

01	A	B	C	D	E
02	A	B	C	D	E
03	A	B	C	D	E
04	A	B	C	D	E
05	A	B	C	D	E
06	A	B	C	D	E
07	A	B	C	D	E
08	A	B	C	D	E
09	A	B	C	D	E
10	A	B	C	D	E
11	A	B	C	D	E
12	A	B	C	D	E
13	A	B	C	D	E

14	A	B	C	D	E
15	A	B	C	D	E
16	A	B	C	D	E
17	A	B	C	D	E
18	A	B	C	D	E
19	A	B	C	D	E
20	A	B	C	D	E
21	A	B	C	D	E
22	A	B	C	D	E
23	A	B	C	D	E
24	A	B	C	D	E
25	A	B	C	D	E
26	A	B	C	D	E

27	A	B	C	D	E
28	A	B	C	D	E
29	A	B	C	D	E
30	A	B	C	D	E
31	A	B	C	D	E
32	A	B	C	D	E
33	A	B	C	D	E
34	A	B	C	D	E
35	A	B	C	D	E
36	A	B	C	D	E
37	A	B	C	D	E
38	A	B	C	D	E
39	A	B	C	D	E

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

CSMLS - The Canadian Society For Medical Laboratory Science / La Société canadienne de science de laboratoire médical

MLA

Medical Laboratory Assistant

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for CSMLS - The Canadian Society For Medical Laboratory Science / La Société canadienne de science de laboratoire médical **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

A Medical Laboratory Assistant is about to perform a venipuncture on a patient. According to standard (universal) precautions, which of the following personal protective equipment (PE) items is considered mandatory for every patient encounter regardless of known infection status?

- ☐ A Goggles or a face shield
- ☐ B A fluid-resistant gown
- ☒ C Gloves
- ☐ D An N95 respirator

ANSWER C

WHY Standard (universal) precautions require that blood and body fluids of ALL patients be treated as potentially infectious. Gloves are the minimum mandatory PPE for any procedure involving potential contact with blood, body fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin. Goggles, gowns, and N95 respirators are added based on the anticipated exposure risk (e.g., splashes, aerosol-generating procedures), but gloves are required for every phlebotomy.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

When a Medical Laboratory Assistant receives a urine specimen in the collection container but the requisition and the container label have different patient identifiers, what is the correct first action?

- ☐ A Process the specimen and report the result under the name on the requisition
- ☒ B Reject the specimen and request a new collection
- ☐ C Change the label to match the requisition
- ☐ D Process the specimen under the name on the container label

ANSWER B

WHY Specimen identification is a critical pre-analytical step. When there is any discrepancy between the patient identifiers on the requisition and the specimen label, the specimen must be rejected and a new collection requested. Processing a mismatched specimen risks a patient identification error, which is a serious patient safety event. Labels must never be altered by the laboratory to make them match.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following is the correct order of draw for a typical evacuated tube venipuncture when a light-blue (sodium citrate) tube is required?

- ☒ **A** Light-blue, red (no additive), SST (gel), lavender (EDTA), fluoride/oxalate
- ☐ **B** Red (no additive), light-blue, SST (gel), lavender (EDTA), fluoride/oxalate
- ☐ **C** Light-blue, SST (gel), red (no additive), lavender (EDTA), fluoride/oxalate
- ☐ **D** Lavender (EDTA), light-blue, red (no additive), SST (gel), fluoride/oxalate

ANSWER A

WHY The CLSI order of draw is designed to prevent additive carryover between tubes. For venipuncture, sodium citrate tubes (light-blue) are drawn first because contamination from other additives (especially EDTA) invalidates coagulation testing. This is followed by serum tubes (red/no additive, then SST/gel), then heparin, then EDTA (lavender), then fluoride/oxalate (gray).

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

Under WHMIS 2015 (GHS), a supplier label on a laboratory chemical container must contain which of the following elements as a minimum?

- ☐ **A** A reference to the laboratory's safety manual only
- ☒ **B** Product identifier, hazard pictograms, signal word, hazard statements, and precautionary statements supplied by the manufacturer
- ☐ **C** The laboratory's internal cost code and the date received
- ☐ **D** The name of the receiving Medical Laboratory Assistant only

ANSWER B

WHY WHMIS 2015, aligned with the Globally Harmonized System (GHS), requires supplier labels to include the product identifier, supplier identifier, hazard pictograms, signal word (Danger or Warning), hazard statements, and precautionary statements. Workplace labels may be used on decanted or secondary containers within the laboratory, but the original supplier container must carry all of these elements.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

An EDTA tube for a complete blood count (CBC) has been drawn but cannot be delivered to the hematology analyzer for 2 hours. What is the correct storage condition to preserve the specimen?

- ☐ A Freeze the tube at -20°C
- ☒ B Store at room temperature (18–25°C)
- ☐ C Incubate the tube at 37°C
- ☐ D Centrifuge the tube immediately and store the plasma at 4°C

ANSWER B

WHY EDTA specimens for CBC must be kept at room temperature. Refrigeration can cause platelet clumping and altered cell morphology, which interferes with automated cell counts. Freezing lyses cells, and incubation accelerates metabolic changes. CBC specimens also should not be centrifuged because whole blood, not plasma, is required for the count.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

A patient consumed a large fatty meal 30 minutes before a blood draw for a fasting lipid panel. Which pre-analytical variable has most likely been compromised?

- ☐ A Specimen transport temperature
- ☐ B Patient identification
- ☒ C Fasting status of the patient
- ☐ D Tourniquet application time

ANSWER C

WHY Lipid panels (triglycerides in particular) require the patient to fast for 8–12 hours prior to collection. Recent food intake will falsely elevate triglyceride values. The other variables listed affect different tests: transport temperature affects potassium and blood gases; patient ID is a constant pre-analytical concern regardless of the test; prolonged tourniquet time affects protein and potassium.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

A Medical Laboratory Assistant performs daily quality control on a glucose meter before patient testing. One of the two control levels falls outside the acceptable range (more than 2 SD from the mean). What is the correct first action?

- ☐ A Report the previous patient results without comment
- ☒ B Repeat the out-of-range control using fresh control material after troubleshooting
- ☐ C Continue to patient testing and document the out-of-range value
- ☐ D Calibrate the meter once and proceed to patient testing without repeating the control

ANSWER B

WHY Standard quality control practice requires that any out-of-range control be repeated after identifying and correcting the cause (e.g., expired material, contamination, instrument error, temperature). Patient testing must not proceed until the control is acceptable. Continuing to test, calibrating only once without verification, or reporting prior results without investigation all violate quality assurance requirements.

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

A patient asks the Medical Laboratory Assistant to explain the meaning of abnormal laboratory results that have just been released to the patient's portal. How should the assistant respond?

- ☐ A Provide a detailed interpretation of every abnormal flag
- ☒ B Advise the patient to discuss the results with the ordering physician or appropriate healthcare provider
- ☐ C Tell the patient the values look normal based on experience
- ☐ D Recommend an over-the-counter supplement to address the abnormal results

ANSWER B

WHY Medical Laboratory Assistants are not authorized to interpret, diagnose, or recommend treatment based on laboratory results. Doing so is outside their scope of practice and can cause patient harm. The appropriate response is to direct the patient to the ordering physician or other qualified healthcare provider for interpretation, while remaining respectful and helpful.

QUESTION 9

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following actions performed by a Medical Laboratory Assistant represent correct application of standard precautions during phlebotomy? (Choose two.)

- ☐ **A** Recapping a used needle using the one-handed scoop technique before disposal in a sharps container
- ☒ **B** Wearing gloves during venipuncture and changing them between patients
- ☒ **C** Disposing of the needle and holder together into a puncture-resistant sharps container immediately after use
- ☐ **D** Transporting used needles in an open tray to the processing area for later disposal
- ☐ **E** Wiping gloves with alcohol between patients to reuse them on the next patient

ANSWER B - C

WHY Standard precautions during phlebotomy include: (B) wearing gloves and changing them between patients to prevent cross-contamination, and (C) immediately disposing of the sharp (needle, often still attached to the holder according to many institutional policies) into a puncture-resistant sharps container. (A) Needles should never be recapped; if recapping is unavoidable, a one-handed scoop technique is preferred over two-handed recapping, but the safest practice is no recapping at all. (D) Used needles must never be carried in an open tray — they must be disposed of immediately at the point of use. (E) Alcohol does not reliably disinfect gloves and reusing contaminated gloves violates standard precautions.