

WRITING SAM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*PLEASE submit 5 – 8 question/answers (with references and explanations for each) to the ASC in a Word document, with images separately attached to an email, titling each picture to correlate with the question number.

Questions

1. Use one best answer format (no True/False).
2. Avoid over specific knowledge.
3. Avoid textbook verbatim phrasing for items.
4. Avoid items based on opinion.
5. Avoid items for which there is not an accepted answer.
6. Test important material, while avoiding trivial facts.
7. State the item positively' and avoid negative phrasing.
8. Focus on a single issue, fact, or problem in each question.
9. Use good grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
10. Avoid excess information, as well as teaching in the question.
11. Avoid personal pronouns (i.e., you).
12. Attempt to write questions that require interpretation and problem solving from the attendees (rather than recall).
13. Avoid the use of non-standard abbreviations, and dubious adverbs, such as "often" and "frequently".

Answers

1. Use a standard number of responses (preferably five) .
2. Place options in a logical order (sequential or spatial).
3. Keep the length of the options fairly consistent.
4. Keep options independent and not overlapping.
5. Keep options homogeneous in Content.
6. Be sure all distractors are plausible and logical misconceptions.
7. Avoid absurd or "fantastic" options.
8. Avoid "all of the above" and "none of the above."
9. Phrase options positively, not negatively.
10. Avoid use of slang and jargon.
11. Avoid giving clues through faulty grammar.
12. Make sure there is only one best answer (no multiple answer choices).
13. Avoid superlatives such as "always" and "never."

Here is an example that does not ask directly for diagnosis but asks individual to determine ancillary findings. The answers are all parallel. **This is the format of how to submit a SAM to the ASC** (in a Word doc, ordered as Question#1, Answer choices, Answer, Explanation of the answer, and any references, then Question #2 and it's answers, explanations/references, Question #3 and so on...)

A 50 year old man with painless lymphadenopathy of several months duration had a fine needle aspiration performed and the findings are illustrated (photo not shown in example). Flow cytometry was also performed. Which of the following immunophenotypes is most likely to be present in the neoplastic lymphocytes?

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|---|-------------------------------|
| A. Positive: CD19, CD20, CD23, CD5 | Negative: CD10, CD3 |
| B. Positive: CD3, CD5, CD8 | Negative: CD19, CD20 |
| C. Positive: CD15, CD30 | Negative: CD45, CD20, CD3 |
| D. Positive: CD19, CD20, CD5, cyclin D1 | Negative: CD23, CD3 |
| E. Positive: CD3, CD30 | Negative: CD10, CD19 negative |