

Certified Ophthalmic Assistant Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. The Amsler grid is used for the assessment of**
 - A. Color vision**
 - B. Depth perception**
 - C. Visual acuity**
 - D. Macular function**
- 2. The site where half the nerve fibers from each eye cross over to the opposite side is called the optic**
 - A. iris**
 - B. canthi**
 - C. stoma**
 - D. chiasm**
- 3. The use of topical steroids may induce which of the following?**
 - A. Retinal detachment**
 - B. Cataracts**
 - C. Keratoconus**
 - D. Hyphema**
- 4. Viruses can be seen with a(n)**
 - A. Compound microscope**
 - B. Electron microscope**
 - C. Light microscope**
 - D. Scanning microscope**
- 5. What is the spherical equivalent of +2.00 +5.00 X 180?**
 - A. +3.50**
 - B. +4.50**
 - C. +5.50**
 - D. +6.50**
- 6. Rose Bengal is a**
 - A. Blue dye**
 - B. Green dye**
 - C. Red dye**
 - D. Yellow dye**

- 7. Which type of drug is used to treat acute allergic reactions?**
- A. Anesthetics**
 - B. Antibiotics**
 - C. Antihistamines**
 - D. Corticosteroids**
- 8. In glare testing, how many controlled degrees of light does the BAT test deliver when the eye views a Snellen target?**
- A. 1**
 - B. 2**
 - C. 3**
 - D. 4**
- 9. What is the term for an area of complete or partial blindness in an otherwise normal visual field?**
- A. Paracentral**
 - B. Retrobulbar**
 - C. Scotoma**
 - D. Staphyloma**
- 10. Which tool is a series of red cylinders used to assess phoria?**
- A. Gunn's net**
 - B. Maddox rod**
 - C. Duochrome test**
 - D. Stereo Fly test**

Answers

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1. D
2. D
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. C
7. C
8. C
9. C
10. B

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Explanations

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1. The Amsler grid is used for the assessment of

- A. Color vision**
- B. Depth perception**
- C. Visual acuity**
- D. Macular function**

The Amsler grid is specifically used for the assessment of macular function. The grid contains a central point and a grid pattern that allows patients to detect any distortion, blurred areas, or missing areas in their central visual field. This tool is commonly used in the evaluation of macular conditions such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and macular edema. Option A (Color vision) is incorrect because the Amsler grid is not used to assess color vision. Color vision is typically evaluated using tests like the Ishihara color plates. Option B (Depth perception) is incorrect because the Amsler grid is not designed to test depth perception. Depth perception is the ability to see the world in three dimensions and is usually assessed through tests like the Worth 4-dot test. Option C (Visual acuity) is incorrect because while visual acuity can be measured using tools like the Snellen chart or the Jaeger card, the Amsler grid is specifically used to assess macular function and not overall visual acuity.

2. The site where half the nerve fibers from each eye cross over to the opposite side is called the optic

- A. iris**
- B. canthi**
- C. stoma**
- D. chiasm**

The optic chiasm is the anatomical structure where half of the nerve fibers from each eye cross to the opposite side of the brain. This crossing allows visual information from each eye to be processed by both hemispheres of the brain, which is essential for depth perception and a unified visual field. The optic chiasm is located at the base of the brain, just in front of the pituitary gland. In contrast, the other terms provided do not refer to this specific structure. The iris is the colored part of the eye that helps control the amount of light entering the eye. The canthi refer to the corners of the eye where the upper and lower eyelids meet, and the stoma is not related to eye anatomy but rather refers to openings or a mouth-like structure in biology. Thus, recognizing the specific function and location of the optic chiasm is crucial for understanding visual processing.

3. The use of topical steroids may induce which of the following?

- A. Retinal detachment**
- B. Cataracts**
- C. Keratoconus**
- D. Hyphema**

Topical steroids can induce the development of cataracts. Prolonged usage of topical steroids can increase intraocular pressure, leading to the formation of cataracts in the lens. Cataracts are characterized by clouding of the eye's lens, resulting in blurred vision. It is essential for ophthalmic assistants to be aware of the potential side effects of medications like topical steroids to assist in monitoring and managing patients' ocular health effectively. Retinal detachment is typically not induced by topical steroids. Keratoconus is a progressive eye disease affecting the cornea, and the use of topical steroids is not known to induce this condition. Hyphema refers to bleeding inside the front chamber of the eye, which is not a known side effect of topical steroids.

4. Viruses can be seen with a(n)

- A. Compound microscope**
- B. Electron microscope**
- C. Light microscope**
- D. Scanning microscope**

Viruses are indeed significantly smaller than the typical wavelengths of visible light, which makes them undetectable by light microscopes, including compound microscopes. An electron microscope is necessary because it uses a beam of electrons instead of light to examine specimens at much higher resolutions, allowing for the visualization of structures, such as viruses, that measure only nanometers in size. An electron microscope can achieve the necessary magnification and resolution to reveal fine details of viral morphology, such as their shape and surface structures. This is crucial in virology studies for understanding how viruses interact with host cells and for developing vaccines and treatments. Therefore, the electron microscope is the correct choice for observing viruses.

5. What is the spherical equivalent of +2.00 +5.00 X 180?

- A. +3.50**
- B. +4.50**
- C. +5.50**
- D. +6.50**

The spherical equivalent is calculated by combining the spherical power with half of the cylindrical power. In this case, the spherical power is +2.00, and the cylindrical power is +5.00 at axis 180 degrees. So, the calculation would be: $+2.00 + (+5.00/2) = +2.00 + (+2.50) = +4.50$. Therefore, the spherical equivalent for +2.00 +5.00 X 180 is +4.50, which corresponds to option B.

6. Rose Bengal is a

- A. Blue dye**
- B. Green dye**
- C. Red dye**
- D. Yellow dye**

Rose Bengal is a red dye used in ophthalmic practice to stain dead or degenerated epithelial cells in the eye. It is commonly used in diagnostic procedures such as evaluating corneal abrasions or herpetic eye infections. The staining pattern helps ophthalmic professionals assess the extent of damage or disease in the eye. Therefore, the correct answer is option C - Red dye. Options A, B, and D are incorrect as Rose Bengal is specifically known for its red color dyeing properties when used in ophthalmic applications.

7. Which type of drug is used to treat acute allergic reactions?

- A. Anesthetics**
- B. Antibiotics**
- C. Antihistamines**
- D. Corticosteroids**

Antihistamines are the type of drug used to treat acute allergic reactions. Antihistamines work by blocking the action of histamine, a substance in the body that causes allergic symptoms such as itching, sneezing, and hives. By blocking the effects of histamine, antihistamines help relieve these symptoms and are commonly used to manage allergic reactions. Anesthetics, antibiotics, and corticosteroids are not typically used to treat acute allergic reactions. Anesthetics are used for numbing pain, antibiotics are used to treat bacterial infections, and corticosteroids are used for reducing inflammation in conditions such as asthma or arthritis, but they are not the first-line treatment for acute allergic reactions.

8. In glare testing, how many controlled degrees of light does the BAT test deliver when the eye views a Snellen target?

- A. 1**
- B. 2**
- C. 3**
- D. 4**

In glare testing with the BAT (Brightness Acuity Tester), the test provides three controlled degrees of light when the eye views a Snellen target. This controlled light helps in simulating glare conditions to assess how the patient's vision functions in bright light or glare situations. This controlled glare testing is important in evaluating conditions such as cataracts or other issues that can affect vision in bright light environments. Options A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not accurately represent the number of controlled degrees of light that the BAT test delivers during glare testing with a Snellen target.

9. What is the term for an area of complete or partial blindness in an otherwise normal visual field?

- A. Paracentral**
- B. Retrobulbar**
- C. Scotoma**
- D. Staphyloma**

A scotoma is the correct term for an area of complete or partial blindness in an otherwise normal visual field. A paracentral describes a location near the center but not exactly at the center of the vision; retrobulbar refers to behind the globe of the eye; and staphyloma is an abnormal protrusion in the wall of the eye.

10. Which tool is a series of red cylinders used to assess phoria?

- A. Gunn's net**
- B. Maddox rod**
- C. Duochrome test**
- D. Stereo Fly test**

The Maddox rod is usually a glass rod with a series of red cylinders running parallel to each other. When one eye sees a red horizontal line and the other eye sees a vertical white light, the brain can produce inaccurate depth perception. The other options, Gunn's net, duochrome test, and Stereo Fly test are all used to assess other aspects of vision and are not specifically designed to evaluate phoria. Gunn's net is used for visual acuity, duochrome test is used for determining refractive errors, and Stereo Fly test is used for evaluating stereopsis (depth perception). Therefore, these options are incorrect in the context of evaluating phoria.