1.) This item will be testing Detailed Content Outline (DCO) task IB3f (cognitive level: recall):
   I. DRIVER’S MEDICAL INFORMATION
      B. Physical Examination and Evaluation
         3. Examine the driver’s eyes and note
            f. reactivity to light and pupillary equality

According to FMCSA regulations, which of the following must the medical examiner evaluate when examining a driver's eyes?

A. Pupil reactivity  
B. Iris symmetry  
C. Conjunctival injection  
D. Corneal thickness

**Correct Response:**

A. Pupil reactivity  
This is the correct response because it is the only option that is included on the Medical Examination Report Form for physical examination of the eyes. This is a cranial nerve test. A positive finding indicates a significant neurological problem that must be worked up or have an explanation that clarifies whether or not the driver has a condition that may interfere with the ability to safely operate a CMV.

**Incorrect Responses:**

B. Iris symmetry  
This is incorrect because determining iris symmetry is not required by FMCSA.

C. Conjunctival injection  
This is incorrect because most causes of conjunctival injection would not be disqualifying. Causes that are suspicious for a disqualifying condition need additional evaluation. While this abnormal finding should be explained, with determination of possible effects on safe driving before making a certification decision, it is not a condition that is specified in FMCSA regulations.

D. Corneal thickness  
This is incorrect because it is not measured in an office examination except by an eye specialist.
II. DETERMINATION OF DRIVER'S QUALIFICATIONS AND DISPOSITION
   C. Certification Outcomes and Intervals
      6. Certify a driver for an appropriate interval

According to FMCSA regulations, medical qualification for two years can be given to a driver who has

A. An SPE certificate for a left below the knee amputation (BKA).
B. Hypertension.
C. A recent diagnosis of Lewy body dementia.
D. Documented medical marijuana use for pain control.

Correct Response:

**A. An SPE certificate for a left below the knee amputation.** This is the correct response because in order to obtain the SPE certificate, the driver had to demonstrate the ability to perform all tasks for the commercial driver job description.

Incorrect Responses:

**B. Hypertension.**
This is not the correct response because drivers with hypertension are only given a medical certificate that is good for one year.

**C. A recent diagnosis of Lewy body dementia.** This is not the correct response because this is a progressive, degenerative condition with no known treatment. The effects of Lewy body dementia impact the ability to operate a CMV safely.

**D. Documented medical marijuana use for pain control**
This is not the correct response because marijuana remains a drug listed in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. It remains unacceptable for any safety sensitive employee subject to drug testing under the drug testing regulations of DOT to use marijuana. Also, FMCSA medical guidelines state that “driving impairment due to marijuana use is well substantiated.”
3.) This item will be testing DCO task IB11e (cognitive level: application):

I. DRIVER’S MEDICAL INFORMATION
   B. Physical Examination and Evaluation
      11. Examine the driver’s extremities and note
          e. handgrip and prehension relative to requirements for controlling a
             steering wheel and gear shift

During his visit to the medical examiner, a driver complains of severe pain in his finger for the last two
weeks after it was punctured. The examination reveals an infected, swollen finger. After the medical
examiner inquires, the driver states that the pain is made worse when he grips the steering wheel.
Which of the following should the medical examiner do next?

   A. Obtain a hand X-ray.
   B. Assess capillary refill in the hand.
   C. Obtain a culture and sensitivity.
   D. Assess the driver’s grip strength.

Correct Response:
D. Assess the driver’s grip strength.
This is the correct response because the condition does not present a safety risk unless it interferes
with the ability of the driver to hold and control the steering wheel.

Incorrect Responses:
A. Obtain a hand X-ray.
This is not the correct response because this is a diagnostic test that a healthcare provider or
specialist would perform or order. Your role as a medical examiner is to determine if the condition
interferes with the ability of the driver to safely operate a CMV.

B. Assess capillary refill in the hand.
This is not the correct response because given the information in the question it is not the primary
consideration for determining if the driver can safely operate a CMV.

C. Obtain a culture and sensitivity.
This is not the correct response because this is an action that a treating healthcare provider or
specialist would do in the course workup and treatment. Your role as a medical examiner is to
determine if the condition interferes with the ability of the driver to safely operate a CMV.
II. DETERMINATION OF DRIVER’S QUALIFICATIONS AND DISPOSITION
   C. Certification Outcomes and Intervals
      8. Advise a driver certified with a limited interval to return for recertification with the appropriate documentation for his or her condition

A new driver who had a myocardial infarction six months ago is certified after completing an acceptable exercise tolerance test and is cleared by a cardiologist. According to FMCSA guidelines, which of the following is recommended regarding recertification and exercise tolerance test monitoring intervals?

Recertification Exercise tolerance

A. Every year Every year
B. Every two years Every year
C. Every year Every two years
D. Every two years Every two years

Correct Response:
C. Every year; every two years

This is the correct response because according to FMCSA medical guidelines, when a myocardial infarction is part of the medical history, there is a significant increased risk for another myocardial infarction to occur within six months to a year; therefore, a maximum of one year certification is the guideline. Myocardial infarction guidelines also recommend exercise tolerance testing at least every two years to demonstrate continued ability to safely operate a CMV.

Incorrect Responses:
A. every year; every year
This is not the correct response because the FMCSA medical guidance is to obtain an exercise tolerance test every two years. In this question, there is nothing to indicate that more frequent testing is necessary.

B. every two years; every year
This is not the correct response because it reverses the guidelines. Even if you do not recall the recommendation, logically, one would eliminate this option because having the driver obtain a test every year and then waiting for up to a year to review the test results is not reasonable when unacceptable test results indicate the driver may not be able to safely operate a CMV.

D. every two years; every two years
This is not the correct response because the guideline is to recertify every year. Even if you do not recall the actual guideline, one would logically eliminate this option because this is the maximum recertification period for a driver who meets all qualification requirements. It is appropriate that a driver at increased risk for an incapacitating cardiac event should be monitored more frequently.
5.) **This item will be testing DCO task IA3a (cognitive level: analysis):**

I. DRIVER’S MEDICAL INFORMATION
   A. Identification and History
      3. Identify, query, and note issues in a driver’s medical record and / or health history as available, which may include
         a. specifics regarding any affirmative responses in the history

A 46-year-old male driver presents for recertification. He has a history of chronic gastro esophageal reflux disease (GERD). He takes esomeprazole (Nexium) and over-the-counter cimetidine (Tagamet). He states that he feels fine, but has trouble finding foods that do not trigger his GERD when he is on the road. Which of the following should the medical examiner do first?

   A. Disqualify the driver until he has a nutritional consultation.
   B. Certify the driver and advise him to carry non-triggering foods in a cooler.
   C. Contact the driver’s physician and request an upper GI study.
   D. Correlate the GI history findings with the abdominal examination.

**Correct Response:**
**D. Correlate the GI history findings with the abdominal examination.**
This is the correct response because given the information in the question; a medical examiner would need to examine the driver before having sufficient information about the health of the driver to consider any of the other options.

**Incorrect Responses:**

**A. Disqualify the driver until he has a nutritional consultation.**
This is not the correct response because until completion of the examination, there is insufficient information to make a certification decision. In addition, there is no regulation or medical guideline that requires a nutritional consultation in order to be certified.

**B. Certify the driver and advise him to carry non-triggering foods in a cooler.**
This is not the correct response because until completion of the examination, there is insufficient information to make a certification decision.

**C. Contact the driver’s primary care provider and request an upper-GI study.**
This is not the correct response because until completion of the examination, one does not have sufficient information to make a referral decision.
6.) This item will be testing DCO task II C3 (cognitive level: analysis):

II. DETERMINATION OF DRIVER’S QUALIFICATIONS AND DISPOSITION
   C. Certification Outcomes and Intervals
      3. Disqualify a driver when evidence shows a condition exists that will likely interfere with the safe operation of a CMV, which may include sufficient supporting opinions and information from specialists

A 25-year-old female driver denies a history of any medical problems. She is a nonsmoker who exercises regularly without symptoms. The medical examiner auscultates bilateral wheezes during the examination. The driver's SpO2 is 90 percent in the medical examiner's office. The rest of the examination is normal. The driver should be

   A. Temporarily disqualified pending results of a cardiac workup.
   B. Qualified since she has no cardiac symptoms.
   C. Temporarily disqualified until further evaluation.
   D. Qualified because her O2 saturation exceeds the minimum.

Correct Response:

   C. Temporarily disqualified until further evaluation.

This is the correct response because the driver has a non-diagnosed respiratory or thoracic illness that might interfere with the ability to safely operate a CMV. The driver should not be certified until the etiology is confirmed and treatment has been shown to be effective, safe, and stable. Also, according to FMCSA medical guidelines, a SpO2 of less than 92 percent warrants obtaining an arterial blood gas analysis.

Incorrect Responses:

   A. Temporarily disqualified pending results of a cardiac workup.
   This is not the correct response because while it is correct that the driver should not be certified, there is nothing in the question data that indicates evaluation should be limited to the heart.

   B. Qualified since she has no cardiac symptoms.
   This is not the correct response because the information in the question does not provide sufficient data to rule out the presence of a disqualifying cardiac or other thoracic problem.

   D. Qualified because her O2 saturation exceeds the minimum.
   This is not the correct response because according to FMCSA guidelines, a SpO2 of less than 92 percent warrants obtaining an arterial blood gas analysis.