

REGISTRATION ASSESSMENT SAMPLE PAPER 2013<sup>1</sup>

PART ONE - CLOSED BOOK

**Instructions to candidates:**

1. For each question there are five options **A, B, C, D** and **E**. Choose only one of the options as your answer for each question.
2. You should answer the questions as though you were a registered pharmacist, **not** a pre-registration trainee.
3. Unless otherwise stated you should answer all questions as though a pandemic situation has **not** arisen and is **not** anticipated.
4. There are 45 questions in this paper. The time allowance for this paper is 45 minutes. **Please note:** This is half the number of questions in the actual registration assessment closed book paper, and half the time allowed for the actual paper.
5. You should score one mark for each correct answer; no marks should be deducted for incorrect answers or omissions.
6. No reference sources may be used to answer questions in this paper.
7. You are not permitted to use a calculator in any part of the examination.
8. If representations of prescriptions are included in questions you may presume that the prescription is genuine and the prescriber's signature is known to you.

<sup>1</sup>All questions in the sample paper have appeared in exam papers over the last few years (**amendments have been made where necessary to ensure that the questions are still contemporary**). The sample paper is matched to the actual assessment in terms of difficulty, syllabus coverage and ratio of question types.

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**SECTION I**  
**(13 questions)**

**Directions for questions 1 to 13.** Each of the questions or incomplete statements in this section is followed by five suggested answers. Select the best answer in each case.

1. Mrs A presents with a prescription for erythromycin tablets. After checking her patient medication record (PMR) you decide to contact the prescriber to advise that s/he should avoid concomitant prescribing of erythromycin and which one of the following:
  - A     atenolol
  - B     simvastatin
  - C     amlodipine
  - D     fluoxetine
  - E     temazepam
  
2. Practising evidence-based medicine requires practitioners to critically appraise the available evidence. Which one of the following correctly lists 3 types of research in order, from the highest level of evidence to the lowest?

case controlled trial = CCT  
 observational study = OS  
 randomised controlled trial = RCT

|          | Highest level | →   | Lowest level |
|----------|---------------|-----|--------------|
| <b>A</b> | RCT           | CCT | OS           |
| <b>B</b> | RCT           | OS  | CCT          |
| <b>C</b> | CCT           | RCT | OS           |
| <b>D</b> | CCT           | OS  | RCT          |
| <b>E</b> | OS            | RCT | CCT          |

3. Which one of the following is a side-effect of pioglitazone?

- A hyperkalaemia
- B tardive dyskinesia
- C liver dysfunction
- D renal impairment
- E pancreatitis

4. Regarding audit, which one of the following statements is true?

- A once an audit has been completed it should not be repeated
- B professional audit can only be carried out by accredited pharmacists
- C audit is a component of quality assurance
- D peer audit must only be carried out by senior managers
- E all pharmacists must carry out a minimum of one self audit per year

5. A young woman visits your pharmacy to ask you to recommend something that she can buy to treat nausea and vomiting associated with migraine. Given that she has previously had migraine diagnosed by a doctor, that she is otherwise well and is **not** allergic to any medicines, which one of the following would it be most appropriate for you to recommend?
- A Sea-legs (meclozine hydrochloride) tablets
  - B Stugeron (cinnarizine) tablets
  - C Buccastem M (prochlorperazine maleate) buccal tablets
  - D Joy-rides (hyoscine hydrobromide) tablets
  - E Avomine (promethazine teoclate) tablets
6. Which one of the following is **not** a sign or symptom of type 2 diabetes mellitus?
- A increased thirst
  - B fatigue
  - C anuria
  - D blurred vision
  - E hyperglycaemia

7. Miss D asks to buy a tube of aciclovir 5% cream. Miss D tells you that she is going on holiday, and is concerned as exposure to the sun seems to trigger an 'attack' of cold sores around her mouth. When counselling Miss D on the use of the aciclovir you should recommend that she uses the cream:
- A as prophylaxis before going in the sun
  - B when the affected area first starts to tingle
  - C when the cold sore starts to weep
  - D when a blister forms
  - E when a scab forms
8. Which one of the following is the maximum number of paracetamol 500 mg capsules that may legally be sold from a registered pharmacy at any one time to a person without a prescription?
- A 16
  - B 32
  - C 64
  - D 100
  - E 120

- 9.** Whilst working as a locum pharmacist in a community pharmacy you realise that a dispensing error was made the previous day when penicillamine was dispensed instead of phenoxymethylpenicillin. Which one of the following should be your first course of action?
- A** contact the General Pharmaceutical Council for advice
  - B** contact the NPA (National Pharmacy Association) for advice
  - C** leave a note for the regular pharmacist to deal with the error tomorrow
  - D** complete a dispensing error form
  - E** contact the patient to inform him/her of the error
- 10.** Mebendazole is the drug of choice for treating threadworm infections in patients over the age of 2 years. It is given as a single dose, but as reinfection is common, a patient may take another dose after how many days?
- A** 7 days
  - B** 10 days
  - C** 14 days
  - D** 21 days
  - E** 28 days

**Question 11** concerns the following hand-written private prescription for Mr N who is a regular customer. He informs you that the prescription is to “help his hair regrow”. You receive the prescription on 28.01.13:

|  |
|--|
| Dr A GP<br>FRCGP<br>16 The High Street,<br>Ourtown     |
| Mr N<br>17 The Oval<br>Ourtown                         |
| Finasteride tablets 1mg<br>Sig: one daily<br>Mitte: 28 |
| Repeat twice   |
| Dr A GP<br>28/01/13                                    |

11. Once the medicine has been dispensed for the final time, which of the following is correct regarding the completed prescription and record keeping?

|          | <b>The prescription should be:</b>                  | <b>A prescription only medicines register entry is:</b> |
|----------|---|---|
| <b>A</b> | submitted for reimbursement at the end of the month | not required  |
| <b>B</b> | retained in the pharmacy for two years              | not required  |
| <b>C</b> | retained in the pharmacy for two years              | legally required  |
| <b>D</b> | returned to the patient or their representative     | legally required  |
| <b>E</b> | returned to the patient or their representative     | not required  |

**Questions 12 and 13** concern Mrs T (aged 31 years) who visits the pharmacy one Saturday afternoon; she appears embarrassed and asks to talk to the pharmacist somewhere private. After appropriate questioning, it seems that she has vaginal thrush. During the consultation, she confirms that she does **not** take any other medication, has no existing medical conditions, and is **not** pregnant or breastfeeding.

- 12.** Which one of the following is a typical symptom of vaginal thrush?
- A** a foul smelling vaginal discharge
  - B** intermenstrual bleeding
  - C** lower abdominal pain
  - D** pus in the urine
  - E** vaginal itching
- 13.** Assuming Mrs T has had a previous episode of vaginal thrush about a year ago (diagnosed by a doctor), which one of the following non-prescription medicines is the most appropriate treatment option for Mrs T?
- A** Canesten AF Dual Action Cream (clotrimazole 1% w/w)
  - B** Canesten Dermatological Spray (clotrimazole 1%w/v)
  - C** Canesten Hydrocortisone (clotrimazole 1% w/w; hydrocortisone 1% w/w)
  - D** Canesten Internal Cream (clotrimazole 10% w/w)
  - E** Canesten Oasis (sodium citrate)

**SECTION II**  
**(11 questions)**

**Directions for questions 14 to 24.** For each numbered question select from the list above it the one lettered option which is most closely related to it. Within each group of questions each lettered option may be used once, more than once, or not at all.

**Questions 14 and 15** concern the following number of prescription charges:

- A**     0 charges
- B**     1 charge
- C**     2 charges
- D**     3 charges
- E**     4 charges

In situations where prescription charges apply, select from **A** to **E**, how many charges would be payable on the following NHS prescriptions:

**14.**    2 pairs of thigh length stockings – Class II

**15.**    1 x 28 atenolol 50mg tablets and 1 x 28 atenolol 100mg tablets

**Questions 16 to 18** concern the following antibiotics:

- A** co-amoxiclav
- B** trimethoprim
- C** doxycycline
- D** amoxicillin
- E** clindamycin

Select, from **A** to **E**, which antibiotic is most likely to have been a significant factor in the following scenarios:

- 16.** a 76-year-old man who presents with jaundice. His liver function tests reveal a raised bilirubin and alkaline phosphatase
- 17.** a 23-year-old woman who has just returned from a beach holiday in Greece. She presents with a widespread, painful rash
- 18.** a 64-year-old man being treated for a staphylococcal bone infection presenting with severe diarrhoea

**Question 19 and 20** concern the following advice to patients:

- A** advise the patient that the symptom(s) they have described is/are **not** known to be caused by the medicine
- B** advise the patient to see their GP as the dose of the medicine may need to be increased
- C** advise the patient to see their GP as the dose of the medicine may need to be reduced
- D** advise the patient that they are experiencing a side-effect of the medicine. It is safe to continue taking the medicine, but they may wish to see their GP for an alternative
- E** advise the patient to stop taking the medicine straight away, and to see their GP as soon as possible

Select, from **A** to **E**, which of the above applies to:

- 19.** a patient taking theophylline who complains of drowsiness
  
- 20.** a patient taking ramipril who complains of a dry cough

**Questions 21 and 22** concern the following time periods in the context of extemporaneous dispensing:

- A** 12 hours
- B** 24 hours
- C** 48 hours
- D** 7 days
- E** 28 days

Select, from **A** to **E**, the period of time that relates to the following situations:

- 21.** the maximum time between preparation of a product and its issue for use that the BP requires for a medicine that is 'freshly prepared'
  
- 22.** the approximate time after which deterioration is likely if a 'recently prepared' medicine is stored between 15 and 25 °C

**Questions 23 and 24** concern the following legal requirements for controlled drugs:

|  | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Prescriptions must state the total quantity to be supplied in both words and figures | Yes      | Yes      | No       | No       | Yes      |
| Safe custody requirements apply  | No       | Yes      | No       | Yes      | Yes      |
| Controlled Drugs register entry required   | No       | Yes      | No       | No       | No       |
| Emergency supply legally permitted   | No       | No       | Yes      | No       | No       |

Select from **A** to **E**, which one of the above descriptions applies to the following medicines:

**23.** temazepam tablets 10 mg

**24.** diazepam tablets 2 mg

**SECTION III**  
**(12 questions)**

**Directions for questions 25 to 36.** Each of the questions or incomplete statements in this section is followed by three responses. For each question **ONE** or **MORE** of the responses is/are correct. Decide which of the responses is/are correct. Then choose:

- A** if **1, 2** and **3** are correct
- B** if **1** and **2** only are correct
- C** if **2** and **3** only are correct
- D** if **1** only is correct
- E** if **3** only is correct

| <b>Directions Summarised</b> |                                 |                                 |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>A</b><br><b>1, 2, 3</b>   | <b>B</b><br><b>1, 2</b><br>only | <b>C</b><br><b>2, 3</b><br>only | <b>D</b><br><b>1</b><br>only | <b>E</b><br><b>3</b><br>only |

- 25.** Following a serious dispensing incident in the pharmacy you have decided to undertake a root cause analysis. At the time of the incident, the dispensary was staffed by a pharmacist, a pharmacy technician and an assistant. Which of the following is/are true?
- 1** a root cause analysis should apportion blame for the incident
  - 2** only the pharmacist can undertake the root cause analysis
  - 3** root cause analysis is a retrospective process
- 26.** In which of the following situations would it be acceptable for you to provide the information requested?
- 1** during a visit to your parent's home your mother asks you why one of her neighbours has been admitted to the local hospital where you work
  - 2** after dispensing a prescription for zidovudine your pharmacy technician asks you to explain what zidovudine is used for
  - 3** whilst visiting a paediatric ward at your hospital the father of a 6-year-old boy asks you if his son's medication is licensed for use in children

| <b>Directions Summarised</b> |                                 |                                 |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>A</b><br><b>1, 2, 3</b>   | <b>B</b><br><b>1, 2</b><br>only | <b>C</b><br><b>2, 3</b><br>only | <b>D</b><br><b>1</b><br>only | <b>E</b><br><b>3</b><br>only |

- 27.** The General Pharmaceutical Council requires that pharmacists undertake and record continuing professional development (CPD). Which of the following statements is/are true with regards to the recording of CPD?
- 1** all pharmacy professionals must make a minimum of 9 entries per year
  - 2** all entries must start at reflection
  - 3** where relevant, specific patient details should be included in entries
- 28.** The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 requires employers to:
- 1** provide information relating to risk for activities undertaken
  - 2** have a written health and safety policy if they have five or more employees
  - 3** provide and maintain a safe place of work with means of entry and exit
- 29.** Inappropriate use of abbreviations has led to serious patient safety incidents. Which of the following abbreviations is/are acceptable on a prescription?
- 1** µg for micrograms
  - 2** u for units
  - 3** g for grams

| <b>Directions Summarised</b> |                                 |                                 |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>A</b><br><b>1, 2, 3</b>   | <b>B</b><br><b>1, 2</b><br>only | <b>C</b><br><b>2, 3</b><br>only | <b>D</b><br><b>1</b><br>only | <b>E</b><br><b>3</b><br>only |

**30.** When questioning an adult who is asking for advice about the treatment of diarrhoea, which of the following factors would indicate that the patient should be advised to see their GP?

**1** presence of blood in the stool

**2** abdominal cramps

**3** flatulence

**31.** Which of the following is/are risk factor(s) for the development of venous thromboembolism?

**1** obesity

**2** pregnancy

**3** immobility

| <b>Directions Summarised</b> |                                 |                                 |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>A</b><br><b>1, 2, 3</b>   | <b>B</b><br><b>1, 2</b><br>only | <b>C</b><br><b>2, 3</b><br>only | <b>D</b><br><b>1</b><br>only | <b>E</b><br><b>3</b><br>only |

**32.** The hospital where you work has decided to introduce a policy on 28 day dispensing and you are asked to lead a project group to select the best model to follow. Which of the following methods should you undertake to inform your decision?

- 1** cost-benefit analysis
- 2** risk-benefit analysis
- 3** meta-analysis

**33.** Which of the following is/are true of fentanyl patches?

- 1** they can cause respiratory depression
- 2** side effects may be increased in patients who have a fever
- 3** the effects can be reversed by flumazenil

| <b>Directions Summarised</b> |                          |                          |                       |                       |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>A</b><br>1, 2, 3          | <b>B</b><br>1, 2<br>only | <b>C</b><br>2, 3<br>only | <b>D</b><br>1<br>only | <b>E</b><br>3<br>only |

- 34.** Which of the following is/are primary prevention health promotion activities?
- 1 smoking cessation clinics run by pharmacists for customers who have never experienced a cardiovascular event
  - 2 smoking cessation clinics run by pharmacists for customers who have had a cardiovascular event
  - 3 support groups run by pharmacists for customers who have experienced a cardiovascular event
- 35.** Regarding the supply of emergency hormonal contraception (EHC), which of the following is/are true?
- 1 ulipristal is licensed to be used for up to 7 days after unprotected intercourse
  - 2 a patient who vomits within 2 hours of taking levonorgestrel oral emergency contraception should be advised to take another dose immediately
  - 3 a patient who has severe Crohn's disease should not be supplied with OTC levonorgestrel but should be referred to a doctor or family planning clinic
- 36.** On Monday a woman and her 8-year-old daughter present in your pharmacy seeking advice for the treatment of insect bites which they suffered during a camping trip at the weekend. Which of the following is/are true?
- 1 Eurax HC (crotamiton 10%, hydrocortisone 0.25%) should be applied liberally to the insect bites
  - 2 calamine lotion would be a cost effective choice for topical treatment of itch caused by the insect bites in this woman and her daughter
  - 3 topical antihistamines are only marginally effective for insect bites

**SECTION IV**  
**(9 questions)**

**Directions for questions 37 to 45.** The following questions consist of a first statement in the left-hand column followed by a second statement in the right-hand column.

Decide whether the **first** statement is true or false.

Decide whether the **second** statement is true or false.

Then choose:

- A** if both statements are true and the second statement is a **correct explanation** of the first statement
- B** if both statements are true but the second statement is **NOT a correct explanation** of the first statement
- C** if the first statement is true but the second statement is false
- D** if the first statement is false but the second statement is true
- E** if both statements are false

| <b>Directions Summarised</b> |                        |                         |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|
|                              | <b>First Statement</b> | <b>Second Statement</b> |  |
| <b>A</b>                     | True                   | True                    | 2nd statement is a <b>correct explanation</b> of the first     |
| <b>B</b>                     | True                   | True                    | 2nd statement is <b>NOT a correct explanation</b> of the first |
| <b>C</b>                     | True                   | False                   |  |
| <b>D</b>                     | False                  | True                    |  |
| <b>E</b>                     | False                  | False                   |  |

| Directions Summarised |                 |                  |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
|                       | First Statement | Second Statement |  |
| <b>A</b>              | True            | True             | 2nd statement is a <b>correct explanation</b> of the first     |
| <b>B</b>              | True            | True             | 2nd statement is <b>NOT a correct explanation</b> of the first |
| <b>C</b>              | True            | False            |  |
| <b>D</b>              | False           | True             |  |
| <b>E</b>              | False           | False            |  |

**Questions 37 and 38 relate to the following scenario:**

You have agreed to do a locum in a busy community pharmacy where you will be the responsible pharmacist. The owner informs you there is a registered pharmacy technician who effectively runs the dispensary. You are the sole pharmacist on the premises.

**37.**

**FIRST STATEMENT**

You must establish that SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) that secure the safe and effective running of the community pharmacy are in place before signing in as the responsible pharmacist

**SECOND STATEMENT**

You must only take on the role of the responsible pharmacist if it is within your professional competence

The pharmacy is open between 9am and 6pm. During the day you are required to leave the pharmacy premises for 1 hour. During the period of absence you are still the responsible pharmacist.

**38.**

**FIRST STATEMENT**

It is a legal requirement that the pharmacy record shows the date of the absence and the time the absence commenced

**SECOND STATEMENT**

During this period of absence the registered pharmacy technician may supply both pharmacy and general sales list medicines

| Directions Summarised |                 |                  |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
|                       | First Statement | Second Statement |  |
| <b>A</b>              | True            | True             | 2nd statement is a <b>correct explanation</b> of the first<br>2nd statement is <b>NOT a correct explanation</b> of the first |
| <b>B</b>              | True            | True             |  |
| <b>C</b>              | True            | False            |  |
| <b>D</b>              | False           | True             |  |
| <b>E</b>              | False           | False            |  |

**39.**

**FIRST STATEMENT**

A patient receiving warfarin for a first deep-vein thrombosis should aim for an INR of 2.5

**SECOND STATEMENT**

An INR within 0.5 units of the target value is generally satisfactory

**Question 40** concerns the following scenario:

Mrs P, who is known to have type 1 diabetes mellitus, is admitted to hospital suffering from ketoacidosis. No obvious cause is found for the deterioration in her diabetes and on further investigation it is found that the ketoacidosis occurred because her insulin pen was faulty and this resulted in her receiving inadequate doses of insulin.

**40.**

**FIRST STATEMENT**

The faulty insulin pen should be reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

**SECOND STATEMENT**

All adverse incidents involving medical devices and equipment that cause untoward effects involving the safety of patients should be reported to the MHRA

**41.**

**FIRST STATEMENT**

Pharmacists should **not** sell codeine linctus for a child aged 15 who has an unproductive cough

**SECOND STATEMENT**

The MHRA advises that children under 18 years should **not** use over the counter liquid medicines containing codeine

| Directions Summarised |                 |                  |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
|                       | First Statement | Second Statement |  |
| <b>A</b>              | True            | True             | 2nd statement is a <b>correct explanation</b> of the first     |
| <b>B</b>              | True            | True             | 2nd statement is <b>NOT a correct explanation</b> of the first |
| <b>C</b>              | True            | False            |  |
| <b>D</b>              | False           | True             |  |
| <b>E</b>              | False           | False            |  |

**Question 42** concerns the following scenario:

You have been asked to prepare 300 mL Gentian Mixture, Alkaline, BP using the following formula.

**Gentian Mixture, Alkaline, BP**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Concentrated Compound Gentian Infusion BP | 1 mL     |
| Sodium Bicarbonate BP                     | 500 mg   |
| Double-strength Chloroform Water BP       | 5 mL     |
| Water                                     | to 10 mL |

As you have **no** double-strength chloroform water you decide to use concentrated chloroform water.

**42.**

**FIRST STATEMENT**

The volume of Concentrated Chloroform Water BPC required is 15 mL

**SECOND STATEMENT**

Concentrated Chloroform Water BPC is 20 times the strength of Double-strength Chloroform Water BP

**Question 43** concerns the following scenario:

While working in a community pharmacy the store manager asks you to promote sales of Nytol One-A-Night (diphenhydramine hydrochloride) by offering 2 packs for the price of 1 whenever this product is requested.

**43.**

**FIRST STATEMENT**

You should refuse to promote the sale of Nytol One-A-Night in this way

**SECOND STATEMENT**

Offering 2 packs of Nytol One-A-Night for the price of 1 could encourage inappropriate or excessive consumption

| Directions Summarised |                 |                  |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
|                       | First Statement | Second Statement |  |
| <b>A</b>              | True            | True             | 2nd statement is a <b>correct explanation</b> of the first     |
| <b>B</b>              | True            | True             | 2nd statement is <b>NOT a correct explanation</b> of the first |
| <b>C</b>              | True            | False            |  |
| <b>D</b>              | False           | True             |  |
| <b>E</b>              | False           | False            |  |

**Question 44** concerns the following scenario:

While you are working in a community pharmacy a woman asks to buy a tube of hydrocortisone cream 1% for her 14-year-old daughter who has mild eczema on her face which is dry and itchy.

**44.**

**FIRST STATEMENT**

It would be appropriate to refuse the sale

**SECOND STATEMENT**

Non-prescription hydrocortisone preparations should not be sold for use in children under 18 years

**45.**

**FIRST STATEMENT**

Many medicines are **not** licensed for use in children, but the BNF for Children gives authoritative advice concerning the use of medicines in children

**SECOND STATEMENT**

All information in the BNF for Children is based on licensed indications and doses

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**Now go back and check your work**