fever. The patient denies a rash; she also denies recent travel or camping activities. She has a family history significant for rheumatoid arthritis. Based on this information, which of the following pathologic processes would be the most correct?
- a) Infectious
 - b) **Inflammatory**
 - c) Hematologic
 - d) Traumatic