

2014 OEC Written Test Questions – VER B

1 . An infectious disease is:

- a. a disease that is deadly once contracted.
- b. a disease that cannot be transmitted once the infection occurs
- c. a disease that is caused and spread by coughing only.
- d. a disease caused by microorganisms called pathogens which invade the body

2. Agitation, elevated heart rate, and elevated blood pressure are signs of intoxication with which of the following types of substances?

- a. Cocaine and hallucinogens
- b. Antipsychotics and carbon monoxide
- c. Inhalants and sleeping pills
- d. Alcohol and ethylene glycol

3. In order to enjoy their upcoming skiing trip, your family has gathered information about risk factors for high–altitude illnesses. Contributing factors that could make altitude illness worse include all of the following except

- a. a history of angina.
- b. a diet that is high in carbohydrates.
- c. the lack of regular exercise.
- d. COPD.

4. Which of the following findings is present in anaphylaxis but is not a sign of a mild or moderate allergic reaction?

- a. Anxiousness
- b. Swelling at the site of a bee sting
- c. Hives
- d. Hypotension

5. In the mnemonic AEIOU–TIPS, the first I stands for:

- a. impetigo.
- b. infantile neuroaxonal dystrophy.
- c. insulin.
- d. interstitial cystitis

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6. A middle aged female patient informs you that she has a bad gallbladder and that it has been increasingly bothering her. Your assessment reveals tenderness and mild discomfort in the right upper quadrant of her abdomen. She also states that her right shoulder is aching. Given her history and complaint, you would recognize her shoulder pain as:

- a. referred pain.
- b. false pain.
- c. unrelated pain.
- d. muscular pain.

7. A teen involved in a multiple-casualty incident is found lying on the ground with an obvious deformity to his left thigh. Using the START system for triage, you note that he is not breathing. Which one of the following should you do next?

- a. Tag the patient as black, and then move on to the next patient.
- b. Provide the patient 30 seconds of assisted ventilation.
- c. Open the patient's airway and see if spontaneous breathing returns
- d. Give the patient a red tag and then move him to the treatment area.

8. You are assessing a patient who overdosed on a medication and is unresponsive. Given this situation, what is the great concern regarding potential airway occlusion?

- a. Spasm of the epiglottis
- b. Swelling of the larynx
- c. Collapse of the bronchi
- d. Relaxation of the tongue

9. Because pelvic fractures can result in large blood losses, OEC Technicians should:

- a. give the patient liquids to replace lost body fluids.
- b. apply O<sub>2</sub> at 6 LPM via a nonrebreather.
- c. give the patient glucose.
- d. call for ALS due to high probability of shock

10. Written instructions developed at the local level by emergency personnel familiar with an area's medical needs, available resources, system capabilities, and local standard of care are:

- a. protocols.
- b. policies.
- c. advanced procedures.
- d. medical attributes.

11. After completing the size-up of a bad accident scene, you find an unconscious patient. Your next step should be to:

- a. assume "implied consent" and begin to examine and treat the patient.
- b. delay your examination and ask other patrollers to respond as witnesses.
- c. delay your examination until you can locate a spouse or a friend of the patient.
- d. begin your assessment but not provide any treatment until another patroller arrives.

12. A 36-year-old patient who has overdosed on an unknown drug, is breathing and will not open his eyes, even when his name is loudly called. Which one of the following should be done next?

- a. Get a counted set of vitals
- b. Administer a painful stimuli (eg shoulder pinch)
- c. Assess the patient for a radial pulse.
- d. Identify what drug the patient took.

13. Care of an anterior dislocated shoulder:

- a. is easier than is care for any other upper extremity injury.
- b. requires only a sling and swathe to keep the arm in the position found.
- c. requires patience and sometimes creativity.
- d. can be achieved using a quick splint.

14. You will be taking a group of scouts on a weekend camping trip. You recognize that ticks are typically active at this time of year, so you want to teach the scouts about them. Which of the following statements about ticks is *false*?

- a. Campers should check their skin regularly, especially in the evening before going to bed.
- b. A red circle with a blanched white center is characteristic of the rash caused by a tick bite.
- c. The typical disease transmitted by ticks is Lyme disease.
- d. Tick bites are painful, so you will know when you have been bitten.

15. A young man who was angry with friends wandered away from a party and spent the night outside uncovered in 40–50 degree temperatures. He is confused, has decreased but adequate breathing, and has a weak radial pulse. His skin is cool, and capillary refill is delayed. When looking to see if he is shivering, you note that he is not. Based on this presentation, you can safely conclude that the:

- a. patient is exhibiting signs indicating that he is effectively compensating and conserving heat.
- b. patient's body temperature is most likely dangerously low.
- c. absence of shivering indicates that body temperature is almost back to normal.
- d. cause of his confusion is not related to exposure to the low overnight temperatures.

16. Family members tell you that three hours ago their 76-year-old mother suddenly became confused and had great difficulty speaking. However, within 15 minutes she returned to normal. Based on this description, an OEC Technician should be suspicious of:

- a. a stroke.
- b. dementia.
- c. Alzheimer's disease.
- d. a transient ischemic attack.

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17. During a scene size-up, which of the following observations most strongly suggests that your adult patient is suffering from an acute respiratory emergency?

- a. The patient is yelling for someone to help him
- b. The patient is in the tripod position.
- c. The patient's respiratory rate is 20.
- d. The patient's hands are trembling.

18. Which one of the following statements best describes the purpose of obtaining a single Glasgow Coma Scale score (GCS) in a patient with a head injury?

- a. The score gives information about the type of injury to the brain.
- b. The score provides an objective measure of the patient's overall neurologic condition.
- c. The score is important in guiding an OEC Technician's treatment of the patient.
- d. A single score can determine whether a patient's mental status is improving or deteriorating.

19. Which of the following patients would benefit from the head tilt-chin lift maneuver?

- a. A 39-year-old male who just had a seizure and has snoring respirations
- b. A 45-year-old female who is alert and vomiting blood
- c. A 67-year-old female who fell down a flight of stairs and is unresponsive
- d. A 85-year-old female who hit her head on a tree limb and is now responsive to painful stimuli

20. An OEC candidate asks you to explain a pneumothorax. Your response should be that it occurs when:

- a. the lung becomes overinflated with air and then collapses.
- b. air accumulates between the inner chest wall and the outside of the lung, causing the lung to collapse.
- c. the trachea becomes obstructed, causing the lungs to collapse.
- d. air enters the lung alveoli through a traumatic opening in the chest wall.

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21. The Simple Triage and Rapid Transport (START) system for triaging patients focuses on which four specific factors?

- a. Chief complaint, respiratory rate, pulse, medications the patient is using
- b. Ability to walk, respiratory rate, pulse, mental status,
- c. Level of consciousness, pulse, past medical history, medications the patient is using
- d. Chief complaint, ability to walk, pulse, past medical history

22. The primary problem in Type II diabetes is that:

- a. sugars cannot be easily digested in the stomach and small intestine.
- b. cells exhibit resistance to insulin.
- c. insufficient insulin is produced.
- d. too much insulin is produced.

23. You are caring for a 26-year-old woman with a probable wrist fracture. Before applying a splint you ask her to remove her large engagement ring. She hesitates and asks why she should do this. Which of the following responses would be correct?

- a. “The metal in the ring will interfere with taking X-rays at the hospital.”
- b. “You don’t want to lose your ring when they are caring for you at the hospital.”
- c. “You should remove the ring now because your fingers may become very swollen.”
- d. “The diamond could get caught in the splint and ruin the ring.”

24. Two days after a call, you realize that you forgot to document that you checked a patient’s pupils before the patient refused further treatment and signed a refusal form. Which of the following is your best course of action?

- a. Complete a new refusal form and include the additional information.
- b. Add an addendum to the report that contains the correct information, the current date, and your signature.
- c. Report the error to your patrol director and have him/her take care of it.
- d. Don’t worry about it because it did not seem to matter to the patient.

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25. Cardiac arrest in children is most commonly caused by:

- a. Respiratory failure.
- b. trauma.
- c. birth defects.
- d. SIDS.

26. Which of the following lists of assessment findings indicates that a trauma patient may be in compensated shock?

- a. Anxious, pulse 104, BP 134/88 mmHg, pale and cool skin
- b. Slightly confused, pulse 116, BP 90/60 mmHg, warm skin that is flushed
- c. Confused and anxious, pulse 144, BP 82/palp, cool skin that is mottled
- d. Confused, pulse 44, BP 110/68, cool and cyanotic skin

27. When patients refuse care, the most important thing to document is:

- a. their condition when you last saw them.
- b. whether they were accompanied by anyone when you left them.
- c. the names of witnesses to what you said to them.
- d. that the patients understood and accepted the risks of refusal.

28. One of the functions of the lymphatic system is to:

- a. break down food.
- b. produce lymphocytes (white blood cells)
- c. control organ systems via hormones.
- d. move blood containing nutrients.

29. Which of the following conditions is responsible for a finding of wheezing accompanying shortness of breath?

- a. Significant hypoxia
- b. Bronchiole constriction
- c. Swelling in the throat
- d. Mucus in the lungs

30. A patient with chest pain informs you that he has a bad heart. You think he may have congestive heart failure. When performing your secondary assessment, which of the following signs or symptoms does *not* indicate that the patient is in congestive heart failure?

- a. Swollen ankles
- b. Bradycardia
- c. Bubbling breathing noises
- d. Shortness of breath

31. In decompensated shock, the failure of body systems in spite of the body's attempt to oxygenate vital organs becomes apparent as:

- a. increased blood pressure and delayed capillary refill
- b. delayed capillary refill and reduced heart rate
- c. increased heart rate and increased blood pressure.
- d. shallow respirations and reduced level of consciousness.

32. A multiple-casualty incident (MCI) is defined as:

- a. any event in which the number of patients exceeds the capability of immediately available resources
- b. any event in which the number of patients requiring care is greater than 10.
- c. any event that requires the medical director to leave the hospital and direct activities on scene.
- d. any event in which five or more people are injured and require transport to different hospitals.

33. Which of the following statements concerning allergies is true?

- a. Allergies affect young healthy individuals only.
- b. An allergic reaction to a substance can occur minutes, or hours, after exposure to the substance.
- c. Once hypersensitized to a substance, a given individual will experience allergic reactions to that substance randomly, not consistently.
- d. Anaphylaxis is the mildest type of allergic reaction.

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34. What is the definition of a ligament:

- a. a thick muscle that surrounds a joint.
- b. a tissue that stabilizes two contiguous bone ends.
- c. a muscle that connects to a bone.
- d. connective tissue that connects muscle and bone.

35. You are called to aid a 61-year-old man who has fallen off a second-floor lodge patio. He is unresponsive and has slow, shallow breathing (less than 6 bpm). When you arrive, a fellow patroller has already opened the airway and has stabilized the head. Which of the following actions should you take immediately?

- a. Apply a cervical collar.
- b. Place the patient in the shock position.
- c. Assist ventilation with a BVM.
- d. Transfer the patient to a stretcher for emergency transport.

36. It is a cold, snowy Saturday afternoon, and unfortunately the chair lift has broken and a lift evacuation is required. You know that there is an adaptive skier group somewhere on the lift. As you prioritize the lift evacuation, you recognize that:

- a. athletes with mobility problems are at increased risk of cold-exposure injuries.
- b. someone will need to instruct paraplegic skiers on how to detach themselves from the sit-ski so they can be lifted out for the evacuation.
- c. a blind skier's guide should be evacuated before the blind skier so that the guide can direct the blind skier down.
- d. skiers with intellectual disabilities should be left to the end because they will take a long time to understand your directions.

37. Because the spleen is a solid organ, the primary threat to life when it is ruptured is:

- a. blood loss.
- b. pain.
- c. infection.
- d. Inflammation

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38. A 15-year-old admits to taking “a bunch” of extra strength Tylenol tablets. Her mother states it’s nothing to worry about because it was just Tylenol. Based on your training you recognize that this ingestion could have serious consequences. It is because toxic amounts acetaminophen can cause irreversible:

- a. liver damage.
- b. stomach damage.
- c. brain damage.
- d. hearing damage.

39. Which of the following statements concerning locating and extricating a victim buried by an avalanche is correct?

- a. Once the victim’s face is clear, the patient’s back should be dug out so a backboard can be inserted.
- b. There should be no danger of another avalanche because the snow has now settled.
- c. Take your time as survival rates are very high
- d. Spinal injuries are presumed until proven otherwise.

40. You are called to assist a 16-year-old female who is reportedly having trouble breathing. Your assessment reveals an anxious female with rapid respirations who is complaining of pins and needles around her lips. Based on your training you suspect that:

- a. she is close to respiratory failure.
- b. these findings will disappear if she slows her rate of breathing.
- c. having her lie down with her feet elevated 8-12 inches will relieve the pins and needles.
- d. she is having an allergic reaction and should be treated with an epi-pen.

41. When plaque forms along the inner lining of the arteries, it is known as :

- a. aortic aneurysm.
- b. high blood pressure.
- c. angina pectoris.
- d. atherosclerosis.

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42. You are with a patient who is complaining of chest pain that radiates into his arm and neck. He is alert and oriented and has an open airway and adequate breathing. His pulse is strong and his skin is cool and slightly diaphoretic. His pulse is 84, his respirations are 18, and his blood pressure is 90/62 mmHg. Responses to SAMPLE questioning include a history of a previous heart attack and chronic lung disease; an allergy to aspirin; possession of nitroglycerin; and he last ate about 6 hours ago. Based on this information, you would *not*:

- a. assist the patient to take a nitroglycerin tablet.
- b. place the patient on oxygen.
- c. let him assume a position of comfort.
- d. reassess his blood pressure in 5 minutes.

43. A 56-year-old female has struck a tree. Your assessment reveals gurgling respirations, rapid breathing, and cool, diaphoretic skin. You also observe bruising to the chest and abdomen. Which one of the following should you do immediately?

- a. Determine her pulse rate.
- b. Elevate her feet.
- c. Evaluate her for shock.
- d. Open and suction her airway.

44. A person is in a hot environment, and his body is trying to compensate. He is beginning to exhibit signs of heat exhaustion. Which of the following signs/symptoms would you expect to see?

- a. Cool and clammy skin, bradycardia, slow respirations
- b. Warm and very sweaty skin, fatigue, dizziness, nausea
- c. Diaphoretic skin, decreased heart rate, hunger
- d. Hot dry skin, elevated heart rate, decreased level of responsiveness

45. Which of the following sentences best describes a partial-thickness burn?

- a. The skin is red and moist, and blisters have formed.
- b. The skin is charred or blackened and lacks sensation.
- c. The skin is red, but dry and painful.
- d. The skin is white and dry with no sensation of pain.

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46. Hypotension, distended neck veins, and muffled or distant heart tones in which the heartbeat is difficult to auscultate are hallmark signs of:

- a. pericarditis.
- b. congestive heart failure.
- c. aortic aneurysm.
- d. pericardial tamponade.

47. Your patient was struck in the right upper arm with a baseball bat. Which of the following signs or symptoms indicates the highest probability that the humerus has been fractured?

- a. Crepitus felt on palpation
- b. Pain in the right upper arm
- c. Swelling in the upper arm
- d. Decreased sensation in the right hand

48. A heavy-set snowboarder was critically injured when he crashed into a tree on a Friday night. It was reported that he was clearly out of control while traveling at a high rate of speed down the expert trail. Which of the following factors had the greatest impact on the extent of his injuries?

- a. The skier's weight
- b. The size of the tree he hit
- c. The dimly lit trail
- d. The speed the skier was going

49. When using a metered-dose inhaler, it is important that right after inhaling patients:

- a. immediately inhale a second time.
- b. pant for 10 seconds.
- c. exhale as forcefully as possible.
- d. hold their breath for 10 seconds

50. You treated a 19 year old with a puncture wound to the chest by covering the wound with an impermeable dressing. Now, as you perform your ongoing assessment, you note that the patient is tachypneic and is complaining of difficulty breathing. Breath sounds on the side of the injury are also diminished. Which of the following actions should you take immediately?

- a. Assist his breathing with a bag–valve mask.
- b. Lift a corner of the dressing from the wound for a few seconds; then reapply and check his breath sounds.
- c. Add another layer to the dressing.
- d. Load the patient quickly and transport him to a higher level of care.

51. Which of the following is a correct statement as to where an OEC Technician would most likely be assigned if they were assisting at a HazMat scene?

- a. “Because of your OEC training, you could be assigned to any of the hazard control zones – hot, warm, or cold.”
- b. “OEC Technicians do not have the skills required to assist in a HazMat incident in any capacity.”
- c. “Because of your OEC training, you would probably be assigned to the first aid area in the safe, cold zone.”
- d. “OEC Technicians could assist inside of the isolation perimeter.”

52. Which of the following statements indicates that the speaker understands the application of a tourniquet?

- a. “A tourniquet should be applied tightly enough so that arterial blood flow distal to the tourniquet is completely stopped.”
- b. “If the tourniquet appears to have stopped the bleeding, you should loosen it slightly to allow a small amount of blood to perfuse the tissues.”
- c. “Arteries run close to the body’s surface in a joint, so the best place to apply a tourniquet is over the joint just above the artery.”
- d. “A tourniquet should be applied only when directed by medical control.”

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53. When treating a patient exhibiting abnormal behavior, you should always:
- assume until proven otherwise that the source of the abnormal behavior is an underlying medical condition.
  - provide oxygen with a nonrebreather mask at 15 LPM.
  - assist the patient in taking glucose in case the patient is hyperglycemic.
  - assume that the abnormal behavior is a manifestation of an underlying psychological problem.
54. During a stress response, the release of epinephrine results in:
- an increase in heart rate.
  - a decrease in the force of the heart's contraction.
  - voluntary muscle contraction.
  - a reduction in respiratory depth and rate.
55. Which one of the following is the primary stimulus to breathe in normal human beings?
- The level of CO<sub>2</sub> in the body
  - The amount of oxygen the body requires
  - The level of oxygen in the body
  - The amount of nitrogen in the air
56. Which of the following patients would have the highest priority for transport?
- A 24-year-old who is intoxicated and is complaining of pain and spasms in his legs
  - A 34-year-old who is responsive, has cool diaphoretic skin, and is complaining of nausea
  - A 28-year-old who is responsive, has tachycardia, and has cool, moist skin
  - A 19-year-old who is lethargic, has hot dry skin, and has tachycardia

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57. A 10-year-old boy arrives in the aid room bleeding from his nose. He states that he did not injure himself and just started bleeding while he was skiing, and that he can't get it to stop. Based on your OEC training, which of the following statements about treating epistaxis is *false*?

- a. The nares, or nostrils should be pressed together just below the bony prominence of the nose.
- b. You should maintain pressure up to 15 minutes before evaluating ongoing bleeding.
- c. Your initial treatment is to pack the nose with tightly rolled gauze and then apply direct pressure to the nose.
- d. The most common mistake in the management of epistaxis is letting go of pressure too soon.

58: A BEAN lift, aka direct ground or bridge lift, is used to

- a. Assist the patient to a standing position.
- b. Roll the patient onto a long board
- c. Raise the patient who is lying on his back
- d. Move the patient into a sitting position

59. Which of the following is accurate about paralysis as one of the signs and symptoms of a major stroke (ie not TIA or silent stroke)

- a. "Both the arm and leg on the same side will always be paralyzed."
- b. "Some patients suffering a stroke will show no signs of paralysis at all."
- c. "Paralysis can occur on both sides of the body and in different limbs."
- d. "Paralysis may involve only the leg, the arm, or the face, or all of them."

60. Which of the following choices is *not* an example of direct medical oversight?

- a. Telephone communication
- b. Physical presence of a physician
- c. Written protocols
- d. Video conferencing

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61. You and your partner are treating a young male with a deep laceration on his neck. Your partner appears to have controlled the bleeding. He asks you to apply an occlusive dressing and then a sterile dressing and direct pressure. In addition to helping to control the bleeding, you recognize that another important benefit to this approach is:

- a. preventing a cervical collar from irritating the wound.
- b. promoting clot formation to prevent further bleeding.
- c. preventing the entry of air into the circulatory system.
- d. providing neck stabilization.

62. Which of the following statements about a nasal cannula is true?

- a. The oxygen flow rate can be adjusted anywhere from 1 LPM to 10 LPM, depending on how much oxygen the patient needs.
- b. When the nasal cannula is set to the highest appropriate oxygen flow rate, it delivers 24–44 percent oxygen.
- c. A nasal cannula is preferred in all cases over a nonrebreather mask because the cannula administers the oxygen through the nose instead of through the mouth.
- d. One should always see how a patient tolerates a nasal cannula before attempting to place a nonrebreather mask on the patient.

63. The vital signs of elderly patients with excessive internal or external bleeding may not provide an indication of shock:

- a. if these patients are taking heart medications (eg beta blockers, calcium channel blockers)
- b. because the hearts of elderly patients pump less due to inactivity.
- c. because elderly patients have the ability to compensate for bleeding.
- d. if these patients are taking blood thinners.

64. Which of the following findings is a sign, not a symptom?

- a. An open leg fracture
- b. An upset stomach
- c. A sharp headache
- d. Chest pain

65. For which of the following patients is placement of an oropharyngeal airway indicated?

- a. A responsive but confused patient with stridorous respirations
- b. A patient who has vomited and responds to painful stimuli by moaning
- c. An unresponsive patient who has neither a gag reflex nor a cough reflex
- d. A patient with snoring respirations who coughs as the oral airway is placed into his mouth

66. The nervous system is subdivided into which two main anatomical parts?

- a. The brain and spinal cord
- b. The involuntary and voluntary muscular systems
- c. The brain and extremity nerves
- d. The central and peripheral nerves

67. You are working at a mountain resort and are presented with a 50-year-old woman who states that she does not feel well. From your assessment, which of the following findings would seemingly indicate that the patient is being adversely affected by the high altitude?

- a. Excessive urination
- b. An elevated blood glucose level with no history of diabetes
- c. A heart rate of 62 beats per minute
- d. A complaint of dyspnea on exertion

68. A former patient reports that he was diagnosed with a strain to his lower right leg. Which of the following structures is the primary structure affected in that injury?

- a. A joint
- b. A ligament
- c. A muscle
- d. A bone

69. Which of the following phrases best describes a closed-tissue injury?

- a. A wound that has scabbed over or healed
- b. A wound in which platelets and proteins have formed a plug
- c. A wound with no obviously visible opening, such as a needle stick
- d. A wound in which underlying tissues are damaged but the overlying skin remains intact

70. You arrive at the scene where a patient has a possible fracture of the left hip. You note that she is lying on her back and her left leg is turned inward. You would document this position as:

- a. prone with lateral rotation of the left lower extremity.
- b. prone with medial rotation of the left lower extremity.
- c. supine with medial rotation of the left lower extremity.
- d. supine with lateral rotation of the left lower extremity.

71. A 30-year-old male arrives in the aid room complaining of shortness of breath. Which of the following actions would you perform first?

- a. Ask him if he has an inhaler.
- b. Assess the adequacy of his breathing.
- c. Ask him to take his jacket and shirt off.
- d. Check his pulse oximetry.

72. Kinetic energy is absorbed based on the density of the structure/organ involved. Which of the following lists places the organs in the order of their “threshold for injury” (ie easiest to injure to hardest to injure)?

- a. Full urinary bladder, femur, lung
- b. Femur, lung, kidneys
- c. Kidneys, lungs, femur
- d. Femur, kidneys, muscle

73. When treating a patient burned by a dry chemical, it is important to brush away any dry residue before flushing with water because:

- a. flushing will expose other areas around the burn.
- b. some dry chemicals are activated by water.
- c. a containment area needs to be set up to catch the runoff water.
- d. flushing will cause the skin's pores to open.

74. It is a busy Friday night in the aid room when a child arrives complaining of abdominal pain. The child states that her parents dropped her off and that they are at the movies. You are concerned because the child is a minor with no adult to give consent for treatment. You would:

- a. recognize that you need the parents' consent and try to reach them by phone.
- b. recognize that the child needs to be assessed and that there is implied consent to treat.
- c. recognize that you must have some adult's permission and try to locate an aunt or an uncle.
- d. do as much of an assessment as possible without touching the child to determine if a life-threatening emergency exists.

75. While performing a primary assessment on a patient who has an isolated spinal cord injury, you note that he is in severe respiratory distress and struggling to breathe. Where should you suspect that the spinal cord injury has occurred?

- a. The diaphragm
- b. The cervical spine
- c. The thoracic spine
- d. The lumbar spine

76. It has taken you 45 minutes to extricate an avalanche victim. Based on your knowledge of hypothermia and avalanche victims, you know that:

- a. 30 minutes is usually long enough for severe hypothermia to develop.
- b. the threat of severe hypothermia is greater after extrication than before extrication.
- c. a pulseless victim can most likely be resuscitated after rewarming.
- d. a patient who is responsive is not hypothermic.

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77. A patient with blunt chest trauma has paradoxical chest movement. She is conscious and confused and is breathing rapidly and shallowly. After manually stabilizing the flail section of the chest wall, you should:

- a. apply an ice pack to the flail section to decrease bruising.
- b. administer oxygen through a nonrebreather facemask.
- c. apply a flutter valve dressing.
- d. insert an oropharyngeal airway.

78. During assessment of a water-related emergency for any submersion injury, care should be taken to:

- a. assess the airway but not to treat the patient.
- b. assess the water temperature.
- c. protect the patient's spine to prevent additional neurological injury.
- d. use AEIOU tips.

79. Your patient is having an allergic reaction and needs to use his epinephrine auto-injector. He is concerned that he does not recall the correct way to do it. Which of the following things would you tell him?

- a. "Press the injector onto the outer thigh, push the tip against the thigh until the needle deploys, and wait for it to automatically inject."
- b. "Place the injector against the outer upper arm, push the tip until the needle deploys, and then push the plunger slowly to inject the medication."
- c. "Pinch the skin on the anterior thigh, press the injector tip against the skin, and wait until it activates."
- d. "Pinch the skin on the lateral thigh, press the injector against the skin, and rapidly push the plunger to inject the medication."

80. A 21 year old is five weeks pregnant and is experiencing vaginal bleeding. When reviewing the possible causes of the bleeding, you would suspect:

- a. a ruptured uterus.
- b. a dysfunctional placenta.
- c. drug addiction.
- d. a spontaneous abortion.

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81. A 29-year-old woman with cerebral palsy has fallen and suffered a boot-top fracture of her right leg. When you examine her she tells you that the spasticity in that leg is much worse than usual. Treatment in this situation may best be accomplished by:

- a. applying traction to the leg.
- b. Stabilizing/splinting the leg in a position of comfort.
- c. repositioning the leg.
- d. massaging the muscles in the leg.

82. While you are putting wood into your wood stove, your hand comes in contact with the hot surface. Your body responds by pulling your hand away from the heat. How is this action accomplished?

- a. One or more skeletal muscles receive a signal from the brain to contract.
- b. The smooth muscles in the arm automatically respond to heat.
- c. You use conscious thought to pull your hand from the heat.
- d. Extension of the ligaments in the elbow joint pulls the lower arm up.

83. Beside digestion, which of the following statements best explains the major function of some of the major organs in or just behind the abdominal cavity?

- a. "The major function of these organs is bile production."
- b. "The basic function of these organs is the storage of fat."
- c. "The primary role of these organs is the absorption of oxygen."
- d. "The fundamental role of these organs is the cleansing and filtering of blood."

84. A patient has a laceration on his arm from a table saw. Assessment reveals dark red blood flowing steadily from the wound. You would recognize this type of bleeding as:

- a. arterial bleeding.
- b. capillary bleeding.
- c. venous bleeding.
- d. lymphatic bleeding.

85. Which of the following statements about an impaled object is true?

- a. The primary treatment goal in the field is to stabilize the object in the position found.
- b. The primary treatment in the field is to remove the object without causing further bleeding or causing as little bleeding as possible.
- c. OEC Technicians may remove only objects that are impaled in an extremity.
- d. OEC Technicians may remove objects that are impaled in the chest or abdomen.

86. When a person exhibits good body mechanics and lifts properly, the spine is:

- a. slightly bent in the upper thoracic region.
- b. straight at the thoracic region and bent in the lumbar region.
- c. bent at no more than 15 degrees.
- d. straight and in an anatomical position.

87. Drowning is defined as:

- a. fluid oxidation of the lungs.
- b. death by traumatic injury to the airway.
- c. respiratory impairment due to trauma.
- d. suffocation by submersion in a liquid.

88. When a young child at a neighborhood cookout cries out that he was stung by a bee on his forearm, you should:

- a. ask if anyone has an epinephrine auto-injector in case the child has a reaction.
- b. clean the sting area and apply ice to reduce the swelling and pain.
- c. immobilize the arm and place it at the level of the child's heart to prevent spread of the venom.
- d. Use a knife to remove the stinger.

89. Which of the following best describes the purpose of the primary assessment?

- a. To establish a chief complaint and gather a medical history
- b. To determine if the patient's vital signs are stable
- c. To quickly identify and correct any potential life-threatening problems
- d. To perform an exam focused on the patient's chief complaint

90. The term *golden hour* refers to the:

- a. time period when patient survival rates may be enhanced if critical injuries are identified and managed.
- b. amount of time you have to decide if a patient needs to be sent to a trauma hospital.
- c. amount of time it takes to stop the bleeding from a penetrating injury.
- d. hour before sunset, when most cases of on-hill trauma occur.

91. Rebound tenderness is best described as:

- a. a very useful finding for diagnosing a problem in a prehospital environment.
- b. severe pain that occurs after the sudden release of abdominal palpation pressure during an examination of the abdomen.
- c. a type of pain that is initially relieved by vomiting but returns within a short period of time.
- d. pain that radiates into an area other than the site of the affected organ.

92. You are maintaining manual in-line stabilization of the cervical spine for a patient being log rolled, transferred, and secured to a long backboard. At what point should you release the manual in-line stabilization?

- a. Once the patient has been log rolled onto the long backboard
- b. After the patient's chest and knees have been secured with straps
- c. After the patient has been secured to the backboard and transferred to the stretcher
- d. After the patient's head has been secured with a head immobilization device

93. Hypotension can occur after 20 weeks of gestation when a pregnant woman is in a supine position. Which of the following actions by a OEC Technician will *not* mitigate hypotension?

- a. Placing her in the left lateral recumbent position
- b. Elevating her right hip approximately 1–2 inches
- c. Elevating her feet 6–12 inches
- d. Tipping the spine board so that she is slightly tilted onto her left side

94. You have just arrived with an AED at a scene where several OEC Technicians are taking turns doing CPR for a patient in cardiac arrest. ALS has been contacted and is about 1 minute away. Which of the following actions would you take?

- a. Let the OEC Technicians continue CPR and wait for ALS.
- b. Apply and use the AED.
- c. Relieve the OEC Technician doing chest compressions
- d. Go outside to direct ALS when they arrive.

95. A patient in early shock informs you that he has had severe diarrhea and vomiting over the past four days. Given this history, you would recognize the pathophysiology of the shock is probably related to:

- a. the loss of red blood cells.
- b. decreased formed elements in the blood.
- c. leakage of the capillaries.
- d. the loss water from the blood plasma.

96. A patient is complaining of back pain and numbness in both legs after tumbling down a mogul run. When should you check the motor function, sensory function, and peripheral circulation in this patient?

- a. Immediately after achieving manual in-line spinal immobilization
- b. Immediately after applying a cervical collar
- c. During the primary assessment
- d. During the secondary assessment

97. Septic shock is caused by:

- a. a failing heart.
- b. blood loss.
- c. an infection.
- d. a collapsed lung.

98. You are working in the first-aid room when a patient arrives with an open injury of the left lower leg. Which of the following observations would indicate that the extremity was *improperly* splinted?

- a. The splint has immobilized the ankle, knee, and hip regions.
- b. Ice packs wrapped in towels have been applied to the skin between the splints.
- c. The patient is able to flex her left ankle when directed to do so.
- d. The skin of the left foot is red and swollen and a pedal pulse is present.

99. Your patient is unresponsive, showing signs of one-sided paralysis, but there is no evidence of trauma. Which piece of information given to you by the patient's family is most important in relation to the treatment of a possible stroke?

- a. "He forgot to take his blood thinner last night."
- b. "We think he had too much to drink last night."
- c. "We noticed him acting oddly about 7 p.m. last night."
- d. "He took some ibuprofen last night for a fever and cough."

100. You are treating a child who has a minor head laceration that is bleeding profusely. Which of the following statements would show your partner that you understand bleeding in children?

- a. "This is a minor head laceration, so we don't need to worry."
- b. "Children have a smaller blood volume than adults, so this rate of bleeding is serious."
- c. "As long as the child's vital signs are stable, we don't have to worry."
- d. "Children have great compensating mechanisms, so bleeding from the head isn't serious."

## OEC 2014–2015 WRITTEN EXAM ANSWER KEY – VERSION B

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