

Answering Key Feature Problems- 'Is it really a problem?'

Tips and Tricks

1. Read the clinical scenario carefully, at least twice, and select the key features of the case
2. Read the question carefully. Often the candidates provide answers appropriate to the scenario but do not answer specific question asked. If the question is asking investigations, DO NOT answer with examination, history or management steps
3. Give your answers in context to the scenario provided- take note of the things such as the gender and age, as the critical steps may be different depending on these factors
4. Give the correct number of answers, if the question asks for five answers DO NOT provide six or more answers, as you may be penalized for giving too many answers
5. The question may ask for 'note form'- this is a few words only, not a paragraph to justify your answer or to try and impress the examiners with everything that you know about the subject
6. Be specific. Generalizations do not score well. E.g. referral- general examination- start medication. Expand these references more specifically e.g. refer to paediatrician- urgent referral to appropriate specialist , if that is warranted by the clinical scenario
7. Separate each answer. Ample lines are provided for each answer
8. Watch your spelling. You are not penalized for bad spellings but please ensure that your answer is legible and makes sense
9. DO NOT USE abbreviations. They can mean different things. E.g. IBD might mean Irritable bowel Disease OR Inflammatory Bowel Disease

How to translate a clinical scenario into KFP question?

KFP questions are designed to assess the clinical reasoning and decision making skills. As such, they are close transcription of a GP clinical scenario.

KFPs are written by a GPs, then reviewed and re-reviewed by a panel of examiners before appearing in the exam.

Learning the art of translating a clinical scenario into KFP question, will help

- (1) summarizing the consultation,
- (2) Identifying gaps in knowledge,
- (3) Structuring the consultation,
- (4) Understanding the expectation of the examiners, when answering them in the exam.

Once translation from clinical scenario into KFP question is learned, it is also possible to visualize a clinical scenario based on the given KFP question, which is our ultimate aim.

With patient centred consulting model in mind, in a clinical scenario try to analyse the following (RICE)

1. Reason of his presentation
2. Ideas of his problems / issues
3. Concerns
4. Expectations

After 'presenting complaints, and focussed history taking' –summarize it to the patient, & (in the back ground) list the following”

1. “Key History points”
2. “Issues in the presentation”
3. “List of problem” or “Problem definition”

Now, list the DD based on the information using John Murtagh’s model of “Most likely” and “Most important”

Before conducting directed physical examination & office tests, list “Most relevant PE that is needed in this case”

Again, based on the new information, list the DD using John Murtagh’s model of “Most likely” and “Most important”

Now list the investigations needed to reach a diagnosis. Make sure you have a evidence based, logical reason and expected result, when ordering a test. List the following:

1. “Initial investigations”
2. “Diagnostic investigations”
3. “Confirmatory tests”
4. “Office tests”
5. “Tests needed for diagnosis”

Finally, list your diagnosis.

Based on the diagnosis(s), discuss the management plan in list form. Be precise and specific. Do not forget to organize a follow up as needed.

1. “Initial management plan”
2. “Long term management plan”

Given Clinical Data	Clinical Decision or Action	Qualifier
A complaint	Elicit historical information	None
Symptoms	Interpret physical findings	Immediate
Signs	Order investigations	Initial
Laboratory results	Management goals/decisions	Definitive
Diagnosis(es)	Prescribe drugs/actions	Most important
Treatment outcomes	Follow-up	
	Make a diagnosis	
	Generate a differential diagnosis	

Summary

Practice construction KFPs in your Day-To-Day general practice

1. Select a clinical problem (and an age group).
2. Pose the question, "What are the critical steps in the resolution of this problem (for patients in this age group)?"
3. Think of instances -- patients who present in different ways with this problem.
4. List the key features for these patients, some that will be unique to specific patients, and others that will be common across patients.
5. Select a case, write the case scenario.
6. Write questions and scoring keys which test the key features of the case. The question should be relevant and linked to the scenario. If you are able to answer the question by its own, it probably is not a good KFP question.

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