

We will be allotting specific chapters (Eg:- Pulmonary thromboembolism and Acute Asthma) from a system (Eg -Respiratory). Please split the questions into aspects (Eg:- Investigations, Diagnosis, Treatment), before writing the MCQs, to avoid repetition. Please stick to the topics that have been allocated to ensure even distribution and coverage of the entire syllabus.

The questions should be related to core critical care topics, applied patho-physiology or pharmacology, monitoring, resuscitation, organ support, investigations, medical statistics or medico-legal/ethical issues.

How to create an MCQ

A MCQ question is composed of three parts – a stem, a lead in question and options/alternatives.

- Stem – should contain as much relevant clinical information as possible, should be relatively long, but should not contain unnecessary information.
- Lead in question – specifies the question being asked. Avoid negative lead in questions as far as possible.
- Options/alternatives – There should be 4- 5 options. They should be short and not give any additional data than the stem. One of the options should be the key answer, while others are the distracters. The distracters should be made to be as close they can be to each other.

As far as possible, the questions should be based on clinical scenario, preferably a problem with a stem, if required add some data, investigation or images. Kindly include current issues, concepts, or developments wherever possible.

Types of MCQs

MCQs can be A Type or K Type

Example of a A Type question –

A Type questions are to examine a candidate's breadth of knowledge of the subject in general. It.

- STEM - A 40 year old lady with a known history of having rheumatic mitral valvular stenosis is brought to the emergency room with a history of sudden onset decreased level of consciousness and loss of power on the right hand and leg.
- LEAD IN QUESTION - Which is the most common risk factor for developing cardioembolic stroke?
- OPTIONS

a) Presence of atrial fibrillation*

b) Recent MI

- c) Diabetes mellitus
- d) Dilated cardiomyopathy
- e) Hypertension

While making A type questions, please try to keep at least 2-3 out of the 5 possible answer options, very close to each other.

Example of K type question

K type questions are intended to assess a candidate's depth of knowledge about the subject's core areas.

- STEM - A 40 year old lady with a known history of having rheumatic mitral valvular stenosis is brought to the emergency room with a history of sudden onset decreased level of consciousness and loss of power on the right hand and leg.
- LEAD IN QUESTION - The common risk factors for developing cardioembolic stroke are – (Mark True or False)
- OPTIONS
 - a) Presence of atrial fibrillation - T
 - b) Recent MI - T
 - c) Diabetes mellitus - F
 - d) Dilated cardiomyopathy - T
 - e) Hypertension - F

OR

- STEM - A 40 year old lady with a known history of having rheumatic mitral valvular stenosis is brought to the emergency room with a history of sudden onset decreased level of consciousness and loss of power on the right hand and leg.
- LEAD IN QUESTION - The common risk factor for developing cardioembolic stroke include
- OPTIONS

- a) Presence of atrial fibrillation
- b) Recent MI
- c) Diabetes mellitus
- d) a & c
- e) a & b*

In K type questions, the statements following the topics, should be short, precise and direct. It should not have two negatives or difficult to understand/ ambiguous language.

MCQs to assess knowledge, comprehension and application

MCQs, both A type and K type, can be written to assess the knowledge, comprehension or application of the candidate.

Example of MCQ to assess knowledge -

A 40-year-old lady with a known history of having rheumatic mitral valvular stenosis is brought to the emergency room with a history of sudden onset decreased level of consciousness and loss of power on the right hand and leg.

Which is the most common risk factor for developing cardioembolic stroke?

- a) Presence of atrial fibrillation*
- b) Recent MI
- c) Diabetes mellitus
- d) Dilated cardiomyopathy

e) Hypertension

Example of MCQ to assess comprehension -

A 40 year old lady who is a diabetic with a known history of having rheumatic mitral valvular stenosis is brought to the emergency room with a history of sudden onset decreased level of consciousness and loss of power on the right hand and leg. On examination she is aphasic and has a dense right sided hemiplegia. Her temperature is 100 F, pulse rate is 120/min and it is irregularly irregular. Her blood pressure recorded is 180/100 mm Hg. The most likely risk factor for her developing an acute stroke is –

- a) Presence of atrial fibrillation*
- b) Diabetes mellitus
- c) Rheumatic mitral stenosis
- d) Bacterial infective endocarditis
- e) Hypertension

Example of MCQ to assess application -

A 40 year old lady who is a diabetic with a known history of having rheumatic mitral valvular stenosis is brought to the emergency room with a history of sudden onset decreased level of consciousness and loss of power on the right hand and leg, since the last 2 hours. On examination she is aphasic and has a dense right sided hemiplegia. Her temperature is 100 F, pulse rate is 120/min and it is irregularly irregular. Her blood pressure recorded is 180/100 mm Hg. A CT scan of the brain is done (CT film can be attached) and it shows normal study. What is the next most appropriate intervention to be done?

- a) Administer aspirin 300 mg
- b) Give Enoxaparine 40 mg iv
- c) Immediate IV thrombolysis*

d) Move to the intervention suite for mechanical thrombectomy

Additional instructions

While creating MCQs please remember the training period of the IDCCM exam is of one year Post MD, so the assessment criteria & level of expectations of the candidates should be in accordance to the training.

A type questions should form 80% and should preferably be Clinical scenario based and balanced out between the “one right answer out of 5” and the ‘all except one/ all above/none of the above’ in the ratio of at least 4:1.

K type questions should form the remaining 20%

Spread out the questions to have 30% that assess knowledge, 30% that assess comprehension and 40% that assess application.

Please provide a self-explanatory note along with every answer and a valid reference for the same.