

Tips for Good Question Writing

- The question

- ✓ should be direct, unambiguous and should address a single issue
- ✓ Negatively worded questions should be avoided
- ✓ Some examples
 - What is the most likely cause/diagnosis/explanation?
 - What is the most appropriate investigation/treatment/next step in management?
 - What observation is most predictive of a poor prognosis/adverse outcome?
 - What is the most reliable way of assessing the severity of the.....?

- The answers

- ✓ Avoid 'multiple true/false' options
- ✓ be of similar length; longer answers tend to be the correct ones
- ✓ relate to the same modality e.g. avoid mixing investigations and treatments
- ✓ avoid multiple management steps e.g. 'treat with amoxicillin, flucloxacillin and refer for valve replacement'
- ✓ avoid precise numerical answers/ranges unless these have a very strong and consistent evidence base to support the correct answer

Template

MCQ
Clinical case presentation (<100words)
Question <i>Please write below the text of the stem.</i>
Answer options * <i>Please list below five answer options for the candidate to choose from.</i> a) b) c) d) e)
Correct answer <i>Please indicate below the correct answer from the above list.</i>
Explanation text to accompany the correct answer – Optional <i>If needed, please provide below any comment to be displayed together with the correct answer.</i>