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Practice Questions

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1. Which of the following cardiac valves is located between the left atrium and left ventricle?

- A. Tricuspid valve
- B. Aortic valve
- C. Pulmonary valve
- D. Mitral valve

2. Which structure forms the anatomical boundary between the right and left ventricles of the heart?

- A. Pericardium
- B. Moderator band
- C. Interventricular septum
- D. Interatrial septum

3. Which of the following vessels carries oxygenated blood from the heart to the systemic circulation?

- A. Pulmonary vein
- B. Aorta
- C. Pulmonary artery
- D. Superior vena cava

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4. Which layer of the heart wall contains cardiac muscle cells?

- A. Myocardium
- B. Epicardium
- C. Endocardium
- D. Pericardium



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5. Which of the following is NOT a chamber of the heart?

- A. Right atrium
- B. Left ventricle
- C. Left atrium
- D. Ventriculum

6. Which of the following vessels returns deoxygenated blood from the lower body to the heart?

- A. Pulmonary vein
- B. Descending aorta
- C. Inferior vena cava
- D. Superior vena cava

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7. Which of the following structures is the primary site of lymphocyte production?

- A. Tonsils
- B. Bone marrow
- C. Spleen
- D. Lymph nodes

8. Which part of the lymphatic system is responsible for T-lymphocyte maturation?

- A. Thymus
- B. Spleen
- C. Lymph node
- D. Bone marrow

9. Which of the following best describes the histological structure of an artery wall?

- A. Endothelium, basement membrane, connective tissue
- B. Endocardium, myocardium, epicardium
- C. Mucosa, submucosa, serosa
- D. Tunica intima, tunica media, tunica adventitia

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10. Which of the following structures contribute to the cardiac skeleton?

- A. Trabeculae carneae
- B. Myocardial cells
- C. Fibrous rings around heart valves
- D. Papillary muscles

11. What is the embryonic structure that gives rise to the heart?

- A. Pharyngeal arches
- B. Cardiac tube
- C. Neural tube
- D. Somites

12. Which of the following statements best describes the pericardium?

- A. A double-walled sac with visceral and parietal layers
- B. The innermost layer of the heart wall
- C. A single-layered membrane surrounding the heart muscle
- D. A muscular layer responsible for cardiac contraction

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13. Which coronary artery typically supplies the sinoatrial (SA) node?

- A. Left anterior descending artery
- B. Circumflex artery
- C. Posterior interventricular artery
- D. Right coronary artery

14. What is the primary function of the lymphatic vessels?

- A. To carry deoxygenated blood from tissues to the heart
- B. To produce and store white blood cells
- C. To collect excess interstitial fluid and return it to the blood
- D. To transport oxygenated blood from the lungs to tissues

15. Which of the following is NOT a normal component of the conducting system of the heart?

- A. Purkinje fibers
- B. Stellate ganglion
- C. Sinoatrial node
- D. Atrioventricular node



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16. Which of the following best describes the histological structure of the spleen?

- A. White pulp, red pulp, and a fibrous capsule
- B. Cortex, medulla, and hilum
- C. Germinal centers and medullary sinuses
- D. Lymphoid follicles and medullary cords

17. Which of the following vessels drain lymph from the lower limbs and abdomen?

- A. Right lymphatic duct
- B. Jugular lymphatic trunk
- C. Subclavian lymphatic trunk
- D. Cisterna chyli

18. Which of the following is the correct sequence of blood flow through the heart?

- A. Right atrium → right ventricle → aorta → systemic circulation → left atrium → left ventricle → pulmonary arteries
- B. Left ventricle → left atrium → pulmonary veins → pulmonary arteries → right ventricle → right atrium → vena cava
- C. Right atrium → right ventricle → pulmonary arteries → pulmonary veins → left atrium → left ventricle → aorta
- D. Left atrium → left ventricle → pulmonary arteries → pulmonary veins → right atrium → right ventricle → aorta

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19. Which of the following is the most accurate description of a lymph node?

- A. A glandular organ where T lymphocytes mature
- B. A bean-shaped structure that filters lymph and contains lymphocytes
- C. A tubular vessel that transports lymph from tissues to blood
- D. An encapsulated mass of red and white pulp that filters blood



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20. During embryonic development, which of the following structures gives rise to the majority of the heart's myocardium?

- A. Splanchnic mesoderm
- B. Neural crest cells
- C. Endoderm
- D. Ectoderm

21. What is the function of the chordae tendineae in the heart?

- A. To conduct electrical impulses between the atria and ventricles
- B. To regulate blood flow through the semilunar valves
- C. To separate the right and left sides of the heart
- D. To prevent valve prolapse during ventricular contraction

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22. Which of the following structures is responsible for the drainage of lymph from most of the body into the venous system?

- A. Azygos vein
- B. Cisterna chyli
- C. Thoracic duct
- D. Right lymphatic duct

23. Which of the following best describes the location of the thymus?

- A. In the neck, anterior to the thyroid gland
- B. In the anterior mediastinum, behind the sternum
- C. In the posterior mediastinum, anterior to the vertebral column
- D. In the left upper quadrant of the abdomen

24. What type of capillaries are found in the spleen?

- A. Discontinuous capillaries (sinusoids)
- B. Continuous capillaries
- C. Fenestrated capillaries
- D. Lymphatic capillaries

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25. Which anatomical plane divides the body into anterior and posterior portions?

- A. Sagittal plane
- B. Transverse plane
- C. Oblique plane
- D. Coronal plane

26. Which directional term correctly describes the relationship of the umbilicus to the xiphoid process?

- A. Lateral
- B. Proximal
- C. Inferior
- D. Superior

27. Which surface landmark is located at the intersection of the midclavicular line and the costal margin?

- A. Umbilicus
- B. Tip of the 9th costal cartilage
- C. McBurney's point
- D. Sternal angle

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28. In the anatomical position, which of the following statements is correct?

- A. The palms face anteriorly
- B. The palms face posteriorly
- C. The head is flexed forward
- D. The feet are turned laterally

29. Which of the following structures is a reliable surface landmark for locating the cricothyroid membrane?

- A. Hyoid bone
- B. Mastoid process
- C. Suprasternal notch
- D. Thyroid cartilage



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30. The carotid pulse is best palpated at what location in the neck?

- A. In the midline over the thyroid isthmus
- B. Superior to the clavicle in the posterior triangle
- C. Between the trachea and sternocleidomastoid muscle
- D. Posterior to the sternocleidomastoid muscle



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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. D — Mitral valve

The mitral (bicuspid) valve is located between the left atrium and left ventricle, controlling blood flow between these two chambers during the cardiac cycle.

2. C — Interventricular septum

The interventricular septum is the muscular wall that separates the right and left ventricles of the heart, preventing mixing of oxygenated and deoxygenated blood.

3. B — Aorta

The aorta is the main artery that carries oxygenated blood from the left ventricle of the heart to the systemic circulation for distribution throughout the body.

4. A — Myocardium

The myocardium is the middle and thickest layer of the heart wall, consisting primarily of cardiac muscle cells that contract to pump blood through the circulatory system.

5. D — Ventriculum

The ventriculum is not a chamber of the heart. The heart consists of four chambers: right atrium, right ventricle, left atrium, and left ventricle.

6. C — Inferior vena cava

The inferior vena cava is the large vein that carries deoxygenated blood from the lower half of the body back to the right atrium of the heart.

7. B — Bone marrow

Bone marrow is the primary site of lymphocyte production, including both B lymphocytes and the precursors of T lymphocytes (which later mature in the thymus).

8. A — Thymus

The thymus is the primary lymphoid organ where T-lymphocytes mature and develop immunocompetence before being released into the circulation.

9. D — Tunica intima, tunica media, tunica adventitia

The wall of an artery consists of three distinct layers: tunica intima (innermost, endothelium and connective tissue), tunica media (middle, smooth muscle and elastic fibers), and tunica adventitia (outermost, connective tissue).

10. C — Fibrous rings around heart valves

The fibrous rings (annuli fibrosi) surrounding the heart valves form the cardiac skeleton, providing structural support and electrical isolation between atria and ventricles.

11. B — Cardiac tube

The cardiac tube, formed from paired endocardial tubes that fuse in the midline during embryonic



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development, gives rise to the primitive heart and undergoes folding and septation to form the four-chambered heart.

12. A — A double-walled sac with visceral and parietal layers

The pericardium is a double-walled sac that surrounds the heart, with the visceral layer (epicardium) adhering to the heart surface and the parietal layer forming the outer sac, with pericardial fluid in between.

13. D — Right coronary artery

The right coronary artery typically supplies the sinoatrial node (in about 60-70% of people), which is the primary pacemaker of the heart located in the right atrial wall.

14. C — To collect excess interstitial fluid and return it to the blood

The primary function of lymphatic vessels is to collect excess interstitial fluid from tissues and return it to the blood circulation, helping maintain fluid balance in the body.

15. B — Stellate ganglion

The stellate ganglion is not part of the heart's conducting system. It is a sympathetic ganglion in the neck that provides sympathetic innervation to the heart. The conducting system includes the SA node, AV node, bundle of His, and Purkinje fibers.

16. A — White pulp, red pulp, and a fibrous capsule

The spleen consists of white pulp (lymphoid tissue arranged around central arteries) and red pulp (blood-filled sinusoids and splenic cords), surrounded by a fibrous capsule with trabeculae extending inward.

17. D — Cisterna chyli

The cisterna chyli collects lymph from the lower limbs and abdomen before it enters the thoracic duct, which is the largest lymphatic vessel in the body.

18. C — Right atrium → right ventricle → pulmonary arteries → pulmonary veins → left atrium → left ventricle → aorta

Blood flows through the heart in this sequence: right atrium → right ventricle → pulmonary arteries → lungs → pulmonary veins → left atrium → left ventricle → aorta.

19. B — A bean-shaped structure that filters lymph and contains lymphocytes

Lymph nodes are bean-shaped structures along lymphatic vessels that filter lymph and contain lymphocytes and macrophages that detect and respond to foreign antigens.

20. A — Splanchnic mesoderm

The splanchnic mesoderm gives rise to the majority of the heart's myocardium during embryonic development. This mesoderm forms the cardiogenic region that develops into the primitive heart tube.

21. D — To prevent valve prolapse during ventricular contraction

The chordae tendineae are fibrous cords that connect the papillary muscles to the atrioventricular valves (mitral and tricuspid), preventing valve prolapse during ventricular contraction.

22. C — Thoracic duct

The thoracic duct is the largest lymphatic vessel and drains lymph from most of the body (except the right upper quadrant) into the venous system at the junction of the left subclavian and internal jugular veins.



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23. B — In the anterior mediastinum, behind the sternum

The thymus is located in the anterior mediastinum, behind the sternum and above the heart, between the lungs.

24. A — Discontinuous capillaries (sinusoids)

Discontinuous capillaries (sinusoids) are found in the spleen, characterized by large gaps between endothelial cells that allow blood cells and macromolecules to pass between the vessel lumen and surrounding tissue.

25. D — Coronal plane

The coronal (frontal) plane is a vertical plane that divides the body into anterior (front) and posterior (back) portions. This is distinct from the sagittal plane, which divides into right and left, and the transverse plane, which divides into superior and inferior portions.

26. C — Inferior

The umbilicus (navel) is located inferior to the xiphoid process (the most inferior portion of the sternum). Inferior means below or toward the feet in anatomical position.

27. B — Tip of the 9th costal cartilage

The tip of the 9th costal cartilage is typically found at the intersection of the midclavicular line and the costal margin. This is an important landmark for locating underlying organs and performing physical examinations.

28. A — The palms face anteriorly

In the anatomical position, the body stands erect, facing forward, with arms at the sides and palms facing forward (anteriorly). The feet are parallel and the head is level.

29. D — Thyroid cartilage

The thyroid cartilage (Adam's apple) is directly superior to the cricothyroid membrane. Palpating the thyroid cartilage and moving inferior allows for identification of the cricothyroid membrane, an important landmark in emergency airway procedures.

30. C — Between the trachea and sternocleidomastoid muscle

The carotid pulse is best palpated in the groove between the trachea and sternocleidomastoid muscle at the level of the thyroid cartilage. This location allows for optimal access to the common carotid artery.



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