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37	A	B	C	D	E
38	A	B	C	D	E
39	A	B	C	D	E

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

American Association For Lab Animal Science (AALAS)

ALAT

ASSISTANT LAB ANIMAL TECHNICIAN

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for American Association For Lab Animal Science (AALAS) **ALAT**, each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, **ALAT**
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

QUESTION 1

SINGLE CHOICE

The 'Five Freedoms' of animal welfare include freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury, and disease, freedom to express normal behavior, and freedom from what?

- ☐ A Freedom from noise
- ☒ B Freedom from fear and distress
- ☐ C Freedom from observation
- ☐ D Freedom from restraint

ANSWER B

WHY The Five Freedoms, as adopted by animal welfare programs, are: freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury, and disease; freedom to express normal behavior; and freedom from fear and distress. Choice B matches the fifth freedom.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following is an early clinical sign that an animal care technician should report to the veterinarian or supervisor?

- ☐ A Normal grooming behavior
- ☐ B Bright, alert, and responsive attitude
- ☒ C Rough hair coat and weight loss
- ☐ D Normal body temperature for the species

ANSWER C

WHY Rough hair coat and weight loss are common early indicators of illness, stress, or inadequate nutrition and should be reported. The other options describe normal or healthy states.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

Which statement best describes the purpose of using a disinfectant on animal room surfaces?

- ☐ A To replace the need for hand washing between cages
- ☐ B To sterilize surgical instruments before use
- ☒ C To reduce the number of microorganisms on the surface to a safe level
- ☐ D To eliminate all microorganisms including bacterial spores

ANSWER C

WHY Disinfection reduces the number of pathogenic microorganisms on a surface to a level considered safe. It does not achieve sterilization (which eliminates all microbes including spores), and it does not replace hand washing or proper surgical instrument processing.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

When handling a rodent cage in a barrier facility, in addition to facility-specific clothing, which PPE item is typically required as a primary barrier between the technician and the animals?

- ☐ A Sterile surgical gloves
- ☒ B Disposable exam gloves
- ☐ C Cotton work gloves
- ☐ D Heat-resistant gloves

ANSWER B

WHY In a rodent barrier facility, disposable exam (clean) gloves are worn as a primary barrier when handling cages and animals. Sterile surgical gloves are reserved for aseptic procedures, and cotton or heat-resistant gloves are not appropriate for routine animal handling.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

What is the primary responsibility of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)?

- ☐ A Training all animal care technicians in surgical procedures
- ☒ B Reviewing and approving animal use protocols to ensure humane care and use
- ☐ C Purchasing animals and equipment for the research facility
- ☐ D Performing daily health checks on research animals

ANSWER B

WHY The IACUC is responsible for reviewing proposed animal activities (protocols) and ensuring they are humane, appropriate, and comply with applicable regulations and guidelines before approval. Training, purchasing, and daily health checks are performed by other personnel.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

Which method is most appropriate for temporarily identifying individual mice in a short-term study without using permanent markings?

- ☐ A Ear punch
- ☐ B Toe tattoo
- ☒ C Non-toxic colored marker on the tail
- ☐ D Ear tag

ANSWER C

WHY A non-toxic colored marker applied to the tail is a temporary, non-invasive method of identifying individual mice for short-term studies. Ear punch, toe tattoo, and ear tag are more permanent methods and require additional training and equipment.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

Why is accurate daily record keeping essential in an animal facility?

- ☐ A It eliminates the need for veterinarian involvement
- ☒ B It provides documentation of animal health, environmental conditions, and care provided
- ☐ C It is required only when animals become ill
- ☐ D It is used only at the end of the study to summarize results

ANSWER B

WHY Daily records document animal health observations, environmental parameters (temperature, humidity), feed/water changes, and treatments provided. This documentation supports animal welfare, regulatory compliance, and study integrity. Records are required continuously, not only at certain times.

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

When changing cages in a rodent room, what is the correct order of operations to minimize contamination and stress?

- ☐ A Change all cages, then transfer animals, then dump soiled bedding
- ☒ B Transfer animals to a clean cage first, then remove the soiled cage, then sanitize the work area
- ☐ C Sanitize the room before removing any cages
- ☐ D Remove soiled bedding, return animals to the dirty cage, and sanitize later

ANSWER B

WHY Standard practice is to transfer animals into the prepared clean cage first, then remove and dispose of the soiled cage and bedding, and finally sanitize the work surface. This reduces animal stress and prevents cross-contamination.

QUESTION 9

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are examples of environmental enrichment provided to laboratory animals? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Nestling material for mice
- ☐ **B** Solid-bottom cages without bedding
- ☒ **C** Social housing of compatible rodents
- ☐ **D** Continuous bright lighting in the animal room

ANSWER A • C

WHY Nestling material (A) allows animals to perform species-typical nesting behavior, and social housing of compatible rodents (C) supports social species. Solid-bottom cages without bedding (B) and continuous bright lighting (D) do not provide enrichment and may be detrimental to welfare.