



# ITEM WRITING CHECKLIST FOR EMS EDUCATORS

Ask yourself these questions about your class tests and quizzes:

|    |                                                                                                                                                 |                                 |                                |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 01 | Did I use concepts (like shock, airway, trauma) and change them from simple definition questions to more assessment and intervention questions? | YES<br><input type="checkbox"/> | NO<br><input type="checkbox"/> |
| 02 | Does each question test one concept, with a single correct answer?                                                                              | YES<br><input type="checkbox"/> | NO<br><input type="checkbox"/> |
| 03 | Is the essential clinical information in the stem?                                                                                              | YES<br><input type="checkbox"/> | NO<br><input type="checkbox"/> |
| 04 | Have I edited the stem down so I'm testing knowledge, not reading ability?                                                                      | YES<br><input type="checkbox"/> | NO<br><input type="checkbox"/> |
| 05 | Did I avoid negative stems, absolutes, "all/none of the above," and trick formats?                                                              | YES<br><input type="checkbox"/> | NO<br><input type="checkbox"/> |
| 06 | Are my distractors plausible, similar in length and style, and free of obvious clues?                                                           | YES<br><input type="checkbox"/> | NO<br><input type="checkbox"/> |
| 07 | Is every item clinically relevant, noncontroversial, and supported by course references or accepted standards?                                  | YES<br><input type="checkbox"/> | NO<br><input type="checkbox"/> |

If you can say "yes" to all of these questions, you're building your students' ability to think for the NREMT.