

**TECHNICAL ITEM FLAWS** make it easier to spot the correct answer, even if you don't know the material. Please look out for these types of questions!

1. Items that use absolute terms, such as “always” or “never” are used in the response options

**EXAMPLE:** *In patients with advanced dementia, Alzheimer's type, the memory defect*

- A. *can be treated adequately with phosphatidylcholine (lecithin)*
- B. *could be a sequela of early parkinsonism*
- C. *is never seen in patients with neurofibrillary tangles at autopsy*
- D. *is never severe*
- E. *possibly involves the cholinergic system*

2. Items that use negatives in the stem:

**EXAMPLE:** *Each of the following is correct EXCEPT*

- A. *this answer*
- B. *that answer*
- C. *yesterday's answer*
- D. *tomorrow's answer*
- E. *someone else's answer*

3. Long correct answer, where the correct answer is longer, more specific, or more complete than other options

**EXAMPLE:** *Secondary gain is*

- A. *synonymous with malingering*
- B. *a frequent problem in obsessive-compulsive disorder*
- C. *a complication of a variety of illnesses and tends to prolong many of them*
- D. *never seen in organic brain damage*

4. Grammatical cues: one or more distractors don't follow grammatically from the stem

**EXAMPLE:** *A 60-year-old man is brought to the emergency department by the police, who found him lying unconscious on the sidewalk. After ascertaining that the airway is open, the first step in management should be intravenous administration of*

- A. *examination of cerebrospinal fluid*
- B. *glucose with vitamin B1 (thiamine)*
- C. *CT scan of the head*
- D. *phenytoin*
- E. *diazepam*