



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND CLINICAL SCIENTISTS

AIMS Membership Single Discipline Examination - Haematology

Guide to Study & Suggested Reading List

Areas of knowledge expected from candidates:

The level of knowledge that is required for those sitting the discipline specific examination reflects that the candidate has been specialising in the discipline and has knowledge in the area of cellular haematology and haemostasis and thrombosis. They need to have:

An understanding of the underlying techniques utilised and methodology behind the measurement of haematology and coagulation analytes:

- Principles of automated cell counting
- Quality control in haematology and coagulation
- Pre-analytical factors in haematology and coagulation

Knowledge of haematology and haemostasis including:

- Haematopoiesis
- Intrinsic and extrinsic coagulation pathways
- Natural anticoagulants
- Fibrinolysis
- Anticoagulant therapy and methods of monitoring this therapy
- Malaria testing and species

Knowledge of the presentation, laboratory investigation and results, interpretation of those results for diagnosis and monitoring of these diseases and conditions:

- Anaemias
- Benign white cell disorders
- Myeloproliferative disorders
- Lymphoproliferative disorders
- Bleeding and thrombotic disorders

Recommended Reading

- Bain BJ, Bates I and Laffan MA *Dacie and Lewis Practical Haematology*, Elsevier
- Carr JH *Clinical Hematology Atlas*, Elsevier
- Hoffbrand AV and Moss PAH *Essential Haematology*, Wiley-Blackwell
- Hoffman et al *Hematology - Basic Principles and procedures*, Elsevier
- Basics of Haematology https://www.amboss.com/us/knowledge/Basics_of_hematology/
- Haematologica Atlas of Haematologic Cytology <http://digital.haematologica.org/wpcontent/uploads/flipbook/48/book.html>
- Seminars in Haematology <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/seminars-in-hematology/>



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Sample Examination Questions

ESSAY QUESTION

(30 minutes per essay question)

List three (3) examples of microcytic anaemia. Describe the laboratory testing that can be used to help diagnose these disorders.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

(Approximately 4 minutes per question)

1. List an example of a Romanowsky stain. Summarise the major components of this stain and the cellular structures they bind. (1 mark)
2. What are possible reasons for a prolonged APTT? (1 mark)
3. Describe the usefulness of the MCHC in the modern haematology laboratory. (1 mark)
4. What are the main morphological changes seen in the blood film for a patient with asplenia? (1 mark)
5. What are the main causes of marked thrombocytopenia in a child? (2 marks)
6. What are the conditions that comprise the 2016 WHO MPN category and list the parameter/s that are mainly affected? (2 marks)