

## EXAMPLES OF TEST ITEM FORMATS

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**Completion:** Completion-type items are easy to read and understand. An example follows.

The area of the tooth that is the most sensitive to cavity preparation is the

- A. dentin.
- B. enamel.
- C. cementum.
- D. cementsenamel junction.
- \*E. dentoenamel junction.

**Question:** Question-type items are also easy to read and understand. An example follows.

Which of the following has the potential for undergoing "spontaneous" malignant transformation?

- A. Osteomalacia
- B. Albright's syndrome
- \*C. Paget's disease of bone
- D. Osteogenesis imperfecta
- E. von Recklinghausen's disease of bone

**Negative:** A negative item is characterized by a word such as "EXCEPT" or "NOT" in the stem. These key words are capitalized to help candidates. Examples follow.

Each of the following drugs is appropriate for the treatment of cardiac arrhythmia EXCEPT one. Which one is this EXCEPTION?

- A. Phenytoin
- B. Lidocaine
- C. Quinidine
- D. Propranolol
- \*E. Epinephrine

Which of the following arteries does NOT accompany the corresponding nerve throughout its course?

- \*A. Lingual
- B. Infraorbital
- C. Inferior alveolar
- D. Posterior superior alveolar

**Paired True-False:** The only portion of a paired true-false test item that varies is the stem. The stem consists of two sentences on the same topic. An example follows.

In health, bone is constantly undergoing resorption and formation.

In periodontitis, only bone resorption occurs.

- A. Both statements are TRUE.
- B. Both statements are FALSE.
- \*C. The first statement is TRUE, the second is FALSE.
- D. The first statement is FALSE, the second is TRUE.

**Cause-and-Effect:** The only portion of a cause-and-effect test item that varies is the stem. The stem consists of a statement and a reason. These are written as a single sentence and are connected by "BECAUSE." An example follows.

Adolescent growth spurts more in the maxilla than in the mandible BECAUSE, at puberty, the lymphoid tissue in the nasopharynx decreases.

- A. Both the statement and the reason are correct and related.
- B. Both the statement and the reason are correct but NOT related.
- C. The statement is correct, but the reason is NOT.
- \*D. The statement is NOT correct, but the reason is correct.
- E. NEITHER the statement NOR the reason is correct.