Small Teaching & MCQ Alternatives

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Outline

“Small Teaching”

MCQ Alternatives

- Low-Stakes Assessments
- Parajumble
- First Solve, Then Answer
- Extended matching
ALTERNATIVES TO THE MCQ
Extended Matching

- High reliability
- Well suited to testing core knowledge
- Includes 4 elements
  - Theme
  - Option list
  - Lead-in statement
  - Item stems
First Solve, Then Answer

One of the following statements is wrong. Identify which one is incorrect, and then rewrite it so that it is correct.

A. Moonshine is made from corn.  
B. Rum is made from potatoes.  
C. Wine is made from grapes.  
D. Tequila is made from agave.
Choose the most logical diagnostic sequence from among the given choices for a 3-year-old, intact female Chihuahua

1. Hard, smooth object noted in caudal abdomen on abdominal palpation
2. Frequent urination & hematuria
3. Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid 62.5 mg BID PO, 2 weeks
4. Urinalysis positive for leukocytes

Choices
A: 1324
B: 3142
C: 2143
D: 1423
Mostly MCQ with others sprinkled in
Fact Sheet

- Mechanism
- Organism
- Disease
- Research study recruitment
SMALL TEACHING

James M. Lang

Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Learning

2016
Book Chapter Format

• Chapter Theme

Evidence & Theory  Models  Principles  Quick Tips
Retrieving

• Retrieval effect
  – Opening questions
  – Closing questions
Predicting

- Ungraded pre-tests
- Clicker prediction
- Opening or closing predictions
Understanding

• What do you already know?
• What do you want to know?
Practicing

• Completing tasks automatically
• But not *too* automatically

• Create practice opportunities
• Space out the practice
• Provide feedback
Self-Explanation

• Why are you doing that?
• Peer instruction