

IHS Hearing Aid Dealer and Fitter Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. Deep microphone placement is known to enhance which frequency range?**
 - A. 2000-3000 Hz**
 - B. 2500-3500 Hz**
 - C. 2700-4000 Hz**
 - D. 2800-4500 Hz**
- 2. What is the term used to describe the point where normal ears can hear at every frequency?**
 - A. Audiometric Zero**
 - B. Audiometry**
 - C. Threshold**
 - D. Interaural Attenuation**
- 3. How can environmental factors influence the performance of hearing aids?**
 - A. They can affect the battery life**
 - B. They can impact comfort and fit**
 - C. Noise levels and acoustics can affect how well a hearing aid functions**
 - D. They are irrelevant to hearing aid function**
- 4. How often should hearing aids typically be serviced or checked?**
 - A. Every month**
 - B. Every 3 to 4 months**
 - C. Every 6 to 12 months**
 - D. Every 1 to 2 years**
- 5. What describes the loss of sound energy as it travels from one ear to the opposite ear?**
 - A. Interaural Attenuation**
 - B. Occlusion Effect**
 - C. Audiometric Zero**
 - D. Narrow Band Noise**

- 6. What is the term for the phenomenon that prevents crossover interference when testing hearing in one ear?**
- A. Effective Masking**
 - B. Undermasking**
 - C. Overmasking**
 - D. Conductive Component**
- 7. What does the term "occlusion effect" refer to in hearing aids?**
- A. A sensation of increased hearing**
 - B. Feedback noise from the device**
 - C. A feeling of pressure or blockage in the ear**
 - D. Maximal amplification of sound**
- 8. What color is internationally recognized for indicating right-sided hearing aids?**
- A. Green**
 - B. Red**
 - C. Yellow**
 - D. Blue**
- 9. Which of the following factors is NOT considered when selecting a hearing aid for a patient?**
- A. Degree of hearing loss**
 - B. Lifestyle**
 - C. Color preference**
 - D. Personal preferences**
- 10. What is the average resonant frequency of the ear canal plus Concha?**
- A. 3000 Hz**
 - B. 2500 Hz**
 - C. 2700 Hz**
 - D. 2900 Hz**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

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1. Deep microphone placement is known to enhance which frequency range?

- A. 2000-3000 Hz**
- B. 2500-3500 Hz**
- C. 2700-4000 Hz**
- D. 2800-4500 Hz**

Deep microphone placement significantly enhances the sensitivity and capture of high-frequency sounds due to the proximity of the microphone to the eardrum or the ear canal's resonance characteristics. This method is particularly effective for improving clarity and intelligibility of speech, which resides in the higher frequency range. The correct range indicated suggests that it optimally targets frequencies that are critical for understanding speech sounds, especially consonants which are often in the higher spectrum. Frequencies between 2700 Hz and 4000 Hz are integral for capturing the nuances of conversational speech, lending to the effectiveness of hearing aids in amplifying sounds that contribute to clearer communication. This specific enhancement is often utilized in the design of hearing aids to ensure that users receive adequate amplification where it matters most for everyday listening experiences, thus improving overall satisfaction and performance of the devices.

2. What is the term used to describe the point where normal ears can hear at every frequency?

- A. Audiometric Zero**
- B. Audiometry**
- C. Threshold**
- D. Interaural Attenuation**

The term "Audiometric Zero" is used to describe the reference point indicating the lowest level of sound that can be heard by a normal hearing listener at various frequencies. This concept establishes a baseline for interpreting hearing test results. Essentially, audiometric zero represents the threshold of hearing for normal hearing individuals, which allows clinicians and audiologists to determine the hearing sensitivity of individuals in comparison to this standard. In the context of hearing assessments, when a person's hearing ability is measured during an audiometry test, the results are often expressed in decibels relative to this audiometric zero. Therefore, knowing this term is critical for understanding audiometric data and diagnosing hearing impairments effectively. Other terms like audiometry, threshold, and interaural attenuation refer to different aspects of hearing evaluation and do not specifically describe the point where normal ears can hear across all frequencies.

3. How can environmental factors influence the performance of hearing aids?

- A. They can affect the battery life**
- B. They can impact comfort and fit**
- C. Noise levels and acoustics can affect how well a hearing aid functions**
- D. They are irrelevant to hearing aid function**

Environmental factors play a significant role in the overall performance of hearing aids, particularly through noise levels and acoustics. Hearing aids are designed to amplify sound, but their effectiveness can vary greatly depending on the surrounding environment. For instance, in a noisy setting, background sounds can interfere with the primary sound that the user wants to hear, making it more difficult to distinguish speech from ambient noise. Additionally, different acoustic environments can affect how sound waves travel and are processed by the hearing aid's microphone. In a reverberant space, where sound reflects off surfaces, the hearing aid may struggle to provide clear amplification of speech. Thus, the user's experience can significantly change based on whether they are in a quiet room, a busy restaurant, or outdoors. Understanding this aspect is crucial for users and fitters alike, as it underscores the importance of customizing settings and features to better suit different environments to optimize hearing aid performance.

4. How often should hearing aids typically be serviced or checked?

- A. Every month**
- B. Every 3 to 4 months**
- C. Every 6 to 12 months**
- D. Every 1 to 2 years**

Regular servicing or checking of hearing aids is typically recommended every 6 to 12 months. This timeframe allows for proper maintenance and adjustments to ensure that the hearing aids continue to function optimally. Over time, hearing aids can accumulate earwax, moisture, and other debris, which can interfere with their performance. Additionally, regular check-ups enable audiologists to monitor the patient's hearing and make necessary adjustments based on any changes in their hearing levels or preferences. Routine servicing also provides an opportunity to check the device's battery life and replace components that may have worn out, ensuring the longevity and reliability of the hearing aids. By adhering to this schedule, users can maintain the effectiveness of the devices, securing the best possible hearing experience.

5. What describes the loss of sound energy as it travels from one ear to the opposite ear?

A. Interaural Attenuation

B. Occlusion Effect

C. Audiometric Zero

D. Narrow Band Noise

Interaural Attenuation refers to the reduction of sound energy that occurs as sound waves travel from one ear, through the head, to the opposite ear. This phenomenon is crucial in hearing assessments and diagnosis because it affects the perception of sound by each ear. The degree of interaural attenuation can vary based on the frequencies of the sound and the physical characteristics of the individual's head and ear structure. This concept is essential for understanding why certain sound stimuli might be perceived differently in each ear and is a critical factor in determining which ear is responding to a sound during hearing tests. In clinical settings, interaural attenuation is used to establish effective thresholds for sound testing by ensuring the sound is not heard by the opposite ear, which can otherwise lead to inaccurate results. Thus, interaural attenuation is a key concept in audiology, reflecting the physical properties of how sound is transmitted and perceived in the auditory system.

6. What is the term for the phenomenon that prevents crossover interference when testing hearing in one ear?

A. Effective Masking

B. Undermasking

C. Overmasking

D. Conductive Component

The term that describes the phenomenon which prevents crossover interference when testing hearing in one ear is effectively masking. Effective masking occurs when noise is introduced to the non-test ear, ensuring that the sound being presented to the test ear is not heard by the non-test ear. This allows for a more accurate assessment of the hearing ability in the ear being tested, as the masking sound helps to isolate the hearing response and eliminates the chance of sounds crossing over and being heard by the other ear. In this context, effective masking is essential for obtaining reliable auditory thresholds, especially in individuals with varying degrees of hearing loss. When the noise is appropriately adjusted, it keeps the non-test ear occupied while allowing the audiologist or hearing professional to evaluate the test ear's hearing without interference.

7. What does the term "occlusion effect" refer to in hearing aids?

- A. A sensation of increased hearing**
- B. Feedback noise from the device**
- C. A feeling of pressure or blockage in the ear**
- D. Maximal amplification of sound**

The term "occlusion effect" in the context of hearing aids refers to a sensation often experienced by wearers, characterized by a feeling of pressure or blockage in the ear. This phenomenon occurs when sounds that would normally escape from the ear canal, such as the wearer's own voice or certain environmental noises, are instead blocked by the hearing aid. The occlusion effect can create an unnatural auditory experience, leading to discomfort or the perception of one's voice sounding different than it typically does. Understanding this effect is crucial for hearing aid fitting and orientation, as it highlights the importance of selecting the appropriate ear mold or device configuration to minimize discomfort and optimize the user's experience. It emphasizes the need for audiologists and dispensers to evaluate and adjust hearing aids properly to minimize the occlusion effect and ensure that users find their devices comfortable and effective.

8. What color is internationally recognized for indicating right-sided hearing aids?

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

The color that is internationally recognized for indicating right-sided hearing aids is red. This standard color-coding is used to help both users and professionals easily distinguish between the hearing aids fitted for the right and left ears. The red color signifies the right ear, while blue indicates the left ear. This system of color-coding is crucial in ensuring proper usage and fitting, helping prevent confusion when the devices are placed in the ears. By adhering to this recognized standard, hearing aid users can confidently identify and use their devices correctly, supporting better auditory experiences and overall satisfaction.

9. Which of the following factors is NOT considered when selecting a hearing aid for a patient?

- A. Degree of hearing loss**
- B. Lifestyle**
- C. Color preference**
- D. Personal preferences**

When selecting a hearing aid for a patient, the degree of hearing loss, lifestyle, and personal preferences are all critical factors to consider because they directly impact the functionality and effectiveness of the device. The degree of hearing loss determines the amplification needed, ensuring that the hearing aid can provide the appropriate level of sound. Lifestyle is essential because it influences what features—such as noise reduction, connectivity, or size—might be most beneficial for the individual's daily activities and environments. Personal preferences are also important, as they can affect compliance with wearing the device; patients are more likely to use a hearing aid that aligns with their needs and comfort levels. In contrast, while color preference may enhance the aesthetic appeal of the hearing aid for the wearer and can be a fun aspect of personal expression, it does not influence the performance or functionality of the device. Thus, color preference is not a primary factor in the selection process, making it the correct response.

10. What is the average resonant frequency of the ear canal plus Concha?

- A. 3000 Hz**
- B. 2500 Hz**
- C. 2700 Hz**
- D. 2900 Hz**

The average resonant frequency of the ear canal plus concha is typically recognized to be around 2700 Hz. This resonant frequency is important in audiology and hearing aid fitting because it indicates where the acoustic properties of the ear canal and the concha enhance sound. At this frequency, the ear canal acts as a quarter-wave resonator, amplifying certain sounds and making them more perceptible to the listener. Understanding the resonant frequency of the ear canal is crucial for designing hearing aids. Hearing aids need to take into account how sound travels through the ear canal and how the physical structure of the ear impacts the perceived sound. When a hearing aid is designed effectively, it can compensate for changes in frequency response due to this resonant frequency, resulting in improved sound clarity and quality for the user. In the context of the other choices, while they represent frequencies that could be considered in discussion, they do not accurately reflect the established average resonant frequency for the ear canal plus concha, which is typically recognized as being closest to 2700 Hz.