

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

MD (EMERGENCY MEDICINE) EXAMINATION – NOVEMBER 2025

Date:- 25th November 2025

Time:- 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon

STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTION PAPER

Answer **all ten (10)** questions.

Answer each question in a separate book.

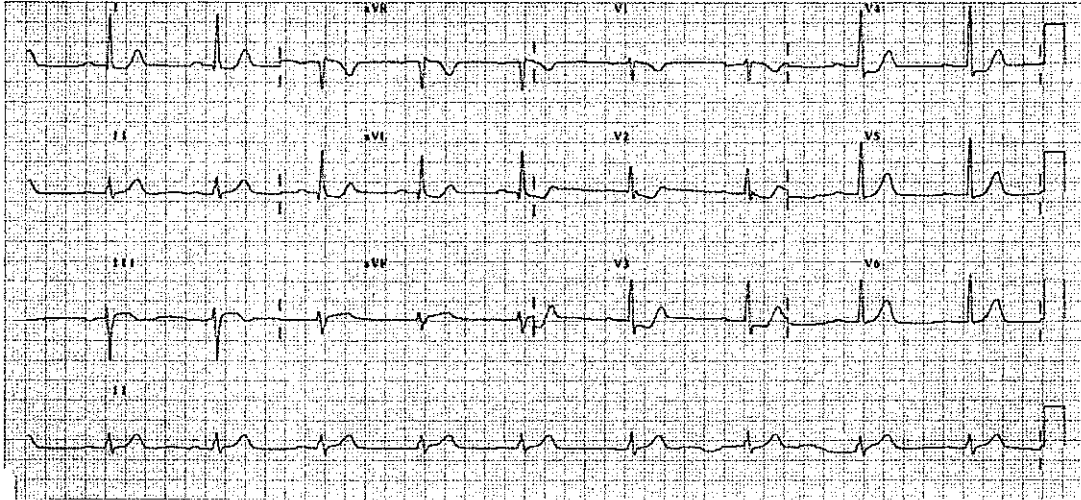
1. A 65-year-old man presents to the ED with an acutely painful leg of 2 hours duration. He has poorly controlled hypertension and diabetes. He is on warfarin for atrial fibrillation.
 - 1.1. State the most likely diagnosis. (10%)
 - 1.2. Outline the pathological processes that are likely to be responsible for the diagnosis stated in 1.1. (20%)
 - 1.3. Briefly describe the investigations and management in the ED. (70%)

2. A 40-year-old woman presents to the ED with acute epigastric pain of 4 hours duration. Her BMI is 35 kg/m². She is dehydrated, respiratory rate is 30/minute, SpO₂ is 92% on room air. Her pulse rate is 130 beats/minute, and her blood pressure is 90/50 mmHg. There is tenderness and guarding in the epigastric region. A clinical diagnosis of acute pancreatitis is made.
 - 2.1. State the criteria to confirm the diagnosis of acute pancreatitis. (10%)
 - 2.2. How would you assess the severity of acute pancreatitis? (20%)
 - 2.3. Outline the management of her in the first 24 hours. (50%)
 - 2.4. State the early and late complications of acute pancreatitis. (20%)

Contd...../2-

3. A 20-year-old man with pineapple allergy presents to the ED with pruritus, urticaria, and a diffuse rash 30 minutes after he ingested a fruit salad. He has retrosternal tightness, a pulse rate of 76 beats/minute, a blood pressure of 120/80 mmHg, and a SpO₂ of 98% on room air.

His ECG is given below:

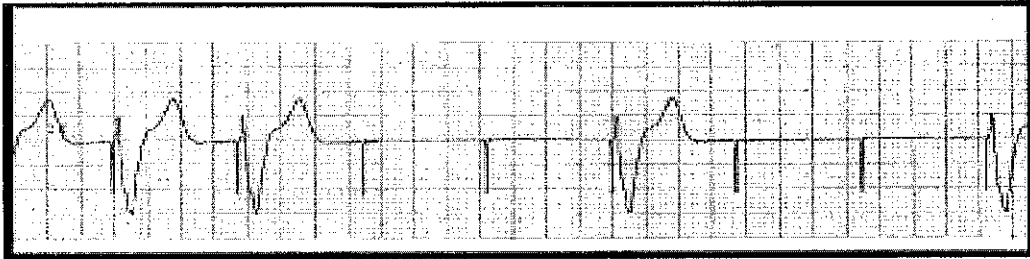


- 3.1. State the most likely diagnosis, giving reasons. (35%)
- 3.2. List two (02) point of care tests to confirm your diagnosis. (15%)
- 3.3. Outline the management in the ED. (50%)
4. A 20-year-old man is brought to the ED following a stab injury to the upper abdomen. He is unresponsive, blood pressure is 60/40 mmHg, heart rate is 140 beats/minute, respiratory rate is 34/minute, and SpO₂ is 85% on room air.
- 4.1. State the likely immediately life-threatening injuries. (20%)
- 4.2. Describe the initial assessment and management. (80%)
5. A 30-year-old man admits to the ED with heavy bleeding from his throat and blood-stained vomiting. He underwent bilateral tonsillectomy 4 days ago.
- He is conscious. Pulse rate is 110 beats/minute, and blood pressure is 100/70 mmHg. His breathing is regular, but a coarse, gurgling noise is heard.
- 5.1. State the factors that are likely to have contributed to his bleeding. (20%)
- 5.2. Describe his management in the first 24 hours. (80%)

Contd.../3-

6. An 80-year-old woman presents to the ED with dizziness. She underwent insertion of a permanent pacemaker for complete heart block due to ischaemic heart disease 3 years ago. Her blood pressure is 90/60 mmHg, and her heart rate is 36 beats/minute.

The ECG tracing is given below:



- 6.1. State the abnormality in the ECG. (25%)
- 6.2. List five (05) likely causes for the abnormality in 6.1. (25%)
- 6.3. Outline her management in the ED. (30%)

She provides a discharge summary that shows she was managed for Pacemaker syndrome one year ago.

- 6.4. Briefly describe Pacemaker syndrome. (20%)
7. A 6-month-old baby with Tetralogy of Fallot is brought in with sudden onset of worsening cyanosis. He is crying, irritable and has deep central cyanosis.
- 7.1. State the most likely diagnosis and the pathophysiology of this presentation. (35%)
- 7.2. Outline the management of this baby in the ED. (50%)
- 7.3. List three (03) complications of the diagnosis stated in 7.1. (15%)

Contd..../4-

8. Write notes on:

- 8.1. Exclusion of cervical spine injuries in major trauma. (40%)
- 8.2. Prevention of secondary brain injury after trauma. (60%)

9. A 75-year-old man is brought to the ED with an acute onset of shortness of breath for 2 hours. He has hypertension, diabetes and recently underwent knee replacement surgery. The family reports he has been mostly drowsy and bedbound after surgery. He is distressed and speaks in short sentences.

His heart rate is 130 beats/minute, respiratory rate 32/minute, blood pressure 90/50 mmHg, and SpO₂ is 88% on room air.

- 9.1. State the likely causes of his breathlessness, giving reasons. (20%)
- 9.2. Briefly describe the clinical differentiation of the causes given above. (30%)
- 9.3. State the role of point-of-care ultrasonography in the rapid diagnosis of this scenario. (20%)
- 9.4. Outline your management in the ED. (30%)

10. A 60-year-old man presents to the ED with a 24-hour history of left-sided facial weakness. You note loss of left forehead wrinkling, incomplete eye closure, and a drooping mouth. He also has loss of taste and left ear pain. This was preceded by 4 days of sore throat, muscle aches, and fatigue. He has type 2 diabetes mellitus.

- 10.1. State the most likely diagnosis, giving reasons. (35%)
- 10.2. Outline his management in the ED. Include the rationale for your interventions. (35%)
- 10.3. Outline the specific advice and instructions on follow-up you will provide him on discharge from the ED. (30%)