

1. A communicable disease is:
 - a. any of a number of diseases that is deadly once contracted.
 - b. a disease that can be spread from one person to another
 - c. a disease that is caused and spread by coughing only.
 - d. a disease that is spread only via pathogens

2. Which of the following statements indicates an understanding of possible signs of opiate overdose?
 - a. “Only illegal narcotics can cause hallucinations, which may make the patient violent.”
 - b. “When assessing a patient, you must be alert for respiratory depression.”
 - c. “You should always ask patients if they have chest pain because narcotics increase the heart’s workload.”
 - d. “You should always check the patient’s pupils because they will be dilated in a narcotics overdose.”

3. Which would best explain the term *acclimatization* in relation to AMS?
 - a. “Physiologic changes that increase the body’s ability to adjust to extreme changes in temperature.”
 - b. “Physiologic changes that decrease the body’s need for oxygen at high altitudes.”
 - c. “Physiologic changes that decrease the body’s need for slow ascents.”
 - d. “Physiologic adjustments that increase the delivery of oxygen to cells.”

4. A foreign substance that triggers an allergic response in the body is known as:
 - a. an antigen.
 - b. histamine.
 - c. an antibody.
 - d. a mast cell.

5. Which of the following statements indicates that an OEC Technician understands the goal of assessing a patient with abdominal pain?

- a. “It is important to determine if the liver is the cause of pain, because a liver injury can cause the most life-threatening conditions.”
- b. “If the patient has tenderness upon palpation of the abdomen, you should assume that bleeding is the cause.”
- c. “It is more important to recognize a possible abdominal emergency than to determine its exact cause.”
- d. “To best treat the patient, you must identify the exact cause of any abdominal pain.”

6. You have assessed a patient and found a patent airway, adequate breathing, and a strong radial pulse. The patient is having no difficulty speaking and no facial droop, but exhibits a slight left arm drift. You should interpret these findings as:

- a. not suggestive of a stroke.
- b. suggestive of a stroke only if the patient’s blood pressure is also elevated.
- c. suggestive of a stroke only if the patient’s pupils are not equal.
- d. suggestive that a stroke may be occurring.

7. When you are placed in charge of the treatment unit at the scene of a multiple-casualty incident, which of the following four patients will you treat first?

- a. A confused 69-year-old male with a respiratory rate of 40 and a rapid and weak radial pulse
- b. An elderly female patient with a hip fracture and a yellow tag on her wrist
- c. A 21-year-old male who goes into cardiac arrest
- d. A 13-year-old boy who walked to the treatment area complaining of a severe headache

8. Why is the jaw-thrust maneuver indicated for a patient with a possible spinal injury?

- a. It is a permanent intervention that does not require insertion of an airway if performed correctly.
- b. It minimizes movement of the head and cervical spine.
- c. It is less painful for the patient.
- d. It is the rescuer’s preference as to whether to use the jaw-thrust maneuver.

9. The structures within the abdomen are:

- a. protected by ribs.
- b. protected by the pelvis.
- c. protected by abdominal muscles.
- d. poorly protected.

10. The seamless delivery of high-quality emergency medical care as a patient transitions from initial contact with an OEC technician through definitive treatment *best* describes:

- a. medical direction.
- b. continuity of care.
- c. integration of health services.
- d. online medical control.

11. Good Samaritan laws generally:

- a. protect a ski patroller from being sued in every circumstance.
- b. apply to people who do not receive compensation for helping people.
- c. are the same in every state.
- d. provide enough protection so that you need not to know whether your mountain has insurance.

12. You have been dispatched to an 89-year-old female with an unspecified complaint. When assessing this patient, which one of the following should you do as quickly as possible to develop a better understanding of the emergency?

- a. Obtain the patient's vital signs and current medications.
- b. Gather a medical history, including information on allergies.
- c. Contact medical direction for advice.
- d. Determine if the complaint is medical (NOI) or trauma related (MOI).

13. The finding that upon muscle contraction the patient has reduced or completely lost the ability to move the associated joint suggests:

- a. a contusion
- b. a ligament strain.
- c. torn cartilage.
- d. a ruptured tendon.

14. Which of the following signs and symptoms is *not* a characteristic of a bee, wasp, or hornet sting?

- a. Nausea and vomiting
- b. Joint aching
- c. Pain
- d. Swelling

15. Which statement best explains the regulation of temperature in the human body.?

- a. "If the body becomes too hot or too cold, the brain sends instructions so that the body either retains or loses heat."
- b. "If the air outside the body is cold and the body is too hot, the cold air will move into the body to cool it."
- c. "Because cellular activity constantly generates heat, the body must always be cooler than the air that surrounds it."
- d. "For its cells to function properly, the body must always be warmer than the air that surrounds it."

16. You are assessing a 12-year-old boy who was injured while running. The patient's mother tells you that her son has Down syndrome. Based on your training, which of the following statements concerning a Down syndrome athlete is true?

- a. They often complain of pain or injury.
- b. They have physical and intellectual disabilities that vary widely from one individual to another.
- c. You can predict the amount of intellectual disability from the degree of physical changes you observe.
- d. You need to approach them carefully because generally they are very unpleasant to deal with.

17. The most important muscle of respiration is the:

- a. pectoralis major.
- b. intercostal muscle.
- c. diaphragm.
- d. sternocleidomastoid.

18. While you are performing a secondary assessment, your trauma patient complains of the sudden onset of difficulty breathing. Which of the following is your most appropriate response?

- a. Make a mental note and continue with the assessment.
- b. Stop the assessment and provide appropriate care.
- c. Reassess the patient, beginning with the head.
- d. Reevaluate the mechanism of injury.

19. You have arrived in the lodge with your airway and trauma pack to care for a patient who reportedly had a seizure. Assessment reveals him to be apneic with vomitus in the airway. He has a radial pulse, and his skin is cool and diaphoretic. Which one of the following should you do immediately?

- a. Start artificial ventilations.
- b. If available in your trauma pack, use a suction device to clear the airway; otherwise, turn him on his side and clean out the vomitus.
- c. Check the patient's breath sounds.
- d. Apply a nonrebreather mask.

20. A patient involved in an altercation was struck in the ribs with a baseball bat. Your assessment reveals intact skin with significant bruising to the right lateral chest. When palpating this area you note instability and crepitus to the rib cage. An OEC Technician would recognize a:

- a. thoracic injury secondary to penetrating trauma.
- b. chest injury caused by blunt trauma.
- c. pulmonary injury caused by penetrating trauma.
- d. chest wall injury caused by acceleration forces.

21. Which one of the following triage tags indicates a category of care for which the patient will receive no attention at a multiple-casualty incident?

- a. A yellow tag
- b. A red tag
- c. A black tag
- d. A green tag

22. Which of the following statements concerning the causation of seizures is correct?

- a. A seizure occurs when the heart beats irregularly, causing a decreased amount of oxygen-rich blood to reach the brain.
- b. All seizures are caused by epilepsy, a term that describes a problem somewhere in the body.
- c. A seizure condition is a muscle problem that causes the arms and legs to jerk.
- d. A seizure occurs when there is an electrical disturbance in the brain

23. Because of the abundant blood vessels and nerves in the elbow, an injury to an elbow should be splinted in:

- a. the position found.
- b. a 90-degree angle.
- c. a 45-degree angle.
- d. an elevated position using a blanket roll.

24. When asked, an alert and oriented 44-year-old man with a history of high blood pressure reports that he called for help because “my chest is hurting.” He is diaphoretic and nauseated, has a pulse of 88 and a BP of 156/92, and says that his pain “feels just like my heart attack two years ago.” Based on this information, how would you document his chief complaint on the patient care report?

- a. “My chest is hurting.”
- b. Possible heart attack
- c. Myocardial infarction
- d. Chest pain with hypertension

25. An OEC Technician asks you why you should not overextend the airway when performing a head tilt–chin lift maneuver on a pediatric patient. Which of the following replies would you make?

- a. “The pediatric cervical spine is delicate and can be injured if the neck is hyperextended.”
- b. “The tongue of a pediatric patient is proportionally larger and blocks the airway when the neck is hyperextended.”
- c. “The cartilage of the trachea is very soft and can compress if the neck is extended too far.”
- d. “The esophagus in a pediatric patient is very thick and will occlude the airway if the neck is hyperextended.”

26. Which of the following factors must be kept in mind when considering the severity of external bleeding?

- a. Signs of shock do not appear until a large amount of blood is lost.
- b. A person in poor health cannot tolerate the same amount of blood loss as a healthier person.
- c. The amount of blood loss is easily estimated by the amount of blood visible on the snow.
- d. Children show signs of shock much more quickly than do adults.

27. For which of the following patients must you provide care even if the patient refuses it?

- a. A 23–year–old female with an obvious injury who lives with her parents and her one–year–old daughter
- b. An alert and oriented 57 year old who is having chest pain and is diaphoretic
- c. A six year old with a bleeding head laceration, whose parent will not allow care
- d. A 29–year–old female who fell and cannot tell you the event or what day it is

28. Involuntary or smooth muscles are found in which of the following structures?

- a. Muscles of the arms and legs
- b. Blood vessels and intestines
- c. The central nervous system
- d. The heart and blood vessels

2014 – 2015 OEC Written Test Questions – VERSION A

29. A 71-year-old woman is complaining of the sudden onset of shortness of breath. She is cyanotic and appears somewhat panicked. Her respirations are rapid and deep. Her husband tells you that she had knee surgery about one week ago. Based on your assessment and the patient's history, you suspect that the patient is suffering from:

- a. an anxiety attack.
- b. an asthma attack.
- c. COPD.
- d. a pulmonary embolus.

30. You are working in the clinic when in walks a 47-year-old man complaining of chest pain. He is alert, oriented, and complaining of pain in his chest that came on suddenly about 15 minutes ago. His skin is diaphoretic and cool. His pulse oximeter reading is 92%. The clinic has all necessary equipment. Which of the following actions should you take first?

- a. Apply oxygen at 15 LPM through a nonrebreather mask.
- b. Radio for an ambulance with ALS.
- c. Help him administer his nitroglycerin.
- d. Obtain a SAMPLE history.

31. When performing a primary assessment, the first evidence that the body may be in shock is:

- a. skin that is warm and diaphoretic.
- b. a radial pulse of over 100 beats per minute.
- c. hypertension.
- d. a slowed respiratory rate.

32. You are assessing a 47-year-old who fell about 20 feet from a chair lift. When you palpate her pelvis you note instability, and she complains of pain. Which of the following is your primary concern for a patient who has a potential pelvic fracture?

- a. Risk of infection
- b. Internal blood loss
- c. Severe pain
- d. Permanent deformity

33. You correctly identify the primary benefit of triage when you say:
- “Triage is a process by which the number of patients is quickly estimated so the appropriate resources can be summoned.”
 - “Triage is a system that can be used to determine the number of patients who will most likely die.”
 - “Triage is a system used to assign the order of care when an incident contains more than 10 patients.”
 - “Triage is used to prioritize patients for treatment and transportation based on their clinical signs and symptoms.”
34. During a primary assessment, which of the following findings would most lead you to suspect a mild to moderate allergic reaction?
- Hives on the face and neck
 - Blood pressure of 100/60 mmHg
 - Heart rate of 55 beats per minute
 - A complaint of dizziness
35. Based on the anatomy of the spine, which one of the following injuries is possible?
- A fracture of the ninth cervical vertebra
 - A dislocation of lumbar vertebra 7
 - A disk injury between thoracic vertebrae 11 and 12
 - A compression fracture of lumbar vertebra 12
36. You are working with a new group of ski patrollers and instructing them on sit-skis. Which of the following statements about sit-skis is correct?
- “Because of the weight of a sit-ski, you do not have to worry that it will fall off a lift.”
 - “You cannot get a sit-ski down in a lift evacuation; you need to evacuate just the skier.”
 - “To turn a sit-ski, the skier moves his head, shoulders, or outriggers.”
 - “You do not need to lift a sit-ski to get it on a chair lift.”

37. Distribution of a poisonous substance, once absorbed in the body, occurs primarily through the:

- a. lymphatic system.
- b. circulatory system.
- c. endocrine system.
- d. gastrointestinal system.

38. A 24-year-old woman complains of sharp pain in her left lower abdominal quadrant. She states that her last period was 7 weeks ago. Which of the following conditions would you most suspect?

- a. Appendicitis
- b. Abruptio placenta
- c. Ectopic pregnancy
- d. Colitis

39. Which of the following statements regarding abdominal pain would lead you to suspect appendicitis?

- a. “The stabbing pain started in the right side of my belly and spread up to my stomach.”
- b. “I had back pain for about a week, and now the pain is all throughout my belly.”
- c. “The pain started around my belly button and slowly spread down to the right side of my belly.”
- d. “The pain comes and goes and is more noticeable on the left side of my stomach.”

40. You are assessing a 24-year-old skier who is anxious and complaining of shortness of breath. She tells you that this sometimes happens when she exercises strenuously. Her respirations are rapid and shallow. Based on this information, you suspect the patient is suffering from:

- a. hyperventilation syndrome.
- b. asthma.
- c. crepitus.
- d. pneumothorax.

41. You are caring for a patient with chest pain who has just taken his nitroglycerin. The patient's chest pain has been alleviated. You understand that nitroglycerin is effective in treating chest pain because it:

- a. increases the heart rate and gets more blood to the heart muscle.
- b. has a sedative effect, which makes the patient less aware of the pain.
- c. dilates the arteries and veins, which decreases the workload on the heart.
- d. causes the body to relax, decreasing the need for oxygen.

42. Which of the following statements concerning the flow of blood to and through the right side of the heart is correct?

- a. Blood reaches the right atrium from the aorta, and is then pumped through the pulmonary veins to the lungs.
- b. Poorly oxygenated blood reaches the right ventricle from the venae cavae, then to the pulmonary artery, and then enters the right atrium and is pumped into the lungs.
- c. Oxygenated blood reaches the right atrium from the pulmonary veins, and then pumped into the aorta and throughout the body.
- d. Poorly oxygenated blood reaches the right atrium from the venae cavae, and is then pumped to the lungs through the pulmonary arteries.

43. A patient who sustained blunt trauma to the abdominal and pelvic areas in a very serious collision is probably in which type of shock?

- a. Obstructive
- b. Cardiogenic
- c. Distributive
- d. Hypovolemic

44. Which of the following would be most appropriate description of the cause of heat cramps?
- They are thought to occur when a patient uses his muscles too much.
 - They are caused when a patient's electrolytes have been lost and he becomes dehydrated.
 - They occur when a patient's body can no longer compensate and off-load excess heat.
 - They occur when a patient's blood vessels constrict and decrease blood flow to the affected muscles.
45. You are called to treat a 27-year-old man who fell while snowboarding and struck his leg against a tree. The primary assessment shows no threats to his airway, breathing, or circulation. A secondary assessment reveals a severely deformed knee that is swollen and ecchymotic. The leg is pale and cool, and the patient cannot move the leg when asked to do so, nor is there any sensation or circulation (eg pedal pulse). Which of the following actions should you take at this time?
- Apply cold packs to the knee and then Quick Splint it in the position found.
 - Make one attempt to realign the leg to regain the pulse.
 - Apply a traction splint and enough traction until a pulse returns.
 - Attempt to straighten the leg once to see if a pulse returns.
46. A 62-year-old man presents with a complaint of abdominal pain radiating to his groin. He also complains of dizziness. On examination, his abdomen is tender and you feel a large pulsatile mass. His signs and symptoms are suggestive of:
- acute embolism.
 - an abdominal aortic aneurysm.
 - a ruptured spleen.
 - cardiogenic shock.
47. Which of the following does *not* directly relate to the severity of bodily injury?
- The amount of kinetic energy absorbed
 - The direction the kinetic energy travels
 - The size of the injured person
 - The density of the structures impacted

48. Your patient is a 35-year-old woman who spilled a cup of hot coffee on herself. You observe a red and painful area on her right thigh that is about twice the size of the palm of her hand, but there are no blisters. Which of the following actions would be appropriate for an OEC Technician to take?

- a. Apply a lotion containing a topical anesthetic and aloe vera.
- b. Apply a dry sterile dressing.
- c. Apply an antibiotic ointment.
- d. Apply a plastic bag full of ice to the skin of the affected area.

49. What is the minimum time a patient should wait before taking a second dose from a metered-dose inhaler?

- a. 30 seconds
- b. 2 minutes
- c. 5 minutes
- d. 10 minutes

50. You are treating a 26-year-old man with a pneumothorax. The patient's breathing has been inadequate, and you have been assisting his ventilations with a bag valve mask. The patient's condition seems to be worsening. You are most concerned that:

- a. you are not maintaining an adequate seal around the facemask, and thus the patient is not getting enough oxygen.
- b. the pressure from the BVM is causing more air to enter the pleural space and is causing a tension pneumothorax.
- c. the patient's airway is not being maintained, so you should insert an oropharyngeal airway.
- d. you may have missed an injury.

51. When asked, a young woman with abdominal pain replies that she is not sure whether she is pregnant or not. Which of the following questions would best help you determine whether the patient could be pregnant?

- a. “Do you feel pressure in your lower belly?”
- b. “When was your last menstrual period?”
- c. “Have you been vomiting in the morning?”
- d. “Does it feel like the last time you were pregnant?”

52. 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. Survival rates drop to 50 percent after the first 1.5 hours.
- d. Spinal injuries are presumed until proven otherwise.

53. Which of the following tasks is the first component of a scene size-up?

- a. Identify the number of patients involved.
- b. Determine the MOI.
- c. Determine whether additional resources are needed.
- d. Scene safety

54. Which of the following groups of bones could be involved in a patient with a “broken leg”?

- a. Acetabulum, calcaneus, carpals
- b. Femur, tibia, fibula
- c. Orbit, maxillae, mandible
- d. Radius, ulna, humerus

55. You are in the aid room with a patient who is unresponsive and has hot, dry skin. His friends state that he had been drinking and passed out in the hot sun for several hours. A patroller is ventilating the patient with a bag–valve mask attached to high–flow oxygen. Which of the following actions would be most beneficial to this patient at this time?

- a. Prepare the patient for vomiting by placing him in a prone position.
- b. Try to give the patient sugar because he could be having a diabetic reaction.
- c. Spray exposed skin with cool water while fanning the patient
- d. Lay him down on a cot and allow his body to cool naturally.

56. You are having a difficult time controlling bleeding from a small skin avulsion on a patient’s ankle. Which of the following statements made by the patient best explains why the bleeding has been so difficult to control?

- a. “I take Coumadin (an anticoagulant) for my irregular heartbeat.”
- b. “My blood pressure sometimes runs a little high.”
- c. “I take steroids for my lung disease.”
- d. “I drank a lot of alcohol last night.”

57. While running outside the lodge, a teenage girl tripped and fell. She hit her face and mouth, knocking one of her top front teeth from its socket. Although she is upset, you have assessed no threats to life, and the bleeding has been controlled. Your partner finds the tooth and asks you what to do with it. Which of the following responses would be best?

- a. “Wrap the tooth in dry gauze and put it in a plastic bag placed in cool water.”
- b. “Avoid touching the root of the tooth. We will gently irrigate it and place it back in its socket.”
- c. “Scrub the base of the tooth to be sure it’s clean and then we’ll place it back in its socket.”
- d. “Just put it in dry gauze and bring it with you. They probably won’t be able to do anything with it.”

58. An urgent move is required when:

- a. a patient is in severe pain.
- b. the rescuer and the patient must move to a safer location.
- c. a crowd of people has formed around you and the patient.
- d. the patient complains of being cold on a 10-degree day.

59. In the mnemonic AEIOU-TIPS, the E stands for:

- a. epilepsy, environment, and electrolyte imbalance.
- b. edema, electrolyte imbalance, and endocarditis.
- c. epilepsy, echovirus, and environment.
- d. electrolyte imbalance, environment, and echovirus.

60. Which of the following characteristics is *not* a characteristic of indirect medical control?

- a. Communication by radio
- b. Use for expediting patient care
- c. Common use for “pre-authorizing” routine and life-saving procedures
- d. Provision through the use of protocols

61. What instructions would you give to an OEC candidate who asks how to treat a patient who has visible blood in the anterior chamber of the eye?

- a. “It is important to keep the pressure in the eye low, so transport this patient in a sitting position.”
- b. “Apply a cold pack to the eye and transport this patient immediately.”
- c. “Put a shield over the eye and bandage tightly to apply some pressure to the eye.”
- d. “Put a sterile compress over the eye before transporting this patient.”

62. You have inserted an oropharyngeal airway and are ventilating your patient with a BVM. Suddenly the patient regains consciousness and starts to gag. Your immediate action should be to:

- a. leave the airway in but stop ventilations.
- b. remove the airway.
- c. suction the airway.
- d. reassure and calm the patient.

63. The key to a successful assessment is:

- a. a systematic and universal approach.
- b. toe to head physical exam.
- c. a rapid trauma exam.
- d. interviewing bystanders.

64. A “D” size oxygen cylinder measures 2000 psi. You know that if you needed to use this tank at 15 LPM it would last approximately:

- a. 20 minutes.
- b. 30 minutes.
- c. 10 minutes.
- d. 5 minutes.

65. You arrive at an accident scene and find a patient lying on the ground with her right arm straight out to the side (at a 90-degree angle to her body). You ask her if she is able to pull the arm toward her body, but she cannot. You would document this as an inability to _____ her right arm.

- a. adduct
- b. abduct
- c. hyperflex
- d. hyperextend

66. Which of the following statements shows that an OEC Technician has an accurate understanding of vital signs in relation to geriatric patients?

- a. "The typical resting heart rate in geriatric patients is less than 60 beats per minute."
- b. "Fever tends to be more common and more severe in elderly patients."
- c. "There is no difference between the vital signs of a geriatric patient and those of a young adult."
- d. "Respiratory capacity is greatly reduced in geriatric patients."

67. Your family is planning a ski trip to a resort that is at about 10,000 feet of elevation. You suggest that you spend the first two nights of the trip at a hotel where the elevation is about 6,500 feet. When your children protest that they are in good shape and want to go immediately to the resort, you explain that you are concerned about altitude sickness and that:

- a. "physical fitness does not necessarily prevent altitude sickness."
- b. "just because you children are fit and don't need the gradual change doesn't mean your mom and I don't need it."
- c. "your mom and I will exercise more before the trip so that maybe we can reduce the delay to one night."
- d. "I'll see if I can get some medication so that we don't need to stop over at the lower elevation."

68. Which of the following statements is correct with regard to the function of a sling and swathe?

- a. It is used to immobilize injuries to either the upper extremity or the lower extremity.
- b. It provides a stable platform for the arm and can be used to immobilize either the arm alone or the arm with a separate splint in place.
- c. It is the second most commonly used splint by OEC Technicians.
- d. There is only one way to properly apply a sling and swathe.

69. A patient has had part of his right thumb amputated in an accident. Friends have retrieved the thumb and wrapped it in a towel. The appropriate handling of the amputated part is:

- a. place the thumb in a plastic bag filled with ice.
- b. keep the thumb in the towel.
- c. place the thumb in a container of sterile saline or sterile water.
- d. wrap the thumb in a moist sterile dressing, placing it in a sterile bag, and keeping it cool.

70. A patient has suffered damage to his brainstem. As a result of this injury which of the following signs might you expect to see?

- a. Sweating
- b. Abnormal respirations
- c. Pinpoint pupils
- d. Muscle spasms

71. Which of the following tasks is not a task an OEC Technician should be ready to perform in assisting an EMT in the back of an ambulance?

- a. Medication administration
- b. Airway management
- c. Hemorrhage control
- d. Splinting

72. Hoarseness or voice changes in a burn patient should alert you that the:

- a. patient may be extremely anxious about the injury.
- b. heat source may have extended internally into the airway.
- c. patient should be treated as a pediatric patient.
- d. patient has altered mental status.

73. You arrive alone at a scene at which a 16-year-old skier has collided with a tree. He is unresponsive and has blood flowing from his ears and nose. He was not wearing a helmet. Which of the following lists reflects the most appropriate sequence of care of this patient (list may not be complete)?

- a. Primary assessment with airway management if needed, immobilization, transport as soon as possible
- b. Primary assessment, oxygen administration, rapid transport to the aid room, immobilization in the aid room
- c. Immobilization, transfer to a sled, completion of the assessment in the aid room
- d. Primary assessment, immobilization, bandaging of the ears to control bleeding, airway management

74. A situation in which an OEC Technician leaves a patient before the patient's care is transferred to another qualified individual is considered:

- a. negligence.
- b. breach of duty.
- c. abandonment.
- d. assault.

75. Which of the following findings indicates that a patient who received a blow to the head is suffering from something other than a mild concussion?

- a. He cannot remember what happened.
- b. He asks the same questions over and over.
- c. His heart rate is 92 and his blood pressure is 144/86.
- d. His pupils are noticeably unequal.

76. A specific toxin or poisonous secretion of an animal that is usually transmitted by a bite or sting is known as:

- a. venom.
- b. antigen.
- c. bullae.
- d. nettle.

77. Your 35-year-old patient has received major chest trauma. He complains of shortness of breath and pain. Your assessment reveals distended neck veins, muffled heart sounds, and lack of a radial pulse. Based on these signs and symptoms, you believe the patient might be suffering from:

- a. acute myocardial infarction.
- b. pericardial tamponade.
- c. pleural effusions.
- d. traumatic asphyxia.

78. The final event in the series of events in drowning is:

- a. unresponsiveness leading to respiratory arrest.
- b. cardiac arrest.
- c. altered mental status leading to respiratory arrest.
- d. a seizure leading to unresponsiveness leading to respiratory arrest.

79. On scene you assisted a patient with his epinephrine auto-injector after he was stung multiple times by bees. You are now transporting him to the first aid room. As you reassess him, which of the following signs best indicates that the epinephrine is having a beneficial effect?

- a. Increasing heart rate
- b. Decreasing mental status
- c. Decreasing wheezing
- d. Decreasing blood pressure

80. To maintain proper alignment when moving or lifting a heavy object, the weight of the object must be:

- a. offset using shoulder and chest strength.
- b. distributed to the lower back.
- c. evenly transferred throughout the lifter's body, especially to legs
- d. transferred to the forearms and biceps.

81. You and a fellow OEC Technician are discussing how to talk with someone experiencing a behavioral emergency. Which of the following statements indicates that you have a good understanding of the correct approach?

- a. “If the patient is hallucinating, you should go along with them so they won’t get upset.”
- b. “Don’t encourage patients to talk about what is bothering them. They should only talk with a psychiatrist about that.”
- c. “Demonstrate active listening skills by repeating or paraphrasing what the patient said.”
- d. If a patient yells, you should yell back so he will know you are not afraid.”

82. Which of the following musculoskeletal tissues does *not* heal?

- a. A tendon
- b. A ligament
- c. A muscle
- d. A cartilage

83. The spleen of a patient has ruptured. Because it is a solid organ, an OEC Technician recognizes that the primary threat to life is:

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

84. Severe external bleeding should be controlled during what phase of a patient assessment?

- a. The primary assessment
- b. The scene size-up
- c. The rapid secondary survey
- d. The reassessment

85. Assessment of a patient who fell reveals bruising to her right buttock. Her skin is intact and she complains of tenderness in the area when you palpate it. You would recognize which of the following types of injury?

- a. An avulsion
- b. An abrasion
- c. An open injury
- d. A contusion

86. A geriatric patient's cardiovascular response to stress, illness, and injury is different from that of younger patients. Which of the following statements is *false*?

- a. As the heart ages, the ventricles become stiffer.
- b. The volume of blood in the body decreases in geriatric patients.
- c. The heart slows due to decreased electrical conductivity in geriatric patients.
- d. Blood vessels become stiffer from atherosclerosis in geriatric patients.

87. Salt water has a higher salt concentration than body tissues. So therefore, when aspirated, salt water will shift fluids:

- a. out of the bloodstream and into the lungs.
- b. out of the bloodstream and into the esophagus.
- c. toward the duodenum.
- d. into the nasal cavity.

88. A young boy complains of pain in his fingers after spending several hours outside riding a sled in cold temperatures. After ensuring that he has no life-threatening conditions, you turn your attention to his hands and note that his fingers are cold to the touch. Which of the following signs or symptoms would help confirm your suspicion that he is suffering from early or superficial frostbite?

- a. Soft but numb skin on the fingers
- b. Fingertips have turned black
- c. Swelling of and blisters on the fingers
- d. Firm but numb cold skin on the fingers

89. How should you best determine the adequacy of a patient's breathing during a primary assessment?

- a. Determine the patient's mental status.
- b. Compare the patient's respiration and pulse rates.
- c. Assess the patient's ability to speak.
- d. Look for the rise and fall of the patient's chest.

90. Which of the following statements indicates that an OEC Technician understands the importance of evaluating the mechanism of injury?

- a. "The mechanism of injury is useful in determining the exact injuries a patient has sustained."
- b. "Evaluating the mechanism of injury is important because it determines whether emergency transport to the hospital is needed."
- c. "The mechanism of injury is a useful tool in determining whether a patient's outcome will be good or bad."
- d. "The mechanism of injury can give valuable clues about the source of injury and how seriously a patient is injured."

91. You are night skiing when you are notified that a child has been involved in a collision on the intermediate trail. As you approach the scene you are thinking about your assessment and realize that the cold and low light may make assessing the child's circulation difficult. In this situation, options for assessing circulation include all of the following *except*:

- a. the sclera of the eyes.
- b. the patient's lips.
- c. fingertip capillary refill.
- d. the palms of the hands.

92. Knowing the function of the gall bladder, which of the following items would be significant for a patient with suspected gall bladder inflammation when you are obtaining information for a medical history,?

- a. The patient started taking a new medication for high blood pressure.
- b. The patient experienced a recent unexplained weight loss.
- c. The patient has abstained from drinking alcohol over the past month.
- d. The patient ate fried chicken and potato salad for dinner.

93. Which of the following signs is a characteristic sign that may be seen during a secondary assessment of patients with spinal cord injury?

- a. Normal skin color and complaint of headache and nausea
- b. Flushed skin color below the level of the injury and impairment or absence of sensation and movement
- c. Bruising on the back and on the abdomen at the level of the injury, with normal or impaired sensation
- d. Flushed skin color at the level of pinpoint back pain

94. Which of the following behaviors is a sign of potential aggression in a patient?

- a. Avoiding eye contact
- b. The clenching of both fists
- c. Refusal to answer some questions
- d. Increased sighing

95. Which of the following answers to a medical history question would indicate that the patient has stable angina?

- a. "I took three nitroglycerin over 15 minutes, but I still have pain."
- b. "When I stopped exercising, the pain went away."
- c. "The pain started when I was sitting down and reading the newspaper."
- d. "The pain lasted about 45 minutes before it gradually went away."

96. Shock is defined as:

- a. inadequate blood pressure and pulse.
- b. decreased amount of circulating blood for any reason.
- c. multiple organ failure.
- d. Failure of the circulatory system to maintain adequate tissue perfusion

97. Which of the following assessment findings is most indicative of increasing pressure within the skull from a closed head injury?

- a. Blood pressure of 192/106 mmHg
- b. Heart rate of 132 beats per minute
- c. Blood pressure of 110/50
- d. Pupils equal and reactive

98. Knowing that stroke volume means the volume of blood pumped from one ventricle of the heart with each beat, which of the following is the result of the body's compensatory mechanisms for shock?

- a. the release of epinephrine, increased stroke volume, and slowed respiratory rate.
- b. increased stroke volume, increased heart rate, and increased peripheral resistance.
- c. slowed respiratory rate, shunting of blood from the skin, and decreased pulse rate.
- d. increased stroke volume, decreased pulse rate, and shunting of blood from the skin.

99. Which of the following assessment findings contraindicates the use of a traction splint to treat a femur injury?

- a. A gross deformity of the hip that indicates dislocation
- b. Decreased pedal pulse rate
- c. Numbness in the foot
- d. An open fracture

100. Which of the following statements indicates that the speaker has an accurate understanding of altered mental status (AMS)?

- a. “AMS describes any abnormal change in a person’s level of awareness or responsiveness.”
- b. “AMS occurs only when a patient is not responsive to verbal or painful stimuli.”
- c. “AMS should be suspected only when a patient is on medications that can cause confusion.”
- d. “AMS is any mental state in a person with diabetes.”

OEC 2014–2015 WRITTEN EXAM ANSWER KEY – VERSION A

1. b pg: 71	26. b pg 344	51. b pg 1089	76. a pg 862
2. b pg 392, 396	27. d pg: 284	52. d pg 1122	77. b pg 779
3. d pg 902	28. b pg 199	53. d pg 82	78. b pg 921
4. a pg 436	29. d pg 415	54. b pg 198	79. c pg 449
5. c pg 508	30. a pg 485	55. c pg 853	80. c pg 129
6. d pg 375	31. b pg 345	56. a pg 551	81. c pg1054
7. a pg 120	32. b pg 631, 642	57. b pg 757	82. d pg 610
8. b pg 295–297	33. d pg 114	58. b pg 136	83. a pg 798
9. d pg 794	34. a pg 444	59. a pg 361	84. a pg 552
10. b pg 41	35. c pg 699	60. a pg 49	85. d pg 543
11. b pg 15	36. c pg 1023	61. a pg 760	86. b pg 988
12. d pg 216	37. b pg 389	62. b pg 304	87. a pg 927
13. d pg 613	38. c pg 1074	63. a pg 217	88. a pg 819
14. a pg 875, 876	39. c pg 500	64. a pg 309	89. d pg 219–220
15. a pg 815	40. b pg 414	65. a pg 170	90. d pg 521
16. b pg 1018–19	41. c: pg 472	66. d pg 988	91. c pg 965
17. c pg 411	42. d pg 459	67. a pg 903	92. d pg 502
18. b pg: 246	43. d pg 336–339	68. b pg 640	93. b pg 718
19. b pg 297–300	44. b pg 843	69. d pg 556	94. b pg 1052
20. b pg 521	45. d pg 665	70. b pg 183	95. b pg 466–467
21. c pg 117	46. b pg 475	71. a pg1105	96. d pg 329–330
22. d pg 363	47. c pg 521	72. b pg 588	97. a pg 718
23. a pg 654	48. b pg 592	73. a pg 530	98. b pg 335
24. a pg 282	49. a pg 425	74. c pg 17	99. a pg 644
25. c pg 943	50. b pg 785	75. d pg 716	100. a pg 356