

**WESTERN UNIVERSTIY  
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY AND PHARMACOLOGY**

**PHYSIOLOGY 1021**

**MIDTERM 1**

**1 Hour Exam**

**DIRECTIONS FOR MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAMS:**

- AN **HB PENCIL** MUST BE USED TO FILL IN THE OVALS ON THE MARKS SHEET.
- **COMPLETELY** FILL THE CORRECT OVAL. A DOT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OVAL OR A LINE THROUGH THE OVAL WILL NOT BE READ BY THE SCANNER.
- A **WHITE NYLON ERASER** MUST BE USED TO MAKE ANY **CHANGES**. ERASE COMPLETELY AND CAREFULLY.

**DIRECTIONS FOR FILLING THE TOP HALF OF THE ANSWER SHEET:**

1. PRINT YOUR NAME, THE COURSE NAME AND THE COURSE NUMBER.
2. A PEN MUST BE USED FOR YOUR SIGNATURE.
3. **a.** RECORD **ALL** nine (9) digits of your student number under the heading **STUDENT NUMBER**. Fill in the ovals **completely** and **accurately**. Remember that the scanner will read the ovals so if you fill in an incorrect oval, your student number will appear incorrectly on the computer printout.  
  
**b.** **SECTION** digits must be filled in. The section digits to be used for this exam is **021**  
  
**c.** Fill in the **EXAM** CODE number below in the CODE section on the Scantron sheet **111**

**Please make sure that this booklet contains 35 questions.**

Hand in this booklet, along with the answer sheet, when you have completed the test. Fill in the information requested below.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching Assistant: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:** Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the **ONE** that is **BEST** in each case and blacken the appropriate space on the Scantron sheet.

1. When you were in grade 7, you attended a sleepover where you ate a whole bag of salt and vinegar chips to yourself. You did not consume any water at the time, and woke up the next morning with a bad headache. While you were consuming the chips, what were you doing to the osmolarity of your body fluids?
  - A. You were increasing the osmolarity of your interstitial fluid
  - B. You were decreasing the osmolarity of your intracellular fluid
  - C. You were decreasing the osmolarity of your extracellular fluid
  - D. You were increasing the osmolarity of your intracellular fluid
  
2. Which cell membrane component is **CORRECTLY** matched with its description?
  - A. Transmembrane protein - only found on one side of the membrane
  - B. Phospholipid - has a hydrophilic phosphate head
  - C. Peripheral protein - can act as an ion channel
  - D. Cholesterol - increases the water solubility of the membrane
  
3. Which type of local communication is **INCORRECTLY** matched with its description?
  - A. Gap Junctions - important in local communication in the heart
  - B. Autocrine Signaling - when a hormone released by a cell works on the same cell that released the hormone
  - C. Contact Dependent Signals - when a surface molecule from one cell interacts with a membrane protein from another cell
  - D. Paracrine Signaling - when a chemical signal released by a cell works on its neighbour
  
4. Which of the following would **INCREASE** the rate of diffusion of a lipid-soluble molecule?
  - A. Decreasing the surface area of the plasma membrane
  - B. Increasing the number of transporters in the membrane
  - C. Increasing the concentration gradient
  - D. Increasing the water solubility of the molecule

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5. You are talking to your friend about the sodium-potassium pump ( $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+$  ATPase) and its role in the maintenance of body homeostasis. You are shocked when you hear your friend say the following **FALSE** claim about the pump:
- A. "The sodium-potassium pump moves 3  $\text{Na}^+$  out of the cell"
  - B. "The sodium-potassium pump generates the resting membrane potential"
  - C. "The sodium-potassium pump is found within all cells in the body"
  - D. "The sodium-potassium pump moves 2 $\text{K}^+$  into the cell"
6. A red blood cell is placed in a solution of 150mM  $\text{BaCl}_2$ . What will happen to the red blood cell?
- A. The red blood cell will stay the same volume; the solution is isotonic
  - B. The red blood cell will swell; the solution is hypotonic
  - C. The red blood cell will shrink; the solution is hypertonic
  - D. The red blood cell will swell; the solution is hypertonic
7. Two compartments are separated by a semi-permeable membrane. Compartment A has 200 mM  $\text{KCl}$ . Compartment B has 200mM  $\text{NaCl}$ . The membrane is only permeable to sodium. After electrochemical equilibrium has been reached, which of the following statements is **TRUE**?
- A. Compartment A will have a negative charge relative to compartment B
  - B. The electrical gradient will be acting from B  $\rightarrow$  A
  - C. Potassium will not carry a charge in this example
  - D. Compartment A will have increased in osmolarity
8. Which component of the neuron is **INCORRECTLY** matched with its function/description?
- A. Soma - releases neurotransmitters
  - B. Myelin - insulates axon
  - C. Axon - propagates action potential
  - D. Node of Ranvier - contains voltage-gated channels
9. Which of the following is a characteristic shared by both graded potentials and action potentials?
- A. Can be caused by the movement of sodium
  - B. Only occur in the soma
  - C. Will always be the same amplitude
  - D. Can vary in duration

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10. Which statement best describes the status of the sodium voltage-gated channel during repolarization?
- A. The activation gate will be closed and the inactivation gate will be open
  - B. The activation gate and the inactivation gate will both be closed
  - C. The activation gate and the inactivation gate will both be open
  - D. The activation gate will be open and the inactivation gate will be closed
11. Myelinated axons propagate action potentials faster than non-myelinated axons because:
- A. Myelinated axons have larger diameters
  - B. Myelinated axons are shorter than non-myelinated axons
  - C. Non-myelinated axons have fewer voltage-gated channels
  - D. Myelinated axons are insulated from current leak
12. Which of the following statements concerning inner hair cells is **CORRECT**?
- A. they are auditory receptor cells in the inner ear that amplify the response of outer hair cells
  - B. they are auditory receptor cells in the inner ear that are primarily responsible for auditory transduction and the perception of pitch
  - C. they possess a motile response – a response to sound in which the cells move
  - D. they are more numerous than outer hair cells
13. Which of the following statements concerning the major divisions of the central nervous systems is **CORRECT**?
- A. the cerebrum is concerned with ipsilateral sensation and movement
  - B. the cerebellum is concerned with contralateral motor control
  - C. the brain stem is concerned with the control of voluntary functions
  - D. the spinal cord is the major conduit of information to and from the brain
14. Axons from which cell type form the auditory portion of the vestibulocochlear nerve?
- A. inner hair cell
  - B. outer hair cell
  - C. amacrine cell
  - D. spiral ganglion cell

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15. Which of the following statements concerning the arachnoid layer of the meninges is **CORRECT**?
- A. it is the layer closest to the cerebral cortex
  - B. it is the layer closest to the skull
  - C. it produces cerebrospinal fluid
  - D. cerebrospinal fluid is contained in the subarachnoid space
16. The postcentral gyrus is the site of which type of primary sensory cortex?
- A. visual
  - B. somatosensory
  - C. auditory
  - D. olfactory
17. Neurons in all of the following structures receive input from both ears, **EXCEPT**:
- A. inferior colliculus
  - B. cochlear nucleus
  - C. medial geniculate nucleus
  - D. superior olive (superior olivary nucleus)
18. Which of the following statements concerning the eye is **CORRECT**?
- A. nasal retina is lateral to temporal retina
  - B. the iris is posterior to the lens
  - C. the cornea is anterior to the iris
  - D. the optic disk is found in temporal retina
19. Which region of the skin surface is likely to have the lowest or smallest two-point discriminations threshold?
- A. thigh
  - B. shoulder
  - C. forehead
  - D. cheek
20. The cell bodies of bipolar cells can be found in which layer of the retina?
- A. inner plexiform layer
  - B. inner nuclear layer
  - C. outer plexiform layer
  - D. outer nuclear layer

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21. Mechanoreceptors can be distinguished from one another based upon adaptation rates and receptive field sizes. Which of the following mechanoreceptors is slowly adapting and possesses small receptive fields?
- A. merkel's disks
  - B. meissner's corpuscles
  - C. ruffini's endings
  - D. pacinian corpuscles
22. Destruction of the right primary visual cortex would result in which functional deficit?
- A. loss of vision in the right monocular crescent
  - B. loss of vision in the right hemifield
  - C. loss of vision in the left monocular crescent
  - D. loss of vision in the left hemifield
23. Which statement is **ACCURATE** about hormones?
- A. they mostly act through autocrine signaling
  - B. they only have effects on target cells with a receptor to that hormone
  - C. they circulate in the blood, just as neurotransmitters do
  - D. they are only released by glands in the body
24. Cholesterol is an important molecule for endocrine physiology. Which one of the statements below is **CORRECT**?
- A. cholesterol is required to make the hormone cortisol
  - B. hormones made from cholesterol are hydrophilic
  - C. hormones made from cholesterol always act on plasma membrane receptors
  - D. cholesterol is the precursor of all hypothalamic hormones
25. Which of the following pairs of hormones are **NOT CORRECT**?
- A. Thyroid stimulating hormone causes the production of  $T_3$  and  $T_4$
  - B. Adrenocorticotrophic hormone causes the release of cortisol
  - C. Corticotropin releasing hormone causes ACTH to be released
  - D. GnRH causes the release of growth hormone

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26. Which would be **CORRECT** about thyroxine?
- A. two DIT's must be coupled together to make this hormone
  - B. iodide is made by follicular cells in order to produce thyroxine
  - C. we cannot store thyroid hormone in the thyroid, so we make it on demand
  - D. thyroglobulin is moved across the follicular cell using a transporter and facilitated diffusion
27. Your friend complains she is gaining weight all over her body, is cold, has a slow heart rate, and seems to be always tired. You ask her to see the doctor because you think she has what condition?
- A. Too little T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> being released
  - B. Cushing's disease
  - C. Hyperthyroidism
  - D. Diabetes insipidus
28. Which one of the following statements **CORRECTLY** describes negative feedback for thyroid hormone?
- A. when thyroid hormone levels rise, a hormone released by the hypothalamus is decreased, but the anterior pituitary is not affected
  - B. when thyroid hormone levels decrease, negative feedback is no longer happening
  - C. when thyroid hormone levels rise, the amount of TRH released increases
  - D. when thyroid hormone levels decrease, less trophic hormone is released into the blood
29. A person has too much circulating cortisol. Which statement is **ACCURATE** about this situation?
- A. they would have very low blood glucose
  - B. they would die from any type of stress
  - C. they must have high levels of TSH
  - D. they would have weak muscles with muscle atrophy
30. Which statement is **CORRECT** about a glucocorticoid?
- A. these hormones act on plasma membrane receptors
  - B. this is a class of amine hormones
  - C. this class of hormones is made in the zona glomerulosa
  - D. this hormone is released when ACTH is circulating in the blood

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31. Blood glucose levels are tightly regulated. Which one of the following is **TRUE** about blood glucose regulation?
- A. epinephrine (adrenaline) acts to lower blood glucose
  - B. alpha cells of the pancreas release glucagon, which affects blood glucose
  - C. insulin is released to increase blood glucose
  - D. cortisol and insulin both use intracellular receptors to signal cells and regulate blood glucose



**Directions:** For each of the incomplete statements/questions below, ONE or MORE of the completions/answers given is/are correct.

**Answer:** (A) if only 1,2 and 3 are correct  
(B) if only 1 and 3 are correct  
(C) if only 2 and 4 are correct  
(D) if only 4 is correct  
(E) if ALL are correct

32. Which lesion(s) of the visual pathway would result in a loss of visual perception in the contralateral visual field?

- 1) lesion of the optic nerve
- 2) lesion of the optic tract
- 3) lesion of the optic chiasm
- 4) lesion of the optic radiation

33. Which statements(s) concerning the dorsal processing stream in extrastriate visual cortex is/are **CORRECT**?

- 1) it is involved in spatial analysis
- 2) it terminates in parietal cortex
- 3) it is involved in the visual control of movement
- 4) it is involved in the perception of motion

34. In which of the following scenarios could a goitre develop?

- 1) If TRH levels were very low
- 2) If TSH levels were very high
- 3) If a person had hyperthyroidism but not hypothyroidism
- 4) If a person's body made a protein (antibody) that turned on the TSH receptor continuously

35. What is TRUE regarding phototransduction?

- 1) ganglion cells convert light to a graded potential
- 2) when pigment epithelial cells reach threshold, an action potential is generated
- 3) the fovea has no neurons so it is also called the blind spot
- 4) light that is detected by the retina must pass through many neuron layers