



# NEBDN Dental Nurse

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## Practice Questions

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**1. Referring to the image provided, which structure forms the outermost protective layer of the tooth crown?**

- A. Dentine
- B. Pulp chamber
- C. Enamel
- D. Cementum

**2. A patient presents with redness and swelling of the tissue that closely encircles the teeth inside the mouth. Which structure is most likely inflamed?**

- A. Hard palate
- B. Gingiva
- C. Tongue
- D. Buccal mucosa

**3. A dental nurse is asked to polish the cheek-facing surfaces of the upper molar teeth. Which surfaces does this instruction refer to?**

- A. Lingual surfaces
- B. Palatal surfaces
- C. Buccal surfaces
- D. Mesial surfaces

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**4. Which of the following most accurately describes the mesial surface of a tooth?**

- A. The surface oriented toward the cheek
- B. The surface oriented toward the tongue
- C. The surface nearest to the dental midline
- D. The surface farthest from the dental midline



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**5. When charting the upper right first molar using the FDI two-digit system, which number should the dental nurse record?**

- A. 16
- B. 26
- C. 36
- D. 46

**6. Looking at the image provided, which structure houses the tooth's blood vessels and nerve supply?**

- A. Enamel
- B. Dentine
- C. Pulp chamber
- D. Cementum

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**7. Gum recession has left part of a patient's root exposed. Which tissue normally coats the root surface?**

- A. Enamel
- B. Dentine
- C. Cementum
- D. Pulp

**8. A dental nurse encounters the notation 'tooth 75' on a chart and is uncertain whether it refers to a primary or a permanent tooth. What is the most appropriate course of action?**

- A. Assume the tooth belongs to the permanent dentition
- B. Confirm which tooth-numbering system is in use
- C. Document it as a lower right permanent molar
- D. Disregard the number and continue with treatment

**9. Looking at the diagram, which tissue is found immediately below the enamel layer?**

- A. Pulp chamber
- B. Dentine
- C. Cementum
- D. Gingival tissue

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**10. During an oral examination, the clinician describes a structure forming the front part of the roof of the mouth that is bony in nature. Which structure is being described?**

- A. Soft palate
- B. Hard palate
- C. Uvula
- D. Tongue

**11. A dentist states that tooth 14 requires treatment. What should the dental nurse do to prepare?**

- A. Set up for treatment of the upper right first premolar
- B. Set up for treatment of the upper left first premolar
- C. Set up for treatment of the lower right first premolar
- D. Set up for treatment of the upper right second premolar

**12. A patient requires root canal therapy because of a tooth infection. Which tooth structure is removed during this treatment?**

- A. Enamel
- B. Dentine
- C. Pulp
- D. Cementum

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**13. Based on the image, which structure encircles the root and connects it to the surrounding bone?**

- A. Gingiva
- B. Enamel
- C. Periodontal ligament
- D. Dentine

**14. A dental nurse reviews a radiograph showing breakdown of tooth-supporting structures. Which tissue is chiefly responsible for anchoring the tooth within its socket?**

- A. Enamel
- B. Pulp chamber
- C. Periodontal ligament
- D. Dentine



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**15. Which sequence correctly lists the layers of the tooth crown from the outermost surface to the centre?**

- A. Dentine → Enamel → Pulp
- B. Enamel → Dentine → Pulp
- C. Pulp → Dentine → Enamel
- D. Enamel → Pulp → Dentine

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**16. Following enamel erosion, a patient reports severe cold sensitivity. Which underlying structure is most likely responsible for conducting this sensation?**

- A. Enamel
- B. Dentine
- C. Cementum
- D. Alveolar bone

**17. A dental nurse records a lower right canine as tooth 43 in the FDI system. What is the accurate FDI designation for this tooth?**

- A. 33
- B. 13
- C. 23
- D. 44

**18. On a maxillary incisor, which surface is directed toward the roof of the mouth?**

- A. Labial surface
- B. Lingual surface
- C. Buccal surface
- D. Occlusal surface

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**19. Based on the tooth image provided, which surface is most susceptible to plaque accumulation due to its pits and fissures?**

- A. Buccal surface
- B. Lingual surface
- C. Occlusal surface
- D. Mesial surface



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**20. Radiographs of a patient with periodontal disease reveal significant bone loss around multiple teeth. Which structure is primarily being destroyed?**

- A. Gingiva
- B. Alveolar bone
- C. Enamel
- D. Dentine

**21. A patient reports persistent toothache and visible swelling. Clinical findings indicate inflammation inside the core of the tooth. Which structure is involved?**

- A. Enamel
- B. Dentine
- C. Pulp chamber
- D. Cementum

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**22. A dental chart labels the chewing surface of a premolar as the 'incisal surface.' What is the mistake in this notation?**

- A. Incisal is a term reserved for posterior teeth
- B. The correct term should be occlusal surface
- C. Mesial was confused with distal
- D. The lingual surface was omitted

**23. A dental nurse identifies a charting error stating that enamel contains living cells. Which of the following correctly describes enamel?**

- A. Enamel has a blood supply
- B. Enamel contains nerve fibres
- C. Enamel is a non-living tissue
- D. Enamel has a collagen matrix

**24. A dental chart states that the submandibular gland's duct opens opposite the upper molar teeth. What is the nature of this error?**

- A. Incorrect gland identified for that duct location
- B. Confusion between minor and major glands
- C. Incorrect identification of the tongue structure
- D. Confusion between labial and buccal glands



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**25. Describe the correct pathway that saliva takes from the submandibular gland into the oral cavity.**

- A. Gland → Stensen's duct → Oral cavity
- B. Gland → Wharton's duct → Oral cavity
- C. Gland → Minor ducts → Oral cavity
- D. Gland → Parotid duct → Oral cavity

**26. During a molar restoration, the dentist is treating the biting surface used for grinding food. A dental nurse needs to identify this surface. What is it called?**

- A. Buccal surface
- B. Lingual surface
- C. Occlusal surface
- D. Mesial surface

**27. During a clinical examination, a dentist notices areas of wear on the grinding surfaces of the back teeth. Which anatomical term correctly identifies these surfaces?**

- A. Buccal surfaces
- B. Lingual surfaces
- C. Occlusal surfaces
- D. Mesial surfaces

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**28. A patient reports a noticeable swelling in front of the ear that worsens at mealtimes. Which salivary gland is most likely responsible?**

- A. Submandibular gland
- B. Sublingual gland
- C. Parotid gland
- D. Minor salivary glands



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**29. A dental chart describes the posterior, non-bony section of the palate as the hard palate. What type of error does this represent?**

- A. Misidentification of a muscular structure as a bony one
- B. Confusion between the tongue and the palate
- C. An error in quadrant identification
- D. Mislabelling of the gingiva

**30. The dentist refers to tooth 31 during an examination. Which tooth is being indicated?**

- A. Lower left central incisor
- B. Lower right central incisor
- C. Upper left central incisor
- D. Upper right central incisor



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## Answer Key & Explanations

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### 1. C — Enamel

Enamel is the highly mineralised surface of the crown, providing resistance against mechanical and chemical damage. Why the other options are incorrect: • Dentine: Dentine lies beneath enamel and is not the outermost surface. • Pulp chamber: The pulp chamber is a deep internal compartment. • Cementum: Cementum coats the root, not the crown. • Periodontal ligament: The periodontal ligament suspends the tooth within its bony socket.

### 2. B — Gingiva

The gingiva, commonly called the gums, directly surrounds the teeth and is the tissue most frequently affected by inflammatory conditions such as gingivitis. Why the other options are incorrect: • Hard palate: The hard palate constitutes the bony front section of the roof of the mouth and does not encircle the teeth. • Tongue: The tongue is a muscular organ involved in taste and speech, and it does not surround the teeth. • Buccal mucosa: The buccal mucosa covers the inner surface of the cheeks rather than encircling the teeth. • Soft palate: The soft palate lies at the rear of the oral cavity roof and plays no role in surrounding the teeth.

### 3. C — Buccal surfaces

Buccal surfaces are those that face the cheeks on posterior teeth. Why the other options are incorrect: • Lingual surfaces: Lingual surfaces are directed toward the tongue rather than the cheeks. • Palatal surfaces: Palatal surfaces are specific to upper teeth and face the hard palate, not the cheeks. • Mesial surfaces: Mesial surfaces face toward the midline of the dental arch. • Distal surfaces: Distal surfaces face away from the midline of the dental arch.

### 4. C — The surface nearest to the dental midline

The mesial surface is the side of a tooth that faces toward the midline of the dental arch. Why the other options are incorrect: • The surface oriented toward the cheek: The surface facing the cheek is called the buccal surface. • The surface oriented toward the tongue: The surface facing the tongue is called the lingual surface. • The surface farthest from the dental midline: The surface farthest from the midline is called the distal surface. • The biting or chewing surface: The biting or chewing surface is called the occlusal surface.

### 5. A — 16

Under the FDI system, quadrant 1 denotes the upper right, and the first molar occupies position 6, making this tooth number 16. Why the other options are incorrect: • 26: 26 identifies the first molar in the upper left quadrant (quadrant 2). • 36: 36 identifies the first molar in the lower left quadrant (quadrant 3). • 46: 46 identifies the first molar in the lower right quadrant (quadrant 4). • 15: 15 designates the second premolar in the upper right quadrant.

### 6. C — Pulp chamber

The pulp chamber is the hollow core of the tooth containing nerves and blood vessels that maintain tooth vitality. Why the other options are incorrect: • Enamel: Enamel is a non-vital, avascular mineralised tissue. • Dentine: Dentine can transmit stimuli through tubules but does not house the main nerve and blood supply. • Cementum: Cementum is a thin calcified covering on the root surface. • Gingiva: The gingiva is the soft



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mucosal tissue encircling the tooth at the gum line.

### 7. C — Cementum

Cementum is the calcified layer covering the root and provides attachment sites for the periodontal ligament. Why the other options are incorrect: • Enamel: Enamel is confined to the crown and does not extend onto the root. • Dentine: Dentine underlies both enamel and cementum and is not a surface covering. • Pulp: The pulp is enclosed within the tooth and does not cover the root. • Alveolar bone: Alveolar bone surrounds the root within the socket but does not coat its surface.

### 8. B — Confirm which tooth-numbering system is in use

FDI quadrants 5 through 8 are assigned to the primary dentition, so verifying the numbering system in use is essential for correct tooth identification. Why the other options are incorrect: • Assume the tooth belongs to the permanent dentition: Defaulting to permanent dentition without verification could result in treating the wrong tooth. • Document it as a lower right permanent molar: Tooth 75 belongs to the primary dentition, making it incorrect to record it as a permanent molar. • Disregard the number and continue with treatment: Proceeding while ignoring the numbering introduces a significant risk of clinical error. • Convert the notation to the universal numbering system: Changing to a different numbering system without agreement from the treating clinician is inappropriate.

### 9. B — Dentine

Dentine makes up the majority of the tooth structure and is positioned immediately beneath the enamel. Why the other options are incorrect: • Pulp chamber: The pulp chamber is located deeper within the tooth, not immediately beneath the enamel. • Cementum: Cementum covers the root surface and is not found beneath the enamel. • Gingival tissue: The gingiva is external soft tissue surrounding the tooth, not a layer beneath enamel. • Alveolar bone: Bone supports the tooth socket but is not situated beneath the enamel layer.

### 10. B — Hard palate

The hard palate is the bony, anterior portion of the oral roof and is the structure that fits this description. Why the other options are incorrect: • Soft palate: The soft palate is situated posteriorly and is composed of muscle rather than bone. • Uvula: The uvula is a small soft-tissue projection suspended from the posterior margin of the soft palate. • Tongue: The tongue is a muscular organ resting on the floor of the mouth, not part of the roof. • Floor of mouth: The floor of the mouth is an inferior structure and does not form any part of the roof.

### 11. A — Set up for treatment of the upper right first premolar

FDI tooth 14 belongs to quadrant 1 (upper right) and is at position 4, which is the first premolar. Why the other options are incorrect: • Set up for treatment of the upper left first premolar: The upper left first premolar is numbered 24, not 14. • Set up for treatment of the lower right first premolar: The lower right first premolar is numbered 44. • Set up for treatment of the upper right second premolar: The upper right second premolar is numbered 15. • Set up for treatment of the lower left first premolar: The lower left first premolar is numbered 34.

### 12. C — Pulp

During root canal therapy, the infected pulp tissue is removed from within the tooth. Why the other options are incorrect: • Enamel: Enamel is preserved and not targeted during root canal treatment. • Dentine: Dentine is kept intact as much as possible throughout the procedure. • Cementum: Cementum on the root surface is not removed during this treatment. • Gingiva: The gingival tissue is not involved in root canal therapy.



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**13. C — Periodontal ligament**

The periodontal ligament runs between the root surface and the alveolar bone, securing the tooth within its socket. Why the other options are incorrect: • Gingiva: The gingiva encircles the tooth at the gum line but does not link the root to bone. • Enamel: Enamel is restricted to the surface of the crown. • Dentine: Dentine is an internal tooth layer and does not form any bony attachment. • Pulp: The pulp is the central soft tissue of the tooth.

**14. C — Periodontal ligament**

The periodontal ligament connects the root to the alveolar bone, providing anchorage and distributing biting forces. Why the other options are incorrect: • Enamel: Enamel is a protective outer coating and plays no role in tooth attachment. • Pulp chamber: The pulp chamber is the neurovascular core of the tooth. • Dentine: Dentine contributes to the tooth's bulk but does not secure it within the socket. • Gingiva: The gingiva covers and protects surrounding tissue but does not anchor the tooth to bone.

**15. B — Enamel → Dentine → Pulp**

The correct order moving from surface to centre is enamel on the outside, dentine in the middle, and pulp at the core. Why the other options are incorrect: • Dentine → Enamel → Pulp: Dentine is the middle layer, not the outermost. • Pulp → Dentine → Enamel: Pulp is the innermost structure, not the outermost. • Enamel → Pulp → Dentine: Pulp lies at the centre and is not positioned between enamel and dentine. • Cementum → Enamel → Pulp: Cementum covers the root and does not form part of the crown layer sequence.

**16. B — Dentine**

Dentine houses microscopic tubules that carry stimuli to the pulp; when these tubules are unprotected, the patient experiences sensitivity. Why the other options are incorrect: • Enamel: Enamel is an inert, acellular tissue incapable of transmitting sensation. • Cementum: Cementum is a root-surface covering and plays no significant part in sensory transmission. • Alveolar bone: Alveolar bone forms the tooth socket but does not conduct sensory signals from the tooth. • Gingiva: The gingiva shields surrounding structures but does not transmit tooth sensation.

**17. A — 33**

Tooth 43 is indeed the correct FDI number for the lower right canine, so the recording contains no error. Why the other options are incorrect: • 33: 33 denotes the lower left canine, not the lower right. • 13: 13 denotes the upper right canine. • 23: 23 denotes the upper left canine. • 44: 44 refers to the first premolar in the lower right quadrant.

**18. B — Lingual surface**

The lingual surface of upper incisors faces the palate, which forms the roof of the mouth. Why the other options are incorrect: • Labial surface: The labial surface faces the lips, not the palate. • Buccal surface: Buccal surface is a term applied to posterior teeth facing the cheeks. • Occlusal surface: Incisors do not have an occlusal surface; they have an incisal edge instead. • Mesial surface: The mesial surface faces toward the midline of the arch, not the palate.

**19. C — Occlusal surface**

The occlusal surface contains pits and fissures that create ideal conditions for plaque to accumulate. Why the other options are incorrect: • Buccal surface: The buccal surface is relatively smooth and less prone to fissure-related plaque retention. • Lingual surface: The lingual surface generally lacks the deep pits and fissures characteristic of the occlusal surface. • Mesial surface: The mesial surface is a contact area between



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adjacent teeth, not a fissured chewing surface. • Distal surface: The distal surface is also a contact area and does not contain pits and fissures.

## 20. B — Alveolar bone

Alveolar bone forms the bony socket housing the tooth roots and is the principal structure lost in progressive periodontal disease. Why the other options are incorrect: • Gingiva: The gingiva is soft tissue that, while affected, is not the primary structural support being lost. • Enamel: Enamel is a crown surface layer and has no connection to bone support. • Dentine: Dentine makes up the body of the tooth and is unrelated to bone support. • Pulp: The pulp is the internal neurovascular tissue and plays no role in bone support.

## 21. C — Pulp chamber

The pulp chamber contains the tooth's nerve and blood supply; it is the site of inflammation when pulpitis develops. Why the other options are incorrect: • Enamel: Enamel has no nerve supply or blood vessels. • Dentine: Dentine conducts stimuli toward the pulp but is not where inflammation originates. • Cementum: Cementum coats the root surface and is unrelated to pulp inflammation. • Periodontal ligament: The periodontal ligament anchors the tooth in bone but is not the core tissue affected here.

## 22. B — The correct term should be occlusal surface

Premolars have an occlusal surface used for chewing; the incisal surface is a term that applies only to anterior teeth such as incisors and canines. Why the other options are incorrect: • Incisal is a term reserved for posterior teeth: This is itself incorrect — incisal is a term for anterior teeth, not posterior ones. • Mesial was confused with distal: Confusing mesial and distal is an unrelated error and not what occurred here. • The lingual surface was omitted: Omitting the lingual surface is a separate issue and not the error being described. • The buccal surface was given the wrong label: Mislabelling the buccal surface is unrelated to incorrectly naming the chewing surface.

## 23. C — Enamel is a non-living tissue

Enamel is a non-vital, acellular tissue; once fully formed it contains no living cells. Why the other options are incorrect: • Enamel has a blood supply: Enamel is avascular and has no blood supply. • Enamel contains nerve fibres: Enamel contains no nerve fibres. • Enamel has a collagen matrix: Enamel does not have a collagen component. • Enamel is capable of self-repair: Enamel cannot regenerate or self-repair.

## 24. A — Incorrect gland identified for that duct location

The submandibular duct opens beneath the tongue onto the floor of the mouth; the opening opposite the upper molars belongs to the parotid duct, so the wrong gland has been attributed to that location. Why the other options are incorrect: • Confusion between minor and major glands: The error is specifically about duct location, not about distinguishing minor from major glands. • Incorrect identification of the tongue structure: No tongue structure has been incorrectly identified; the mistake concerns duct openings. • Confusion between labial and buccal glands: Labial and buccal glands are unrelated to the duct opening described. • Mislabeling of gingiva: The gingiva is not implicated in this error.

## 25. B — Gland → Wharton's duct → Oral cavity

Saliva secreted by the submandibular gland travels through Wharton's duct before emptying into the oral cavity. Why the other options are incorrect: • Gland → Stensen's duct → Oral cavity: Stensen's duct is the excretory duct of the parotid gland, not the submandibular gland. • Gland → Minor ducts → Oral cavity: Minor ducts are not the primary drainage pathway for the submandibular gland. • Gland → Parotid duct → Oral cavity: The parotid duct drains the parotid gland and has no connection to the submandibular gland. • Gland



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→ Palatal duct → Oral cavity: There is no palatal duct associated with the submandibular gland.

**26. C — Occlusal surface**

The occlusal surface is the functional biting and grinding surface found on posterior teeth such as molars and premolars. Why the other options are incorrect: • Buccal surface: The buccal surface faces the inner cheek and is not the top biting surface. • Lingual surface: The lingual surface faces the tongue and is not the chewing surface. • Mesial surface: The mesial surface is the side of the tooth closest to the dental midline, not the biting surface. • Incisal surface: Incisal surfaces belong to anterior teeth such as incisors and canines, not to molars.

**27. C — Occlusal surfaces**

The occlusal surfaces are the grinding surfaces of posterior teeth and are the most common sites where wear facets develop. Why the other options are incorrect: • Buccal surfaces: Buccal surfaces are oriented toward the cheeks. • Lingual surfaces: Lingual surfaces are directed toward the tongue. • Mesial surfaces: Mesial surfaces face toward the midline of the dental arch. • Distal surfaces: Distal surfaces face away from the midline of the arch.

**28. C — Parotid gland**

The parotid gland sits anterior to the ear and typically enlarges in response to salivary stimulation, such as when eating. Why the other options are incorrect: • Submandibular gland: The submandibular gland is situated below the lower jaw, not near the ear. • Sublingual gland: The sublingual gland lies beneath the tongue, away from the ear region. • Minor salivary glands: Minor salivary glands are diffusely distributed and do not produce a distinct localised swelling near the ear. • Labial glands: Labial glands are small glands within the lips and are not located in the pre-auricular area.

**29. A — Misidentification of a muscular structure as a bony one**

The soft palate is composed of muscle, while the hard palate is bony; labelling the muscular soft palate as the hard palate is therefore an anatomical misidentification of tissue type. Why the other options are incorrect: • Confusion between the tongue and the palate: The tongue is an entirely distinct structure from the palate and is not relevant to this charting error. • An error in quadrant identification: Quadrant identification applies to the classification of teeth, not to palate structures, so this is unrelated. • Mislabelling of the gingiva: The gingiva surrounds the teeth and has no connection to this particular error. • Confusion between buccal mucosa and labial mucosa: The buccal and labial mucosae line the cheeks and lips respectively and are not implicated in this mistake.

**30. A — Lower left central incisor**

In the FDI system, quadrant 3 covers the lower left, and position 1 is the central incisor, so tooth 31 is the lower left central incisor. Why the other options are incorrect: • Lower right central incisor: The lower right central incisor carries the FDI number 41. • Upper left central incisor: The upper left central incisor is numbered 21. • Upper right central incisor: The upper right central incisor is numbered 11. • Lower left lateral incisor: The lower left lateral incisor is numbered 32, not 31.



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