

# HOSA Dental Terminology Practice (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

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- 1. What type of tissue forms the framework of the body and is characterized by its hardness due to mineral deposits?**
  - A. Muscle Tissue**
  - B. Nervous Tissue**
  - C. Bone**
  - D. Cartilage**
  
- 2. What does estirpation refer to in dental treatment?**
  - A. Applying a filling material**
  - B. Removing the pulpal tissue**
  - C. Cleaning the outer enamel**
  - D. Injecting anesthesia**
  
- 3. What is hemisection?**
  - A. Partial removal of a tooth**
  - B. Complete sectioning through the crown of a tooth**
  - C. A type of dental cleaning**
  - D. Repair of tooth nerves**
  
- 4. What does the dentinoenamel junction mark?**
  - A. The boundary between the crown and root of the tooth**
  - B. The area where gums attach to the teeth**
  - C. The junction of the dentin and the enamel**
  - D. The location of tooth decay beginning**
  
- 5. What does pulpal necrosis refer to?**
  - A. Inflammation of the gum tissue**
  - B. Pulpal death**
  - C. Dissolution of the enamel**
  - D. Fracture of the root**
  
- 6. What description applies to a lesion with a soft consistency?**
  - A. Composed of hard tissue**
  - B. Composed of soft tissue**
  - C. Resembles rubber**
  - D. Contains fluid**

**7. Which term is commonly used to denote the area toward the front of the mouth?**

- A. Posterior**
- B. Lateral**
- C. Anterior**
- D. Distal**

**8. What is the primary use of a metal matrix band in dentistry?**

- A. To form a temporary wall in Class II amalgam**
- B. To remove pulp tissue**
- C. To smooth and shape canals**
- D. To pack gutta percha in canals**

**9. What is the definition of a cleft lip?**

- A. Gap in the lower lip**
- B. Gap in the upper lip that occurs during development**
- C. Separation of palate structures**
- D. Full closure of the lip**

**10. What is meant by a deductible in dental insurance?**

- A. The amount the dentist charges for services**
- B. The total amount of insurance coverage**
- C. The dental expense the beneficiary must pay before insurance kicks in**
- D. The premium paid for dental insurance each year**

## **Answers**

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- 1. C**
- 2. B**
- 3. B**
- 4. C**
- 5. B**
- 6. B**
- 7. C**
- 8. A**
- 9. B**
- 10. C**

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What type of tissue forms the framework of the body and is characterized by its hardness due to mineral deposits?**

- A. Muscle Tissue**
- B. Nervous Tissue**
- C. Bone**
- D. Cartilage**

Bone is the correct choice because it is a type of connective tissue known for its rigidity and strength, primarily due to the presence of mineral deposits, such as calcium phosphate. These minerals give bone its characteristic hardness, making it suitable for providing structural support to the body, protecting vital organs, and facilitating movement by serving as anchors for muscles. Muscle tissue, on the other hand, is primarily responsible for movement and is characterized by its ability to contract, but it does not provide structural framework or hardness. Nervous tissue is involved with the transmission of signals throughout the body, playing a critical role in coordinating bodily functions, but it lacks the rigidity associated with bones. Cartilage, while also a form of connective tissue, is more flexible and serves as a cushion between bones rather than forming the hard framework of the body like bone does. Therefore, bone is the unique type of tissue that embodies the definition provided in the question.

**2. What does estirpation refer to in dental treatment?**

- A. Applying a filling material**
- B. Removing the pulpal tissue**
- C. Cleaning the outer enamel**
- D. Injecting anesthesia**

Estirpation in dental treatment specifically refers to the removal of pulpal tissue. This process is crucial in endodontics, particularly in the treatment of infected or damaged dental pulp within a tooth. When a tooth's pulp becomes infected, it can lead to pain and further complications, making estirpation a necessary procedure to alleviate discomfort and preserve the tooth. The procedure involves carefully excising the pulpal tissue to prevent infection from spreading and to prepare the tooth for further treatment, such as root canal therapy or filling. Thus, understanding the term "estirpation" is vital for recognizing its role in dental care and treatment protocols.

### 3. What is hemisection?

- A. Partial removal of a tooth**
- B. Complete sectioning through the crown of a tooth**
- C. A type of dental cleaning**
- D. Repair of tooth nerves**

Hemisection refers to a specific dental procedure where a tooth is divided into two sections, typically along the root, which allows for the removal of one portion of the tooth while salvaging the other. This procedure is most commonly performed on multi-rooted teeth, such as molars, where one root may be compromised due to decay or periodontal disease while the other remains healthy. In this context, the choice that states "complete sectioning through the crown of a tooth" accurately conveys the essence of hemisection. It emphasizes both the action of sectioning and the involvement of the crown, which is integral to the overall process of preserving a portion of the tooth. The goal is to retain as much healthy structure as possible following the sectioning. Other choices do not capture the procedural specificity. Partial removal may imply various types of procedures not limited to hemisection. A dental cleaning refers to prophylactic care, distinctly different from surgical manipulation of tooth structure. The repair of tooth nerves is related to endodontics but does not accurately describe what hemisection entails. Thus, the precision of the choice related to complete sectioning is what makes it correct.

### 4. What does the dentinoenamel junction mark?

- A. The boundary between the crown and root of the tooth**
- B. The area where gums attach to the teeth**
- C. The junction of the dentin and the enamel**
- D. The location of tooth decay beginning**

The correct answer is that the dentinoenamel junction marks the junction of the dentin and the enamel. This specific area serves as a critical transition point in tooth structure. Dentin is the layer of tooth structure located beneath the enamel, and it plays a vital role in supporting and protecting the enamel. The enamel is the outermost layer, known for its hardness and ability to resist wear and tear. At the dentinoenamel junction, these two components are tightly bonded, which is essential for the overall integrity and function of the tooth. Understanding this junction is important for dental professionals, as it can be a focal point when assessing dental health and conditions, such as caries that may penetrate from the enamel into the dentin. Recognizing the significance of this area can aid in diagnosis and treatment planning, as issues that arise at this junction can lead to further complications if not addressed effectively.

## 5. What does pulpal necrosis refer to?

- A. Inflammation of the gum tissue
- B. Pulpal death**
- C. Dissolution of the enamel
- D. Fracture of the root

Pulpal necrosis refers specifically to the death of the dental pulp, which is the innermost part of the tooth containing nerves and blood vessels. This condition often occurs due to untreated dental caries, trauma, or other factors that cause a loss of blood supply to the pulp. When pulpal necrosis happens, the pulp no longer functions and can lead to symptoms such as pain, swelling, and infection. In severe cases, it may also necessitate procedures like root canal therapy to remove the necrotic tissue and save the affected tooth. Understanding pulpal necrosis is crucial for dental professionals, as it aids in diagnosing and treating conditions that affect the health of the tooth and surrounding structures.

## 6. What description applies to a lesion with a soft consistency?

- A. Composed of hard tissue
- B. Composed of soft tissue**
- C. Resembles rubber
- D. Contains fluid

A lesion with a soft consistency is best described as composed of soft tissue. Soft lesions can vary in characteristics and may include mucosal lesions or other tissue alterations that do not have the density or rigidity of hard tissues like bone or enamel. This classification is important in dental and medical contexts for diagnosis and treatment, as it can indicate the nature of the lesion, such as whether it is benign, inflammatory, or otherwise. In contrast, lesions described as having hard tissue composition are more rigid and not characterized by softness. Lesions that resemble rubber may have elastic properties but do not specifically denote soft consistency relative to tissue classification. Lastly, lesions that contain fluid may be categorized as cystic or abscessed, but this does not inherently mean they will have a soft consistency, as the surrounding tissue structure also plays a significant role in their classification. Therefore, stating that a lesion is composed of soft tissue accurately reflects its soft consistency.

**7. Which term is commonly used to denote the area toward the front of the mouth?**

- A. Posterior**
- B. Lateral**
- C. Anterior**
- D. Distal**

The term "anterior" is commonly used in dentistry to refer to the area toward the front of the mouth. This designation typically includes the incisors and canines, which are the teeth located at the forefront of the dental arch. In contrast, the other terms refer to different areas within the dental anatomy: "posterior" indicates the back portion of the mouth, where the molars and premolars are located; "lateral" refers to areas pertaining to the sides of the mouth; and "distal" is a term that indicates a position farther away from the midline of the dental arch, generally used in relation to the positioning of teeth. Understanding these terms helps in accurately communicating about dental anatomy and procedures.

**8. What is the primary use of a metal matrix band in dentistry?**

- A. To form a temporary wall in Class II amalgam**
- B. To remove pulp tissue**
- C. To smooth and shape canals**
- D. To pack gutta percha in canals**

The primary use of a metal matrix band in dentistry is to form a temporary wall in Class II amalgam restorations. When performing a Class II preparation, which involves cavities that extend into the interproximal area between two teeth, the metal matrix band serves an essential function by providing a supportive structure that helps retain the restorative material. This band wraps around the tooth, creating a barrier that allows for the proper containment of the dental material, ensuring it maintains its shape and position while hardening. This is crucial for achieving the desired anatomical contour and restoring the proper function of the tooth, making the matrix band an indispensable tool for dental professionals during this type of restorative procedure.

## 9. What is the definition of a cleft lip?

- A. Gap in the lower lip
- B. Gap in the upper lip that occurs during development**
- C. Separation of palate structures
- D. Full closure of the lip

A cleft lip refers to a congenital condition characterized by an opening or gap in the upper lip that results from incomplete fusion during fetal development. This condition can range from a small notch in the lip to a significant opening that extends up into the nose. The development of a cleft lip occurs when the tissues that form the lip do not fully come together, which typically happens in the early stages of pregnancy. The other options address different conditions or structures. A gap in the lower lip is not recognized as cleft lip but could refer to an entirely different type of lip defect. The separation of palate structures pertains specifically to cleft palate, which is a distinct condition that affects the roof of the mouth, whereas full closure of the lip would indicate a normal anatomical structure without any pathological opening. Thus, the defining characteristic of cleft lip is specifically the gap or opening in the upper lip due to developmental anomalies.

## 10. What is meant by a deductible in dental insurance?

- A. The amount the dentist charges for services
- B. The total amount of insurance coverage
- C. The dental expense the beneficiary must pay before insurance kicks in**
- D. The premium paid for dental insurance each year

A deductible in dental insurance refers to the specific amount of money that an insured individual must pay out-of-pocket for dental services before their insurance provider begins to cover the remaining costs. This means that if a dental procedure costs a certain amount, the beneficiary is responsible for paying the deductible first; only after that will the insurance plan contribute to expenses related to further treatment. Understanding this concept is crucial for beneficiaries as it influences their overall healthcare costs and financial planning when it comes to dental care. The other options do not accurately define what a deductible is; for example, the charges from the dentist are simply the fees for services, not related to the insurance coverage structure. Additionally, the total amount of insurance coverage refers to the maximum benefits the plan will pay rather than the beneficiary's financial responsibility. Lastly, the premium is the regular payment made to maintain the insurance policy but does not address the out-of-pocket expenses incurred before insurance contributes to costs.