

## *Characteristics of a Multiple-Choice Exam*

A multiple-choice exam is considered an objective exam in which all examinees receive the same questions and answers (or a similar version) and the exam does not require the examinees to provide a written or verbal answer. A typical NBRC CRT and written RRT multiple-choice question contains the stem and four options.

### *The Stem*

The stem may be a complete sentence or incomplete sentence. It may also contain positive polarity or negative polarity. See examples below for types of stems.

#### Question stem written as a complete sentence

What is the approximate  $F_{I}O_2$  of a nasal cannula at a flow rate of 2 L/min of oxygen in adult patients with a normal breathing pattern?

#### Question stem written as an incomplete sentence

Mr. Jones is using 2 L/min of oxygen via nasal cannula. Following a routine pre-operative sedative dose, his tidal volume and respiratory rate begin to decrease. Based on this information, the  $F_{I}O_2$  delivered to Mr. Jones would be:

#### Question stem written in a positive polarity

The treatment for a large tension pneumothorax is:

#### Question stem written in a negative polarity

Positive pressure ventilation is contraindicated in:

### *The Options*

The options are the possible answers. One of the best options is the correct answer. The remaining options are not the best options and they are used to distract you. For this reason, they are called distracters. On the CRT and written RRT exams, each question has four options. See examples below for types of options.

#### The option written as a complete sentence

- A. The tidal volume should be increased to 600 ml.
- B. The PEEP should be increased to 5 cm H<sub>2</sub>O.
- C. The SIMV should be decreased to 10/min.
- D. The  $F_{I}O_2$  should be decreased to 25%.

#### The option written as an incomplete sentence or phrase

- A. Intubate the patient.
- B. Begin CPR.
- C. Discontinue mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
- D. Obtain arterial blood gases.

The option that completes the sentence in the stem

- A. initiate weaning attempt.
- B. increase SIMV to 4/min and repeat RSBI procedure.
- C. increase spontaneous frequency and repeat RSBI procedure.
- D. decrease PSV to 0 cm H<sub>2</sub>O and repeat RSBI procedure.

The option that is a word or abbreviations The option that is a word may be a noun, pronoun, verb or adverb as long as it provides the information for a correct answer. The examples below show options in the form of abbreviations and nouns.

- A. PEEP.
- B. CPAP.
- C. Frequency.
- D. Oxygen.

The option that has multiple true false statements The option that contains one or more correct choices described in a separate section.

- I. increase in compliance
  - II. increase in airway resistance
  - III. decrease in compliance
  - IV. decrease in airway resistance
  - V. decrease in conductance
- A. I and II only.
  - B. I and IV only.
  - C. II and III only.
  - D. IV and V only.