

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

7-9 Breams Buildings
London
EC4A 1DT

Tel +44 (0)207 404 1999
Fax +44 (0)207 067 1267
www.rcem.ac.uk

FRCEM Primary Examination – Sample Questions

1. You examine a patient in the Emergency Department and find that there is visual loss on the left side of the vertical midline in both eyes. Occlusion of what type of blood vessel is most likely to be the cause of this clinical finding?
- A – Posterior inferior cerebellar artery
 - B – Posterior cerebral artery
 - C – Anterior communicating artery
 - D – Middle cerebral artery
 - E – Anterior cerebral artery

ANSWER - B

2. A 28 year old patient presents to the Emergency Department with headache, dizziness and tachycardia. They are a known asthmatic and are on a salbutamol inhaler and a theophylline. They had been seen in the Emergency Department a few days before and prescribed an antibiotic. Which antibiotic was most likely given which has caused her symptoms?
- A – Ciprofloxacin
 - B – Amoxicillin
 - C – Trimethoprim
 - D – Cephalexin
 - E – Doxycycline

ANSWER - A

3. A General Practitioner refers a patient with increasing neck stiffness and headache who has been unwell for a few days. An LP is performed in your observation unit. Which of these CSF findings make a diagnosis of a viral meningitis most likely.
- A – Elevated opening pressure
 - B – >60% serum glucose
 - C – Normal protein level
 - D – Cloudy appearance
 - E – WBC 0-5 cells/microl

ANSWER - B

Excellence in Emergency Care

4. A 67 year old man presents with a two month history of worsening left upper arm and shoulder pain. There is weakness of shoulder abduction and reduced sensation over the deltoid. You suspect cervical radiculopathy. What level of the cervical spine is most likely to be affected?

A - C1
B - C3
C - C5
D - C7
E - C8

ANSWER - C

5. A 34 year old man presents after injuring his right shoulder playing hockey. You decide to examine each of the relevant shoulder muscles in turn. You position him as shown below. He is unable to maintain this position with his right arm as you push downwards on both arms.



What muscle is most likely to be injured?

A - Deltoid
B - Infraspinatus
C - Subscapularis
D - Supraspinatus
E - Teres minor

ANSWER - D

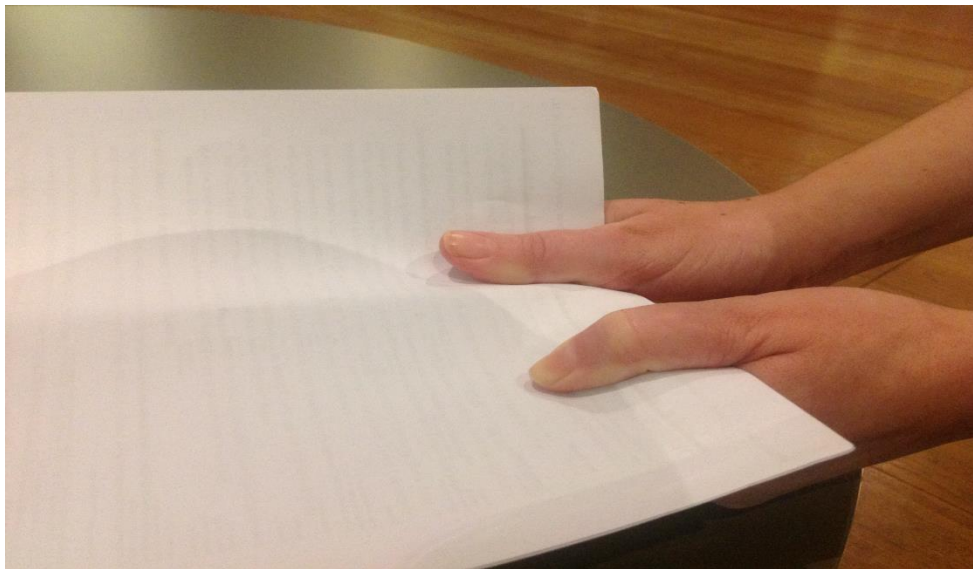
6. A 45 year old man requires procedural sedation for DC cardioversion of atrial fibrillation. You plan to use propofol.

Sedation is most likely to occur as a result of action on what type of receptor?

- A - Dopamine
- B - Gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)
- C - Kainate
- D - N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA)
- E - Serotonin

ANSWER - B

7. A 29 year old woman presents to the Emergency Department after injuring her left elbow. She is complaining of a weak grip in her left hand. You ask her to hold on to a piece of paper with both hands as you try to pull it away from her. The result of this clinical test is shown below.



What nerve is most likely to be damaged?

- A - Axillary
- B - Median
- C - Musculocutaneous
- D - Radial
- E - Ulnar

ANSWER - E

8. A 78 year old man requires treatment with an antibiotic. He takes warfarin for atrial fibrillation.

What antibiotic is the safest choice for this patient?

- A - Cefalexin
- B - Ciprofloxacin
- C - Clarithromycin
- D - Co-trimoxazole
- E - Doxycycline

ANSWER - A