

MMI PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Why do you want to be a physical therapist? Discuss this question with the interviewer.
2. What experiences have you had (and what insights have you gained from these experiences) that lead you to believe you would be a good physical therapist? Discuss this question with the interviewer.
3. Is it ethical for physical therapists to strike? If so, under what conditions?
4. A message that recently appeared on the Web warned readers of the dangers of aspartame (artificial sweetener – Nutrasweet, Equal) as a cause of an epidemic of multiple sclerosis (a progressive chronic disease of the nervous system) and systemic lupus (a multisystem autoimmune disease). The biological explanation provided was that, at body temperature, aspartame releases wood alcohol (methanol), which turns into formic acid, which “is in the same class of drugs as cyanide and arsenic”. Formic acid, they argued, causes metabolic acidosis. Clinically, aspartame poisoning was argued to be a cause of joint pain, numbness, cramps, vertigo, headaches, depression, anxiety, slurred speech and blurred vision. The authors claimed that aspartame remains on the market because the food and drug industries have powerful lobbies in Congress. They quoted Dr. Russell Blaylock, who said, “The ingredients stimulate the neurons of the brain to death, causing brain damage of varying degrees”. Comment on this message, in terms of the strength of the arguments presented and their logical consistency. Your comments might include an indication of the issues that you would like to delve into further before assessing the validity of these claims.
5. Universities are commonly faced with the complicated task of balancing the educational needs of their students and the cost required to provide learning resources to a large number of individuals. As a result of this tension, there has been much debate regarding the optimal size of classes. One side argues that smaller classes provide a more educationally effective setting for students, while others argue that it makes no difference, so larger classes should be used to minimize the number of instructors required. Discuss your opinion on this issue with the interviewer.
6. Due to the shortage of physical therapists in rural communities of Northern Saskatchewan, it has been suggested that the physical therapy program preferentially admit students who are willing to commit to a 2- or 3-year tenure in an under-serviced area upon graduation. Consider the broad implications of this policy for health and health care costs. For example, do you think the approach will be effective? At what expense? Discuss this issue with the interviewer.
7. A Canadian bio-tech company was hired by the US Military to develop a cure for Ebola. They successfully developed a vaccine to treat the symptoms of the virus and lowered the mortality rate for infected patients. Discuss the implications of this on a global scale.
8. As one of the physical therapists at a local hospital, you notice that there is a man with an alcohol dependency who keeps on consuming the hand sanitizer offered at the hand sanitizer stands throughout the hospital. He is not a patient at the hospital at present but has been many times in the past. Consequently, there is often no hand sanitizer for public use. What do you do - do you remove/change location of hand sanitizer stands or approach him? Discuss the issue with the interviewer.
9. There is an outbreak of an incredibly contagious life-threatening disease. The disease is spreading across the country at a rapid rate and the survival rate is less than 50%. You are a senior health care administrator, and when the vaccine is developed, you have priority to receive the drug. Do you take the vaccine yourself or give it to another person? Why or why not?

10. You are a health researcher at an academic institution. You have been asked to work on a top-secret vaccine that would treat biomedical weapons or other communicable diseases. Before your break through, you are instructed by the government to stop all research and turn over all materials and copies of your work to be destroyed. You know you are very close to finding a cure. What do you do?
11. If the Prime Minister of Canada were to ask your advice on one change that could be applied to the healthcare system in Canada that would improve it enormously and have the greatest positive effect, how would you answer?
12. The man who lives next door to you often rides his bicycle in the company of his two young children but without a helmet. In fact, on several occasions you have seen him riding with his helmet hanging by its straps from the handlebars. His young children sometimes wear a helmet, sometimes not. If the man fell off his bicycle and hurt his head in a way that would have been prevented if he had worn a helmet, would it be reasonable to ask him to contribute towards the treatment costs for his injury?
13. Statistics have shown that effects of advanced age such as changes in vision and response time may adversely affect elderly drivers' ability to drive safely. As a precaution for their safety as well as the public's, do you think older drivers have to give up driving when they reach a certain age?
14. In recent years, there has been an increase in popularity of full contact sports, such as Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) and boxing. Should health care professionals have a role in regulating such sports?
15. Discuss the pros and cons of legalizing marijuana on the Canadian Health Care system. Would legalization cost the health care system more or less after it was passed?
16. Imagine your friend's father is 70 years old and has lived in Saskatoon his whole life. He is taken to the emergency department at the Royal University Hospital. He has had good health until now and this is the first time he has been to hospital of any kind since he was 20 years old. What changes in the healthcare system and environment in the hospital do you think he would notice?
17. Discuss any topical health care issue that is unique to Saskatchewan.
18. Discuss one of the following health care issues: AIDS, abortion, the right to die, the cost of health care.
19. How does the Canadian health care system compare to that of the United States (Medicare and Medicaid)?
20. How would you advise patients who are interested in visiting an acupuncturist or a chiropractor?