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# INTRODUCTION

Multiple choice, extended matching, best of five and problem solving questions are now ubiquitous in medical graduate and postgraduate examinations. They provide a rapid method for testing a wide range of knowledge and marking is objective. The authors of this book, who are all practising physicians who have taught clinical pharmacology and therapeutics for many years, have based it on the fifth edition of *Textbook of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics* not only to prepare students for their exams but also to emphasize the principles and facts that are the key to safe and effective prescribing.

The answers are related to the relevant section in *Textbook of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, Fifth Edition. In addition there are brief explanatory annotations in the answer to each question.

Although this book can 'stand alone', we recommend that students will read a section of the main textbook and then reinforce and revise their knowledge by self testing using the self assessment book. At the end of the book is a practice examination of 50 'Best one correct answer of five' questions, the type currently most favoured in medical examinations, followed by five problem solving questions. This examination covers the spectrum of topics that may be encountered in a final MB (medical degree) examination or even in some postgraduate examinations (e.g. American Board of Clinical Pharmacology, Inc.). We suggest that students use this as a 'practice run' after finishing their revision of the subject as a whole. It is best to do it 'blind' at one sitting lasting not more than 60 minutes.

We thank the generations of students who have provided critical feedback and Val Brockwell for her word processing skills and patience.

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