



*(University of Choice)*

**MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
(MMUST)**

MAIN CAMPUS

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS  
2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

**FOR THE DEGREE  
OF  
BACHELOR OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**COURSE CODE: MBS 308**

**COURSE TITLE: BASIC PHARMACOLOGY**

**END OF TERM 1 EXAMINATION**

**Instructions**

Time 3 hours

Answer all questions

Section A comprises of 20 MCQs, each carrying 1 mark

Section B comprises 8 short answer questions carrying a total of 40 marks

Section C comprises of 2 long essay questions each carrying 20 marks

## SECTION A: Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

1. Which one of the following is true for drugs that are highly bound to albumin?
  - a. Effectively cross the blood brain barrier (BBB)
  - b. Have a large volume of distribution ( $V_d$ )
  - c. Often contain quaternary nitrogens
  - d. Can undergo competition with other drugs for albumin- binding sites
  
2. Which one of the following is most likely to be impaired by liver diseases?
  - a. Drug metabolism
  - b. Drug absorption
  - c. Drug protein binding
  - d. Drug excretion
  
3. Biotransformation is the process where drugs:
  - a. Are converted to more polar, water soluble molecules through enzymatic reaction (s)
  - b. Are bound to plasma proteins
  - c. Are absorbed intravenously
  - d. Are excreted in the liver
  
4. Drug biotransformation takes place in the:
  - a. Liver
  - b. Heart
  - c. Kidneys
  - d. lungs
  
5. Most drugs gain entry to cells by:
  - a. Passive diffusion with zero-order kinetics
  - b. Passive diffusion with first-order kinetics
  - c. Active transport with zero-order kinetics
  - d. Active transport with first-order kinetics
  
6. All of the following factors might affect the rate and/or extent of drug absorption of orally administered drugs **EXCEPT**:
  - a. gastric emptying time
  - b. intestinal motility
  - c. the formulation of the drug
  - d. a generic form of the drug

7. Peter, a newly admitted patient, has a history of liver disease. In planning his pharmacotherapy, the clinicians must consider that the liver disease may:
- increase the excretion rate of a drug
  - impair the ability to metabolize the drug and consequent toxicity
  - Result in the necessity to increase the dosage of a drug
  - decrease the rate of drug absorption
8. Which of the following statements is **TRUE** concerning the renal excretion of drugs?
- Drugs that are ionized in the renal tubule are more likely to undergo passive reabsorption than those that are unionized
  - Low-molecular-weight drugs are much more likely to be actively secreted than filtered
  - Only the fraction of the drug that is not bound to plasma proteins is filtered by the glomerulus.
  - Decreasing renal tubular fluid pH will increase rate of elimination of weakly acidic drugs
9. If a patient takes a drug on an empty stomach, the drug will be:
- absorbed more slowly
  - neutralized by pancreatic enzymes
  - affected by enzymes in the colon
  - absorbed more rapidly
10. Which one of the following is a phase I drug metabolism reaction?
- acetylation
  - glucuronidation
  - methylation
  - reduction
11. Which one of the following drugs is **NOT** susceptible to the first- pass effect?
- Dextropropoxyphene
  - Metoprolol
  - Chormethiazole
  - Warfarin
12. What is the pharmacological classification of Isosorbide dinitrate?
- It is a narcotic analgesic
  - It is an antidepressant
  - It is a vasodilator drug
  - It is a diuretic

13. In which one of the following clinical conditions is Ergotamine useful?
- In the treatment of angina pectoris
  - In the treatment of hypertension
  - In the treatment of Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD)
  - In the treatment of migraine headaches
14. Which one of the following is a macrolide antibiotic?
- Ciprofloxacin
  - Streptomycin
  - Azithromycin
  - Gentamycin
15. Which one of the following antimalarials is associated with causation of hemolytic anemia in susceptible individuals?
- Lumefantrine
  - Artemether
  - Dihydroartemisinin
  - Primaquine
16. Why are Proton Pump inhibitors effective in the treatment of gastric ulcer disease?
- Because they react with gastric acid in a neutralization reaction
  - Because they form a protective coat along the lining of the stomach
  - Because they inhibit the pumping of hydrogen ions ( $H^+$ ) by the parietal cells in the gastric mucosa
  - Because they are blockers at the muscarinic cholinergic receptors on the glandular epithelial cells lining the stomach wall
17. Why is glyceryl trinitrate administered to patients sublingually?
- Because it causes gastric irritation when introduced in the gastrointestinal tract
  - Because it has a bad taste
  - Because it induces nausea and vomiting when introduced directly into the gastrointestinal tract
  - Because it is susceptible to the first- pass effect
18. Why is amikacin **NOT** administered enterally during its clinical use?
- Because it is degraded by gastric acid
  - Because it triggers nausea and vomiting when introduced directly into the gastrointestinal tract
  - Because it cannot be absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract due to presence of amino sugars in its molecular structure
  - Because it is digested by gastric proteases in the stomach

19. Which one of the following antiretrovirals is effective in the prevention of Mother- to- Child (PMTCT) transmission of HIV infection?
- Stavudine
  - Dideoxycytidine (ddC)
  - Atazanavir
  - Nevirapine
20. Which one of the following drugs is administered intranasally by inhalation in the treatment of allergic rhinitis?
- Salbutamol
  - Terbutaline
  - Sodium Cromoglycate
  - Salmeterol

**SECTION B: SAQs: 40 marks; Answer all**

- Describe four mechanisms by which drug permeation occurs across biological membranes. **(4 marks)**
- Explain how acidic urine pH affects the excretion of acidic and basic drugs. **(4 marks)**
- Explain how pH affects movement of drugs or drug metabolites across biological membranes. **(4 marks)**
- Describe two common prescription errors, with relevant examples. **(4marks)**
- As an intern doctor you have prescribed amoxicillin 60 mg, po, three times/day for a child weighing 5.7 Kg. The drug available in the ward is amoxicillin 125/5ml for oral suspension, labeled paediatric dosage range: 20-40mg/kg/day in three equal doses. The nurse administers 4.2 ml three times/day. Comment on the accuracy of the administered dose **(4 marks)**
- Discuss the use of drugs in the following:
  - Primary prevention of disease **(5 marks)**
  - Secondary prevention of disease **(5 marks)**
- Discuss use of the sublingual route of drug administration. **(4 marks)**

Your discussion should include:

  - Advantages of this route of drug administration. **(3 marks)**
  - Disadvantages of this route of drug administration. **(3 marks)**

**SECTION C: LAQs: Answer (40 marks)**

1. Drug Z is administered orally. Describe in detail the four key pharmacokinetic processes which the drug undergoes over the course of time and the key factors affecting each of these processes **(20 marks)**
  
2. a) Using a specific example, discuss the use of subcutaneous implants as a drug delivery system. **(10 marks)**
  
- b) Discuss use of the depot effect when various penicillin formulations are employed in therapy through intramuscular drug administration. **(10 marks)**