

Starter:

Read the questions below and consider your answer.

You may be asked to answer verbally:

1. What are the **hallmarks** of a viral infection?
2. In your opinion, how can medical research **pave the way** for the future of medicine?
3. What is your stance on the following idea: some medical advice should act as a **deterrent** to prevent patients from engaging in bad lifestyle choices.

Spelling test:

1. unravel
2. plummeted
3. plight
4. stumped
5. pivotal
6. keep abreast of
7. nagging
8. harness
9. tentative
10. reminisce
11. inextricably
12. downcast
13. ill-conceived
14. vivid
15. far-reaching
16. phantom

1. **Phrase: To stay informed about the latest developments or changes in a particular field or topic**
Healthcare professionals must **keep abreast of** the latest advancements in medical technology to provide optimal care for their patients.
2. **Noun: A difficult or adverse situation, often one that elicits sympathy or concern**
The refugee camp faced a very difficult **plight**, lacking adequate medical supplies and sanitation facilities.
3. **Adjective: Persistently bothersome or causing persistent annoyance**
A **nagging** cough persisted despite multiple treatments, prompting further investigation into its underlying cause.
4. **Verb: To utilize or control something for a particular purpose or goal**
Researchers are exploring ways to **harness** stem cells for regenerative therapies in spinal cord injuries.
5. **Adjective: Of crucial importance or significance, often playing a central or essential role in a situation, event, or process**
Early detection is **pivotal** in successfully treating many forms of cancer.
6. **Verb: To fall or drop rapidly and steeply**
The patient's blood pressure **plummeted** dangerously, requiring immediate intervention to stabilize it.
7. **Adverb: In a manner that cannot be disentangled or separated from something else, usually suggesting a strong or complex connection**
Mental health and physical well-being are often **inextricably** linked, influencing one another significantly.
8. **Adjective/Noun: Something that is perceived, sensed, or believed to be present but lacks physical reality; often used to describe something ghostly or elusive**
The patient described a **phantom** sensation in the amputated limb, feeling as though it was still present.
9. **Verb: To recall or talk about past experiences, events, or moments, often with fondness or nostalgia**
The elderly patient wanted to **reminisce** about the old hospital where they had worked as a nurse many years ago.
10. **Adjective: Extending over a great distance or having a significant, widespread influence or consequences**
The consequences of untreated hypertension can be **far-reaching**, impacting not only the heart but also the kidneys and eyes.
11. **Verb: To solve, disentangle, or clarify something that is complicated, confusing, or mysterious**
The team worked tirelessly to **unravel** the complex genetic factors contributing to the rare disease.
12. **Adjective/Verb: To be puzzled, unable to find a solution or answer to a problem or question**
Despite thorough examinations, the doctors were **stumped** by the sudden onset of the patient's symptoms.
13. **Adjective: Feeling sad, disheartened, or dejected**
The news of the diagnosis left her feeling **downcast**, evident in her demeanour during the consultation.
14. **Adjective: Done or made uncertainly, hesitantly, or with caution, often subject to change or further consideration**
The doctor provided a **tentative** diagnosis, pending the results of additional tests for confirmation.
15. **Adjective: Poorly planned or thought out, lacking sound reasoning or foresight**
The **ill-conceived** dietary plan resulted in severe nutritional deficiencies for the patient.
16. **Adjective: Extremely clear, detailed, and lifelike in appearance or perception**
The patient recounted **vivid** details of the accident, describing the event with remarkable clarity despite the trauma.