

Body System Assessment

The attached exercise is designed to help students wrap their head around body system exams as a precursor to differential diagnostic decision-making.

This exercise can be used for any level of EMS provider. The only difference between levels will be the tools in their toolbox (e.g., paramedics will have cardiac monitoring and 12-lead capability).

The first page is used to help students determine which body system exams may be required in certain chief complaints. This is far from an exercise where students will all have the same right or wrong answers. The goal is to facilitate thinking. One student may say that they would assess the musculoskeletal system for the patient who fell and fractured their wrist. Another may choose to examine other systems to determine if a medical condition caused the fall. Let students talk about this as you facilitate. Steer as necessary.

The next 10 pages contain blanks where students write down physical exam techniques or history questions as part of assessing a particular body system. As the instructor/facilitator you must make sure that the vital elements in each section are covered. There is a lot of variability in answers but in the cardiovascular system you would want your students to ask about chest pain and SOB, check for pedal edema, ascites, and JVD; ask about orthopnea, palpitations, and dyspnea on exertion.

You should now be seeing the power of this exercise. Allow students to use their book and other sources as they complete these. Most importantly, be sure the students have an accurate and thorough picture of assessing each body system.

We haven't given you all of the possible answers below in a key. There are too many possibilities—and we believe your students will think of things you haven't even dreamed of yet!

Enjoy!

Body System Assessment

For each of the following complaints, list the body system or systems you would assess.

Altered mental status

Breathing difficulty

Chest discomfort

Weak and dizzy

General malaise

Abdominal pain (male and female)

Headache

Syncopy

Seizure

Cardiac Arrest

Fall with fractured wrist

Dynamic Learning Exercise

List at least five assessments or history questions for each of the following body systems. Use your textbook and other appropriate online references as necessary.

Respiratory System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the respiratory system:



Cardiovascular System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the cardiovascular system:

Dynamic Learning Exercise

Gastrointestinal/Genitourinary System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the GI/GU system:



Dynamic Learning Exercise

Female Reproductive System (GYN)

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the female reproductive system:

Dynamic Learning Exercise

Obstetric Assessment

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the obstetric/OB patient:



Dynamic Learning Exercise

Neurological System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the neurological system:



Dynamic Learning Exercise

Immune System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the immune system:

Dynamic Learning Exercise

Endocrine System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the endocrine system:

Dynamic Learning Exercise

Musculoskeletal System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the musculoskeletal system:



Body System Assessment

For each of the following complaints, list the body system or systems you would assess.

Altered mental status

Breathing difficulty

Chest discomfort

Weak and dizzy

General malaise

Abdominal pain (male and female)

Headache

Syncopy

Seizure

Cardiac Arrest

Fall with fractured wrist



Body System Assessment

List at least five assessments or history questions for each of the following body systems. Use your textbook and other appropriate online references as necessary.

Respiratory System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the respiratory system:

Cardiovascular System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the cardiovascular system:

Gastrointestinal/Genitourinary System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the GI/GU system:

Dynamic Learning Exercise

Female Reproductive System (GYN)

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the female reproductive system:



Dynamic Learning Exercise

Obstetric Assessment

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the obstetric/OB patient:



Dynamic Learning Exercise

Neurological System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the neurological system:



Dynamic Learning Exercise

Immune System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the immune system:

Dynamic Learning Exercise

Endocrine System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the endocrine system:

Dynamic Learning Exercise

Musculoskeletal System

Assessment or History Question	Anticipated Benefit/Result
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
Additional/Notes	

List complaints/conditions involving the musculoskeletal system: