australian pharmacy council®

CAOP® Exam

Sample Content

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Information

This document contains sample content for the Competency Assessment of Overseas Pharmacists (*CAOP®)* exam produced by the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) for information and **practice purposes only**.

The questions in this document are no longer used in our exams. Questions have been selected to allow candidates to familiarise themselves with the format and layout of the exam content.

This sample document includes questions from all content areas assessed in the exam. For additional information about exam content, candidates should refer to the CAOP Exam Guide and Sample Content page on our APC website.

The *CAOP®* exam consists of 70 randomised questions and candidates have 2 hours (120 minutes) to complete it.

Questions are presented in two formats:

1. Multiple-choice questions (MCQ)
2. Fill in the blank (FIB) calculation questions.

The live or actual *CAOP®* exams will vary from this sample content and will be delivered in person at approved test centres using computers. An online sample test is available, providing candidates with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the exam software.

An answer sheet is available at the end of this document.

General standards for all questions

To ensure consistency and clarity across the exam, all questions adhere to the following standards:

- Drug and ingredient names are presented as per the TGA list of approved names.
- Units for drug quantities and medication directions follow the approved abbreviations from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Recommendations for safe use of medicines terminology.
- Values are presented in SI (metric) units.
- Determiners are bold and capitalised to highlight the type of response expected. e.g. **CORRECT**, **MOST**, **LEAST**, **NOT**.

Multiple-choice questions

CAOP® exam questions typically follow a multiple-choice format, providing four options with one correct answer. These questions assess your ability to recognise key concepts, apply knowledge, and eliminate incorrect alternatives.

To answer a multiple-choice question, select the **ONE** correct answer option using your mouse or keyboard.

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Fill in the blank (FIB) calculation questions

These calculation questions assess your precision and understanding of core principles. Please read the instructions in each question carefully. If your answer is not entered as directed, it will be marked incorrect.

Guidance for FIB answer submissions:

1. Perform your calculations and enter only your final answer in the designated blank space provided. Do not include your working or any text.
2. Each question will specify whether your answer should be given as a whole number or rounded to one decimal place. Follow the instructions provided in each question:
    - **"*Give your answer to the nearest whole number*"**
      If the final calculation is 12.647, then round to the nearest whole number: 13
    - "***Round your answer to ONE decimal place***"
      If the final calculation is 12.647, then round to one decimal place: 12.6
      Inaccurate rounding, such as 12, 12.65 or 12.7 will be marked incorrect.
3. Do not include unnecessary zeros
    - Whole number example: 02 or 2.00 will be marked incorrect if the answer is 2
    - Decimal example: 2, .2 or 0.21 will be marked incorrect if the answer is 0.2
4. Only round your final answer. Do not round any intermediate steps during your calculations.
5. **Do not include units**, the unit will be provided in the question.
6. **Do not include symbols** such as %, µ, iu, etc.
7. For decimal values, use a **decimal point** (e.g. 1.8) not a comma (e.g. 1,8)
8. Type only **ONE numerical answer** for each question.

Answers are automatically marked. No partial marks will be given. The system will not accept answers in the wrong format (e.g. using commas, adding units, or rounding incorrectly). Always check your entry carefully before submitting.

View the online sample test for examples of how FIB calculation questions will appear in your exam and become familiar with the system before your exam.

Please note that while the sample content undergoes regular review, the APC cannot ensure the accuracy of the answers after publication due to the potential for changes in pharmacy practice guidelines or legislation. This sample content is designed to help candidates become familiar with the exam format and question style, rather than reflect the actual exam content. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

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Sample content

1. A mother comes into your pharmacy and requests a copy of a taxation invoice that includes all the medications her family has had in the previous financial year. She verbally requests information for herself, her husband and her two children aged 3 and 6 years old.

As the pharmacist on duty, what are you able to provide her?

A. Medication information for the whole family
B. Her prescription medication information only
C. Her and the children's prescription medication information only
D. Her and her husband's prescription medication information only

2. Administered subcutaneously, which enoxaparin dosage regimen is **MOST** appropriate for venous thromboembolism treatment in a person weighing 60 kg (CrCl 27 mL/min)?

A. 20 mg TWICE a day
B. 40 mg ONCE a day
C. 60 mg ONCE a day
D. 60 mg TWICE a day

3. When converting a patient from standard levodopa/carbidopa formulations to controlled release formulations, which of the following is **CORRECT**?

A. Current therapy should be continued for the first two days
B. Controlled release preparations have lower oral bioavailability
C. The total daily dose of levodopa usually has to be decreased
D. The frequency of dosing with the controlled release formulations is once daily

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4. An inpatient is to receive cefazolin sodium 400 mg in 100 mL of normal saline, to be infused over 20 minutes, every 6 hours for three days.

Cefazolin sodium is available in vials of 0.5 g to be diluted to a solution using 1.5 mL of sterile water. Reconstituting 0.5 g cefazolin vial with 1.5 mL of sterile water yields a solution containing cefazolin 333 mg/mL

How many millilitres (mL) of the reconstituted solution are required for each day of therapy?

(Round your answer to ONE decimal place)

_____ mL

5. A person complains of a swollen, red and painful left calf two weeks after a total knee replacement.

What is the **MOST** appropriate recommendation?

A. Rest, elevation and an ice pack
B. Aspirin 300 mg as a single dose, then 100 mg daily thereafter
C. Seek medical advice as a Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) is suspected
D. Apply topical povidone iodine ointment three times a day for a week

6. Which of the following drugs is **MOST** likely to cause photosensitivity?

A. Allopurinol
B. Amiodarone
C. Digoxin
D. Isosorbide mononitrate

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7. Which counselling point is **MOST** appropriate for patients initiating apixaban?

A. Establish a routine for regular blood tests for serum transaminases
B. Over the counter non-steroidal anti-inflammatories are permitted
C. The tablets should be swallowed whole and not crushed
D. Consult the doctor at the first sign of any unexpected bruising or bleeding

8. Which medication is **BEST** absorbed if taken with food?

A. Isotretinoin
B. Doxycycline
C. Ibuprofen
D. Metformin

9. When dispensing insulin glargine (Optisulin) injection pens, what advice should be provided to the patient regarding its storage?

A. In-use pen at room temperature (<30°C) for up to 28 days and spare pens refrigerated (2-8°C)
B. Both in-use pen and spare pens at room temperature (<30°C)
C. Both in-use pen and spare pens refrigerated (2-8°C)
D. In-use pen at room temperature (<30°C) for up to 90 days and spare pens refrigerated (2-8°C)

10. In addition to antiplatelet drug (sometimes with low-intensity anticoagulant therapy) and an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor (ACEI), which of the following classes of drugs reduces cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in patients with established atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD)?

A. Nitrates
B. Statins
C. Angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs)
D. Antiarrhythmics

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11. A doctor asks for your recommendation to treat mastitis in a patient with penicillin allergy (anaphylaxis 10 years ago).

What is the **MOST** appropriate antibiotic for this patient?

A. Ciprofloxacin
B. Clindamycin
C. Dicloxacillin
D. Erythromycin

12. A regular customer who is 36 weeks pregnant asks if her usual migraine treatment of metoclopramide and ibuprofen is safe for her to take.

What is the **MOST** appropriate response to treat her question?

A. Ibuprofen and metoclopramide are safe to use throughout pregnancy
B. Ibuprofen should be ceased, metoclopramide alone should be effective
C. Ibuprofen should be substituted with paracetamol, taken with the metoclopramide
D. Ibuprofen and metoclopramide should be substituted with aspirin monotherapy

13. What would you advise a patient who has been taking alendronate for 10 years and who has responded well to treatment (T-score ≥ -2.5 and no recent fractures)?

A. Discontinue alendronate
B. Replace alendronate with risedronate
C. Replace alendronate with romosozumab
D. Supplement alendronate with use of hip protectors

14. What is the incubation period for hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD)?

A. 1-2 days
B. 2-3 days
C. 3-7 days
D. 7-14 days

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15. What is the **LEAST** appropriate SSRI for the management of depression during pregnancy.

A. Citalopram
B. Paroxetine
C. Sertraline
D. Fluoxetine

16. Which of the following drugs is used for prevention of stroke in a patient with a mechanical valve?

A. Dabigatran
B. Rivaroxaban
C. Aspirin
D. Warfarin

17. Following a dose of inhaled salmeterol, when is the peak effect expected?

A. Instantaneously
B. After 10 minutes
C. After 3-4 hours
D. After 12 hours.

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18. Calculate the total dose of a drug in milligrams (mg) administered for a 60 kg female based on the following dose regimen:

Bolus: 10 mg
Infusion 1 mg/kg over 30 min then 0.5 mg/kg over 60 min

(Give your answer to the nearest whole number)

_____ mg

19. Which drug does **NOT** require ongoing ocular health monitoring?

A. Topiramate
B. Amiodarone
C. Methotrexate
D. Hydroxychloroquine

20. Which statement about ondansetron is **CORRECT**?

A. It acts by central and peripheral 5HT3 receptor blockade
B. The dose needs to be reduced in severe renal impairment
C. It is not effective for delayed adverse effects of cancer therapy
D. It decreases the analgesic effect of oxycodone

21. A patient is receiving 1150 units/hour of heparin from a heparin infusion (25 000 units/500 mL).

Due to an elevated activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT) result, the infusion needs to be slowed by 100 units/hour.

What infusion rate is required to administer the new dosage?

(Give your answer to the nearest whole number)

_____ mL/hour

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22. For the prophylactic management of migraine, which of the following is **LEAST** appropriate?

A. Amitriptyline
B. Gabapentin
C. Propranolol
D. Sumatriptan

23. Which statement is **CORRECT** regarding metformin, when used in renal impairment?

A. Can be used in patients with renal impairment with careful monitoring
B. Can be used in renal impairment but not below a CrCl of 60 mL/min
C. Can be used without consideration of renal function
D. Can cause renal impairment, and it should be ceased until renal impairment has resolved

24. A doctor requests advice on the most appropriate antifungal to treat onychomycosis in a patient taking atorvastatin. What do you recommend?

A. Itraconazole capsules
B. Terbinafine tablets
C. Nystatin capsules
D. Clotrimazole lotion

25. Which ONE of the following drugs is the **MOST** appropriate for the treatment of pharyngitis caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*?

A. Ciprofloxacin
B. Phenoxymethylpenicillin
C. Metronidazole
D. Rifampicin

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Answer sheet

Sequence Number	Enabling Competency Assessed	Correct Answer
1	1.3.3	C
2	3.3.2	C
3	3.2.3	B
4	3.4.1	4.8
5	3.2.2	C
6	3.3.2	B
7	3.2.5	D
8	3.2.5	A
9	3.2.3	A
10	3.1.2	B
11	3.2.3	B
12	3.2.2	C
13	3.2.5	A
14	3.6.2	C
15	3.2.3	B
16	3.1.2	D
17	.2.5	C
18	3.4.1	100
19	3.3.1	C
20	3.3.1	A
21	3.4.1	21
22	3.1.2	D
23	3.3.2	A
24	3.2.5	B
25	3.1.2	B

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