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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 Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

AA

Audiology Assistants

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) AA , 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, AA
- the question number
- the email address on your order

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

QUESTION 1

SINGLE CHOICE

An audiologist is performing a comprehensive audiologic evaluation on a new patient. Which of the following tasks is the audiology assistant permitted to perform during this appointment?

- ☐ A Interpret the audiogram and explain the results to the patient
- ☒ B Perform otoscopy to check for obvious cerumen or contraindications before the audiologist enters
- ☐ C Make recommendations for hearing aid selection based on the test findings
- ☐ D Diagnose the type and degree of hearing loss for the medical record

ANSWER B

WHY Audiology assistants may perform otoscopy and other screening/preparatory tasks under the supervision of an audiologist. They may not interpret audiograms, make diagnostic statements, or recommend hearing aids — those are within the audiologist's scope of practice.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

Between patients, the audiology assistant should clean equipment such as insert earphones, supra-aural cushions, and bone conduction oscillators using an appropriate disinfectant. Which agent is most appropriate for routine disinfecting of these reusable audiologic items?

- ☐ A 100% isopropyl alcohol applied directly to the transducers
- ☐ B Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) wipes used between every patient
- ☒ C A manufacturer-recommended disinfectant such as quaternary ammonium or hydrogen peroxide-based wipes
- ☐ D Distilled water sprayed on the cushions and left to air dry

ANSWER C

WHY Audiologic equipment should be disinfected between patients using agents recommended by the manufacturer (commonly quaternary ammonium or hydrogen peroxide-based products). Bleach and high-concentration alcohol can damage transducers, and water alone does not disinfect.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

According to ANSI/ASA S3.21, which calibration must be performed on audiometric equipment annually?

- ☐ A Biological calibration only
- ☐ B Acoustic calibration only
- ☒ C An exhaustive calibration that includes acoustic, frequency, and distortion measurements
- ☐ D Subjective calibration by an audiologist

ANSWER C

WHY ANSI/ASA S3.21 requires an annual exhaustive (or 'full') calibration of audiometric equipment that includes acoustic output, frequency accuracy, harmonic distortion, and other parameters. Daily biological checks supplement, but do not replace, the annual exhaustive calibration.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

Which structure of the ear is responsible for converting mechanical sound vibrations into neural signals?

- ☐ A Tympanic membrane
- ☐ B Ossicular chain
- ☒ C Cochlea (organ of Corti / hair cells)
- ☐ D Auditory cortex

ANSWER C

WHY The cochlea, specifically the inner and outer hair cells of the organ of Corti, transduces mechanical vibrations into neural impulses. The tympanic membrane and ossicles conduct sound mechanically, and the auditory cortex processes the neural signal.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

At the start of the day, the audiology assistant performs a biological calibration by testing his or her own hearing thresholds against a known baseline. What is the primary purpose of this daily check?

- ☐ A To meet OSHA noise-exposure documentation requirements
- ☒ B To verify that the audiometer's output has not changed significantly since the last exhaustive calibration
- ☐ C To certify that the audiometer is ANSI-compliant
- ☐ D To replace the annual acoustic calibration

ANSWER B

WHY Daily biological calibration provides a quick check that the audiometer's transducers and output are functioning consistently. It does not certify ANSI compliance and does not replace the annual exhaustive calibration.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

When preparing to test a patient with supra-aural (TDH-style) earphones, the audiology assistant should position the earphones so that the center of the diaphragm is aligned with:

- ☐ A The tragus of the opposite ear
- ☒ B The opening of the external auditory canal
- ☐ C The mastoid process
- ☐ D The pinna of the opposite ear

ANSWER B

WHY Supra-aural earphones must be placed so the diaphragm is centered over the opening of the external auditory meatus. Misalignment causes significant threshold errors, particularly at higher frequencies.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

On a standard audiogram form, the symbol 'O' (red, right ear) represents:

- ☐ A Air conduction threshold, unmasked, right ear
- ☐ B Bone conduction threshold, masked, right ear
- ☒ C Air conduction threshold, masked, right ear
- ☐ D Sound field threshold, right ear

ANSWER C

WHY On a standard audiogram, an 'O' denotes the right ear air-conduction threshold that was obtained using masking (or, in some legends, simply an unmasked right-ear AC threshold — but per ASHA convention the red 'O' specifies the right ear AC threshold). Of the options provided, masking is the distinguishing feature described.

QUESTION 8

TRUE FALSE

An audiology assistant may share a patient's audiometric results with a referring physician without the patient's written authorization when the disclosure is for treatment purposes.

- ☒ A True
- ☐ B False

ANSWER A

WHY True. Under HIPAA, protected health information may be shared with other health-care providers for treatment purposes without a separate written authorization, although the audiology assistant should follow the clinic's established procedures for release of information.

QUESTION 9

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Before performing otoscopy or audiometry, the audiology assistant should consider postponing the evaluation. Which of the following situations are contraindications or reasons to defer testing? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Active otitis externa with discharge from the ear canal
- ☐ **B** Recent tympanostomy tube placement within the past week with physician clearance
- ☒ **C** Visible blood-tinged drainage and reported ear pain following head trauma
- ☐ **D** Patient arrives wearing well-functioning hearing aids

ANSWER A - C

WHY Active otitis externa and post-traumatic otorrhea are reasons to defer testing and refer the patient to the supervising audiologist or physician. Recent tympanostomy tube placement with physician clearance and use of hearing aids are not, by themselves, contraindications to testing.