**Guidelines for SEQs and SAQs**

**Structures Essay Questions (SEQs)**

1. Clear & specific.
2. Exact limit should be set.
3. Avoid: - What do you think?

What is in your opinion?

Discuss?

1. Instead use: - Enlist, Enumerate, Compare & contrast, State your reasons, Describe.
2. Match the question to specific learning objective.
3. Communicate clearly to the students what is expected.
4. Use simple, clear and straight forward language.
5. In "Write briefly..." type of questions qualify how briefly into number of words or lines of standard paragraphs.
6. Scoring system: Split the total marks allotted to each part of the question topic. May be indicated in the paper (e.g.1+1+3+5).

**Example**

1. Write an essay on primary immunodeficiency disease focusing on its classification, causes, clinical manifestations and laboratory diagnosis. (2+2+3+3)
2. Describe location and relations of head of pancreas along with its development and applied anatomy. (2+2+4)

**Note:** Preview and review the essay question to improve its reliability and validity before and after the examinations.

**Short Answer Question (SAQs)**

1. Problem solving type of question.
2. A short history is given to the student, based on which questions are asked.
3. Requires the student to apply what he/she has learnt, in the context of a given situation.
4. The format has questions closely resembling a series of short answer questions than an essay question.
5. A practical alternative to long essay questions.
6. Integration of subjects: e.g. basic science and clinical science, biomedical science and ethics can be done.
7. Open-ended, semi-structured questions.
8. Use of scenario.
9. Use of pre-determined marking scheme/key
10. Develop a realistic scenario
11. Limit the answers
12. Include images, lab investigation, x-ray

**Example:**

1. **Case vignette**

You are a medical officer in paediatrics. You are asked to review a one-hour old baby for increasing respiratory rate and sub-costal retraction. The baby was born at 35 weeks to a 29-year-old mother via elective LSCS. The indication for LSCS was uncontrolled BP. The mother had regular follow-up during her antenatal period. She had gestational diabetes and preeclampsia. All questions refer to this patient.

Question1: What are the most likely diagnoses? (Name two)

Question 2: What are the preliminary investigations that you would like to perform at this point? (Name three)

Question 3: For each of the diagnoses list one primary pathophysiological mechanism.

Model answer:

Question 1: Hyaline membrane disease; transient tachypnea of newborn (TTNB); (two marks)

Question 2: Full blood count; chest x-ray; and arterial blood gas (three marks)

Question 3: deficiency of surfactant; failure to reabsorb lung fluid (two marks)

**References**

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