



UWORLD BEST PRACTICES

STEPS TO APPROACH QUESTIONS:

1. Read the question first. Always.
2. Read all the answers. Make one key association with each answer—whatever comes to mind. Ask yourself: what key lab value / physical exam maneuver / piece of history, radiology, etc. would I EXPECT to see in the stem if this were the correct answer?
3. Read the stem, and eliminate answers that are inconsistent with clues
4. Pick the answer you feel answers the question best

MISTAKES TO AVOID

- Avoid waiting too long to start tackling practice questions.
- Don't neglect the explanations. Read explanations for the correct AND incorrect answer choices
- Remember to link UWorld review with First Aid material
- Focusing on % correct instead of mastering material
- Don't only work through QBank once. Complete more than one pass.
- Only using tutoring blocks. Utilize timed blocks to prepare for the exam.
- Avoid using UWorld on the go. Focus on the material in a focused study environment.
- Don't skip questions you don't like.
- Don't postpone questions because you don't feel ready.
- Remember that UWorld is no replacement for NBMEs

WITH NBMES

- NBME practice exams help you gauge your progress as you move through UWorld
- Take a practice exam early — about 1/3 of the way through first pass of UWorld to get a sense of your starting point.
- As you go through UWorld, take one NBME every ~2 weeks (depending on your study timeline)
- Remember that NBMEs are more predictive of actual performance toward the end of a pass through UWorld.
- Ideally, take the last NBME no closer than 10-14 days from your desired test date.

MAXIMIZE VALUE

- Take questions in timed, random mode
- Look at incorrect question explanations once, then take a break
- Do 2nd pass through and make flashcards of questions that are still incorrect
- Each minute on question = 3 minutes reviewing answer explanation (review 5-6 questions at a time)
 - Focus on incorrect questions
 - Read "summary and recommendations" and "educational objectives"
 - Mentally create alternate stems that would have made other answers correct
- Understand questions well enough to explain them to other people
- If you have issues with pacing, cut down time for your sections to get used to moving fast