

How to approach the NBME

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Tools

- Number 2 pencil
- Arrive early; you will be asked to place your book bags at the side of the room
- Nothing but your pencil at your desk.
- You will have an exam booklet with questions and an opscan-like answer sheet.
- Fill out name/number/etc accurately.
- Fill out squares for answers.

Approach

- Burns and Cave Review: Cell biology and Histology
- Exams and Quizzes contain questions patterned after the NBME type questions. Concepts are similar. Review those exams
- Review the notes you took on objectives.
- Go through Gartner and Hiatt and review photographs.
- Go through lecture notes (PowerPoints) and review photographs.

Photographs

- Black and white
 - Transmission Electron micrographs
 - Scanning electron micrographs
 - Black and white light micrographs
 - Cartoons or drawings of cells, layers, region, or structure
- Anything goes from photograph...from identify structure or cell to identify function or “which area has the named function”.

Questions

- You will have plenty of time (4 h for 120 questions)
- You will recognize many of the questions and be able to narrow the choices down to 1-2 right answers
- You might consider each question pretty basic, had it been asked at the end of the unit you would know it without a problem.
- There will be 5-10 questions which will leave you clueless. **DON'T WORRY ABOUT THOSE.**

Types of questions

- Multiple choice, best answer works!!
- Testing big concepts like sequences in a tissue or organ, sequencing layers, direction of blood flow, events that follow.
- They will skip things in the sequence....you will be looking for the "next obvious structure" and find one that is further down. You have to focus on what they want...ultimate end may be as important as "next step"!
- Focus on the question: What is being asked?
 - e.g. about increased surface area...look for choices that deal with increased surface area. Don't get hung up in irrelevant details, like "is it a part of the GI tract".

Emphasis

- See punch list:
 - A third is Cell Biology including tissue types
 - There is significant coverage of every organ system.
 - Students traditionally have not done as well in Immune/GI/Respiratory/ and urinary.
 - Also, some endocrine and reproductive biology concerns. Know the hormones involved.
 - Lots of histophysiology

When will grades come out?

- Next grade letter will include any regraded exams (III and IV) AND
- All major quizzes will be downloaded and reported with your next grade letter
- PBL Quizzes are for you to do later, but they must be done by the end of the year. After the New Year, they will be downloaded and added to the grade book.
- NBME grades usually take 1-2 weeks to come back (after Christmas). We get a paper report. We will create an electronic file that can be added to the grade book.
- During the first week in January, I will announce the final set of grade letters that should have everything, including the NBME.
- I will post all results on the waiting wall.
- We must have the grades in before January 13th.