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39	A	B	C	D	E

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC)

MLA

Medical Laboratory Assistant

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) **MLA**, 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, **MLA**
- the question number
- the email address on your order

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

QUESTION 1

SINGLE CHOICE

When performing a venipuncture using multiple evacuated tubes, which tube should typically be collected first if no blood culture tube is required?

- ☐ A Lavender top (EDTA)
- ☒ B Light blue top (sodium citrate)
- ☐ C Red top (no additive)
- ☐ D Green top (heparin)

ANSWER B

WHY According to CLSI order-of-draw guidelines, when a blood culture is not being drawn, the light blue (sodium citrate) tube is collected first among additive tubes to avoid tissue thromboplastin contamination affecting coagulation results.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

Before performing venipuncture on an outpatient, which of the following is the most appropriate method to verify patient identity?

- ☐ A Ask the patient to state their room number
- ☒ B Ask the patient to state and spell their full name and date of birth, then compare to the requisition
- ☐ C Confirm identity by asking a family member
- ☐ D Rely on the name posted on the door

ANSWER B

WHY Active patient identification requires the patient to state (not confirm) at least two identifiers, such as full name and date of birth, which are then verified against the requisition or wristband.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

A patient reports a stinging pain and rapid swelling at the venipuncture site immediately after needle insertion. What is the most likely cause?

- ☐ A Hemoconcentration
- ☒ B Hematoma formation
- ☐ C Syncope
- ☐ D Hemolysis

ANSWER B

WHY A hematoma occurs when blood leaks into the surrounding tissue during or after venipuncture, causing swelling and pain, often due to the needle going through the vein or improper pressure application.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following specimen conditions would most likely result in rejection for a coagulation (PT/INR) test?

- ☐ A Specimen collected in a properly filled light blue top tube
- ☒ B Specimen collected in a partially filled light blue top tube
- ☐ C Specimen labeled with two patient identifiers
- ☐ D Specimen delivered to the lab within 1 hour of collection

ANSWER B

WHY An underfilled sodium citrate (light blue) tube alters the blood-to-anticoagulant ratio, which invalidates coagulation test results and requires rejection and recollection.

QUESTION 5

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are components of Standard Precautions as applied in the clinical laboratory? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Wearing gloves when handling all patient specimens
- ☒ **B** Performing hand hygiene before and after patient contact
- ☐ **C** Only using precautions when a patient has a known infection
- ☐ **D** Reusing gloves between different patients to save supplies

ANSWER A • B

WHY Standard Precautions apply to all patients regardless of diagnosis and include use of gloves for specimen handling and consistent hand hygiene practices to reduce transmission of infectious agents.

QUESTION 6

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are appropriate quality control practices for point-of-care glucose testing? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Running liquid QC materials at specified intervals per facility policy
- ☒ **B** Documenting QC results and comparing them to acceptable ranges
- ☐ **C** Skipping QC when the device passed QC the previous week
- ☐ **D** Using QC solutions past their expiration date if unopened

ANSWER A • B

WHY Proper POCT quality control requires running QC materials at defined intervals and documenting/comparing results to established acceptable ranges to ensure instrument accuracy before patient testing.

QUESTION 7 SINGLE CHOICE

Under CLIA regulations, which category of testing requires the least amount of regulatory oversight?

- ☐ A High complexity testing
- ☐ B Moderate complexity testing
- ☒ C Waived testing
- ☐ D Provider-performed microscopy

ANSWER C

WHY CLIA-waived tests are simple tests with a low risk of erroneous results and are subject to the least regulatory oversight, though facilities must still follow manufacturer instructions.

QUESTION 8 SINGLE CHOICE

When collecting a clean-catch midstream urine specimen, which instruction should be given to the patient?

- ☐ A Collect the entire urine stream from the start of urination
- ☒ B Cleanse the periurethral area, void a small amount first, then collect the middle portion of the stream
- ☐ C Collect the specimen only from the first few drops of urine
- ☐ D Refrigerate the specimen for 24 hours before submitting

ANSWER B

WHY A clean-catch midstream collection requires cleansing the area, discarding the initial urine flow to reduce contamination, and collecting the midstream portion for testing.

QUESTION 9

SINGLE CHOICE

A medical laboratory assistant is asked by a patient's neighbor, who is not involved in care, about the patient's test results. What is the most appropriate response?

- ☐ A Provide general information since the neighbor seems concerned
- ☒ B Politely explain that patient information cannot be shared without proper authorization due to confidentiality regulations
- ☐ C Share the results only if the neighbor promises not to tell anyone
- ☐ D Direct the neighbor to look up the results in the patient portal

ANSWER B

WHY HIPAA regulations require that patient health information only be disclosed to authorized individuals; an MLA must protect confidentiality and decline to share information with unauthorized parties.