

# Situational Awareness Quiz

Life is changing hard and fast for doctors. Some folks obviously think that doctors have been having a good time and are rolling out new initiatives at a rate that is faster than the way cockroaches procreate.

It's important that you stay abreast of all these new developments. The Hobbit offers this Situational Awareness Quiz as a quick check on how well you are keeping up with all these new developments and important facts. It's a simple MCQ quiz where you choose one correct answer out of four choices. In case you have been out of school so long that you have forgotten how to do MCQs, here is a refresher:

## Example

What does ACGME-I stand for:

- a) Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-India
- b) Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-Income
- c) Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-Imitation
- d) Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-International

The correct answer to choose is obviously (d).

OK, now that you are sufficiently warmed up, we can start the quiz proper:

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- 1 The residency programme was started in 2010:**
    - a) Because Duke University thought the BST/AST system wasn't good enough for the Duke-NUS GMS graduates
    - b) To improve quality of specialty training
    - c) To improve the salary of doctors under training
    - d) All of the above
  - 2 A medical student who graduated in 1990 needed at least eight years of postgraduate experience (including housemanship) to become a general surgeon. A medical student who graduated in 2010 or later needs at the minimum how many years to become a general surgeon (including housemanship/first year of residency)?**
    - a) 5 years
    - b) 6 years
    - c) 7 years
    - d) 8 years
  - 3 The amendments to the Medical Registration Act in 2009 to allow for lawyers to sit on the SMC's disciplinary tribunals:**
    - a) Was to address the inadequacies of the old disciplinary process of the SMC
    - b) Was the great idea of two pathologists
    - c) Was the great idea of two cardiologists
    - d) Was the great idea of an orthopaedic surgeon and a general surgeon
  - 4 In FY1997, total government health expenditure per person for Singapore was \$575. In FY2007, the figure was**
    - a) \$615
    - b) \$715
    - c) \$815
    - d) \$915
  - 5 In 1998, the resident population in Singapore was 3.163million while in 2008, the figure was 3.642million, an increase of 15.1%. On the other hand, the total population (residents and foreign workers) increased by 24.3% over the same period. In 1998, the number of attendances at family health service clinics was ≈2,933,000, while in 2008 the figure for polyclinics was:**
    - a) ≈3,123,000 (an increase of 6.5%)
    - b) ≈3,559,000 (an increase of 21.3%)
    - c) ≈3,736,000 (an increase of 27.4%)
    - d) ≈3,972,000 (in increase of 35.4%)
  - 6 In 2000, the base monthly pay of a registrar was about \$5000 (excluding registrar and call allowances). In 2010, the corresponding figure is:**
    - a) ≈\$5000
    - b) ≈\$6000
    - c) ≈\$7000
    - d) ≈\$8000
  - 7 A NUS medical student who matriculated in 1985 paid tuition fees of ≈\$1300 a year to the university. A NUS medical student who matriculated in 2010 paid how much?**
    - a) ≈\$5000
    - b) ≈\$10,000
    - c) ≈\$15,000
    - d) ≈\$19,000
  - 8 In 1996 the average GP monthly income was about \$10,000 and he worked an average of about 48 hours a week. In 2006, the corresponding figures<sup>1</sup> were:**
    - a) \$10,000 and 48 hours
    - b) \$10,000 and 52 hours
    - c) \$12,000 and 48 hours
    - d) \$12,000 and 52 hours

1 Singh K, Goh LG, Sandhu K, Cheong PY. 1996 Survey of housing practice costs and GP fees in Singapore. *Singapore Med J* 1997; 38(5):192-9.

Wong CY, Tan K, Foo G, Chua A, Lee YV, Wong TH, Chong YW. 2006 Survey of GP clinic practice costs in Singapore. <http://news.sma.org.sg/3911/survey.pdf>

- 9 In 2009, 233 NUS graduates were granted full registration with SMC. How many temporary registrations were given out in 2009? (Note: temporary registrations are usually given to medical graduates with basic degrees that are not usually registrable with SMC, and temporary registered doctors are usually foreigners)
- a) 156  
b) 233  
c) 227  
d) 294
- 10 In 2009, there were 41 plastic surgeons in Singapore while there were how many geriatricians?
- a) 48  
b) 67  
c) 82  
d) 101
- 11 Which of the following best describes the issue of overcharging by doctors in Singapore?
- a) There is no such thing as overcharging as long as the patient has been advised beforehand how much he or she will roughly be charged  
b) Never occurs in public hospitals because public hospitals are always cheaper  
c) Is an SMC and not an SMA problem  
d) All of the above
- 12 The Marina IR (integrated resort) site was sold for around S\$1.2billion to S\$1.3billion in 2005. How much was the last private hospital site successfully tendered for in Singapore in 2008?
- a) ≈S\$280million  
b) ≈S\$500million  
c) ≈S\$800million  
d) ≈S\$1.2billion (or S\$1,200million)
- 13 Which of the following statements best describes SMC disciplinary proceedings?
- a) The most frequent complainant to SMC is the Ministry of Health  
b) SMC disciplinary proceedings are to uphold the ethical standards and professionalism of the medical profession in Singapore  
c) If the doctor appeals against SMC's decision, the SMC's lawyers get paid more money as part of the work done in the appeal proceedings  
d) The SMC is a statutory body funded by doctors' subscriptions. If the SMC loses a court proceeding, the costs are often borne by the medical profession
- 14 As of now, which of the following best describes the ACGME-I residency system which Singapore is adopting from this year onwards?
- a) It will enable doctors who complete an ACGME-I accredited programme in Singapore to practice in USA as the ACGME-I system is fully recognised in USA  
b) ACGME-I residents in Singapore can continue their training in USA any time in a ACGME-accredited programme with no loss of seniority  
c) According to official statistics, the ACGME-I training system has the widespread support of the entire medical profession, especially the specialist staff in the restructured hospitals who are responsible for training the residents  
d) For the same clinical specialty, an ACGME-I resident sees more patients than a trainee training under the old BST/AST system
- 15 Which of the following statements is untrue?
- a) Between 2006 and 2008, a period of two years, the number of A&E attendances in public hospitals increased by 111,776 or 16.5%  
b) In 1997/98, the proportion of monthly household expenditure spent on healthcare was 3.5%. The figure in 2007/2008 was 5.3%  
c) The latest SMC election was keenly contested with more candidates than available places  
d) S\$50.3million were given out as Medifund grants to healthcare institutions in 2007 while S\$125.7 million was committed as National Medical Research grants under the National Medical Research Council (NMRC) in 2007

#### Answers

Question	Correct Answer	Question	Correct Answer	Question	Correct Answer
1	b	6	a	11	c
2	a	7	d	12	d
3	a	8	b	13	b
4	a	9	d	14	c
5	d	10	a	15	c

#### Ratings

Points	
13 - 15	Brilliant! Please apply for a job in Ministry of Health top management immediately. CEP: DDMS, maybe even DMS!
10 - 12	Very good. Should land a senior management job in one of the public healthcare clusters or statutory boards.
7 - 9	Acceptable. Maybe can be head of clinical department in a restructured hospital by 50-years-old, HOD is nowadays considered a middle management job.
4 - 6	Time to consider private practice. Maybe run for SMA Council too!
0 - 3	Ignorance is bliss.