



## How to succeed on a FISDAP exam

Fisdap exams are uniquely designed to assess your knowledge and critical thinking ability. Questions are constructed by instructors across the country and reviewed by subject matter experts as well as a board certified Emergency Physician. After you finish the exam, we hope you will come away with a good sense of what you mastered or areas for improvement. Please take advantage of the instructions below.

Knowing the information in your textbook will build a great foundation for what the FISDAP exams will require you to do: apply the knowledge and think critically to solve real life EMS problems. We want to prepare you for your national or state certification exam.

We recommend completing the workbook that comes with the textbook your class is using. Additionally, we follow current American Heart Association guidelines. We also encourage you to utilize Fisdap's [Study Tools](#). It allows you to practice your test-taking skills on similar constructed test and quizzes.

There are typically 3 types of questions Fisdap uses when we construct an exam. Understanding the construction will help increase your success.

- **You should...** Questions that end in "*You should*" are asking you to apply knowledge treat a patient as you would in the field. You should select the best treatment option available from the choices given. If you are having trouble picking the best answer because more than one option seems "right," imagine that there is a "next," "first," or "most importantly" at the end of this type of question. Our examples: "You should next," or "You should most important," or "You should first."
- **You should suspect...** Questions that end in "*You should suspect*" are asking you to suspect underlying problems or conditions that are described in the question. Think of the condition that is the most life-threatening. You should suspect the most dangerous condition.
- **The most likely cause is...** Questions that end in "*The most likely cause*" are asking you to think about the most probable cause or condition based on the symptoms. In this type of question you are NOT being asked about what might be the worst possible problem, but rather the most likely.



You may not be used to seeing these types of critical thinking questions on exams, so here are some key test-taking tips to help you out:

1. Read the question completely and imagine what you should do to take care of the patient. Please do this, before you look at the possible answers.
2. Read the possible answers completely and consider the BEST answer (since there maybe more than one plausible choice it is best not to think of the "correct" one.
3. Once you have read the entire question and all possible answers, pick the one you feel is best. Many times your first guess will be the correct one.
4. During the test, if your instructor allows, we encourage you to write down (on a blank piece of paper) words you do not know and concepts you did not understand.
5. The questions are shuffled, so don't get discouraged if you hit some hard questions right away.

We wish you the best on this exam, on your certification exam, and ultimately in your new career as an EMS professional!

The Entrance Exam for Prospective Paramedic Students is an EMS-specific exam that was designed to evaluate nationally registered EMTs who are applying or matriculating to paramedic school. The exam has over 130 questions, which range in difficulty level from knowledge recall to problem solving. The exam consists of six topic areas, which were selected by a national committee of Emergency Medical Service educators for the purpose of determining which students are most likely to succeed in a paramedic education program.

After completing this study guide, if you wish to seek additional EMT, anatomy and physiology practice questions, [please visit www.fisdap.net](http://www.fisdap.net) and purchase [EMT Study Tools](#).

## **Anatomy - EMT level questions ranging from basic to very challenging**

- 1. What are the structures that branch off the trachea into the lower airway?**
  - A. Alveoli
  - B. Bronchi
  - C. Cricoid
  - D. Arterioles
  
- 2. What chamber of the heart is the most muscular?**
  - A. Left atrium
  - B. Right atrium
  - C. Left ventricle
  - D. Right ventricle
  
- 3. What is considered a central pulse?**
  - A. Radial
  - B. Brachial
  - C. Dorsalis pedis
  - D. Femoral



**Physiology** - EMT level questions ranging from basic to very challenging

4. **What is the amount of air that normally reaches the alveoli in an adult?**
- A. 350 mL
  - B. 500 mL
  - C. 150 L
  - D. 750 L
5. **Where does the heart receive its nutrition from blood passing through?**
- A. Pulmonary artery
  - B. Coronary artery
  - C. Coronary vein
  - D. Aorta

**Math** - decimals, division, fractions, multiplication

**6. What is the place value of the number 7 in 454.07809?**

- A. Hundredths
- B. Tenths
- C. Ones
- D. Thousandths

**7. Convert 3% to a decimal.**

- A. 3.0
- B. 300.0
- C. 0.03
- D. 0.3

**8. Divide 12/340.**

- A. 0.035
- B. 4080
- C. 22
- D. 17

**9. Solve  $[(150/20) \times 2]$ .**

- A. 7.5
- B. 37.5
- C. 15
- D. 60

**10. Solve  $x/24 = 6$ .**

- A. 4
- B. 144
- C. 18
- D. 0.25

**11. If  $y = 13$  and  $x = y/2$ , solve  $(5y) + (6x)$ .**

- A. 104
- B. 30.5
- C. 6.5
- D. 221

**EMT content - 6 topics (Airway, Cardiac, Medical Emergencies, Obstetrics/ Gynecology & Pediatrics, EMS Operations, Trauma)**

**12. A febrile 44 year old male complains of shortness of breath and has dull chest pain. He has been coughing up “rusty” sputum for the last 3 days. What is the most likely cause?**

- A. Pneumonia
- B. Congestive heart failure
- C. Emphysema
- D. Chronic bronchitis

**13. A 56 year old female has a complete airway obstruction from a piece of food. She becomes unconscious while you assess her. What should you do?**

- A. Begin chest compressions.
- B. Deliver up to 5 abdominal thrusts.
- C. Attempt to ventilate her.
- D. Perform a finger sweep.

**14. A 49 year old male complains of severe right upper quadrant abdominal pain and nausea. He is jaundiced and febrile. Vital signs are BP 98/60, P 92, R 16. What should you suspect?**

- A. Gall stones
- B. Pancreatitis
- C. Hepatitis
- D. Gastric ulcers

**15. A power line fell at the site of a car crash. You can hear a baby crying from inside the car. What should you do?**

- A. Push the power line away with a dry wooden stick.
- B. Approach the car on the opposite side of the power line.
- C. Call the fire department.
- D. Establish a danger zone around the power line.

**16. A newborn’s head just delivered and a nuchal cord is present. What should you do?**

- A. Apply a moist, sterile dressing to the cord.
- B. Attempt to slip the cord over the infant’s head.
- C. Insert two gloved fingers to relieve pressure on the cord.
- D. Apply two clamps and cut the cord between the clamps.

**17. An 18 year old female has an open femur fracture after falling off a horse. She is screaming in pain. What should you do?**

- A. Apply mechanical traction.
- B. Immobilize her onto a long backboard.
- C. Elevate her extremity.
- D. Assess for distal circulation.

## Answer Key

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. A
5. B
6. A
7. C
8. A
9. C
10. B
11. A
12. A
13. A
14. C
15. D
16. B
17. D

## Reading Comprehension

The exam also contains two reading comprehension passages. The first passage assesses reading comprehension at a 9th grade level and the second evaluates reading comprehension at the 11th grade level. Similar to other standardized tests, you will read the passage and then respond to multiple choice questions about the text. The questions will test your vocabulary as well as your ability to summarize, analyze, and make inferences.

For reading comprehension practice material, there are many free websites you can visit, including EReading Worksheets. Although we can recommend using supplemental materials as a study aid, Fisdap cannot guarantee the validity or veracity of these resources.

Follow these directions to take a sample practice reading comprehension quiz:

1. Goto <http://www.ereadingworksheets.com/free-reading-worksheets/reading-comprehension-worksheets/>
2. Scroll to the **Nonfiction Short Text with Review Questions** section.
3. Select the link for [Submarines | Nonfiction Reading Test 1 PDF](#).
4. Attempt the provided reading comprehension assignment.
5. Click [view answers](#) to grade yourself.

## Affective Domain

This section of the exam contains an assessment of the affective domain, which refers to how people react emotionally. The questionnaire is used primarily for research purposes. Results are combined with other data in order to develop norms, establish psychometric properties of these scales and questions, and to study various theoretical and practical issues within the field of personality psychology.

To give you an expectation of how to prepare for this section, here are the directions for answering the questions, exactly as they appear on the Entrance Exam.

- Without spending too much time dwelling on any one question, just give the first reaction that comes to mind.
- In order to score this exam accurately, it is very important that you answer every question, without skipping any. You may change an answer if you wish.
- It is ultimately in your best interest to respond as honestly as possible. Mark the response that best shows how you really feel or see yourself, not responses that you think might be desirable or ideal.

## Sample Questions

For the questions below, read the statement and think about which response most correctly describes your personality. These sample questions are not scored—they are only examples to help familiarize you with the formatting.

### 1. **Tend to speak my mind**

- A. Very inaccurate
- B. Moderately inaccurate
- C. Neither Accurate not inaccurate
- D. Moderately accurate
- E. Very accurate

### 2. **Task oriented**

- A. Very inaccurate
- B. Moderately inaccurate
- C. Neither Accurate not inaccurate
- D. Moderately accurate
- E. Very accurate

### 3. **Late for appointments**

- A. Very inaccurate
- B. Moderately inaccurate
- C. Neither Accurate not inaccurate
- D. Moderately accurate
- E. Very accurate



4. **Enjoy being in public settings**

- A. Very inaccurate
- B. Moderately inaccurate
- C. Neither Accurate not inaccurate
- D. Moderately accurate
- E. Very accurate

5. **Open to feedback**

- A. Very inaccurate
- B. Moderately inaccurate
- C. Neither Accurate not inaccurate
- D. Moderately accurate
- E. Very accurate