

Here is a **reorganized, verified, and complete set of 100 USMLE-style MCQs** based on the provided CNS Physiology notes:

Vestibular System (10 Questions)

1. **Which structure detects vertical linear acceleration?**

- A. Utricle
- B. Sacculle
- C. Semicircular canals
- D. Cupula

Answer: B

2. **During constant head rotation, semicircular canals are:**

- A. Depolarized
- B. Hyperpolarized
- C. Inactive
- D. Overstimulated

Answer: C

3. **Bending stereocilia away from the kinocilium results in:**

- A. Depolarization
- B. Hyperpolarization
- C. Increased neurotransmitter release
- D. Calcium influx

Answer: B

4. **The vestibulo-ocular reflex is characterized by:**

- A. Eyes moving in the same direction as head rotation
- B. Nystagmus defined by the slow phase
- C. Fast phase resetting eye position
- D. Loss of balance during rapid movement

Answer: C

5. **A patient with bilateral vestibular dysfunction can maintain balance if:**

- A. Eyes are closed
- B. Moving rapidly
- C. Eyes are open and movement is slow
- D. Standing on one leg

Answer: C

6. **Otoliths are composed of:**

- A. Collagen fibers
- B. Calcium carbonate crystals
- C. Sodium chloride
- D. Potassium channels

Answer: B

7. **The cupula is a gelatinous structure found in the:**

- A. Utricle
- B. Sacculle
- C. Ampulla of semicircular canals

D. Macula

****Answer: C****

8. ****Which pathway is involved in conscious awareness of head position?****

A. Spinal cord → cerebellum

B. Thalamus → parietal lobe

C. Vestibular nuclei → CN III

D. Reticular formation → medulla

****Answer: B****

9. ****Loss of the utricle would impair detection of:****

A. Vertical acceleration

B. Horizontal acceleration

C. Rotational movement

D. Gravity

****Answer: B****

10. ****The fast phase of nystagmus is directed:****

A. Opposite to head movement

B. Toward the damaged vestibular apparatus

C. Same as head movement

D. Downward

****Answer: C****

****Motor Cortex (10 Questions)****

11. ****Lesion of the supplementary motor area causes difficulty with:****

- A. Speech production
- B. Bilateral coordination
- C. Handwriting
- D. Eye tracking

****Answer: B****

12. ****Broca's area lesion results in:****

- A. Receptive aphasia
- B. Expressive aphasia
- C. Alexia
- D. Ataxia

****Answer: B****

13. ****The primary motor cortex is responsible for:****

- A. Planning movement
- B. Coordinating bilateral movements
- C. Executing fine motor control
- D. Regulating muscle tone

****Answer: C****

14. ****The corticospinal tract decussates at the:****

- A. Spinal cord segment
- B. Midbrain
- C. Medulla pyramids

D. Pons

****Answer: C****

15. ****Mirror neurons are primarily located in the:****

A. Primary motor cortex

B. Premotor area

C. Supplementary motor area

D. Cerebellum

****Answer: B****

16. ****Motor apraxia is caused by damage to the:****

A. Hand skills area

B. Primary motor cortex

C. Basal ganglia

D. Thalamus

****Answer: A****

17. ****The homunculus in the primary motor cortex devotes the most space to:****

A. Trunk

B. Legs

C. Face and hands

D. Neck

****Answer: C****

18. ****Which pathway controls distal limb muscles?****

A. Anterior corticospinal

- B. Corticobulbar
- C. Lateral corticospinal
- D. Vestibulospinal

****Answer: C****

19. ****Static neurons in the motor cortex are responsible for:****

- A. Initiating contraction
- B. Maintaining contraction force
- C. Inhibiting antagonists
- D. Sensory feedback

****Answer: B****

20. ****A lesion in the contralateral eye movement area causes:****

- A. Ptosis
- B. Inability to shift gaze voluntarily
- C. Nystagmus
- D. Diplopia

****Answer: B****

**Basal Nuclei (10 Questions)**

21. ****The direct pathway of the basal nuclei facilitates movement by:****

- A. Inhibiting the thalamus
- B. Reducing inhibition on the thalamus
- C. Exciting the subthalamic nucleus (STN)

D. Increasing dopamine release

****Answer: B****

22. ****Parkinson's disease is characterized by degeneration of the:****

A. Striatum

B. Substantia nigra pars compacta

C. Globus pallidus externus

D. Subthalamic nucleus

****Answer: B****

23. ****The indirect pathway ultimately leads to:****

A. Thalamic excitation

B. Suppression of movement

C. Increased dopamine release

D. Enhanced muscle tone

****Answer: B****

24. ****Huntington's disease involves loss of neurons in the:****

A. Caudate and putamen

B. Globus pallidus

C. Subthalamic nucleus

D. Substantia nigra

****Answer: A****

25. ****Dopamine acting on D2 receptors in the indirect pathway causes:****

A. Excitation

- B. Inhibition
- C. Increased GABA release
- D. Calcium influx

****Answer: B****

26. ****The subthalamic nucleus releases:****

- A. GABA
- B. Glutamate
- C. Dopamine
- D. Serotonin

****Answer: B****

27. ****A patient with Parkinson's would exhibit:****

- A. Choreiform movements
- B. Mask-like facies
- C. Intention tremor
- D. Hyperkinetic speech

****Answer: B****

28. ****The striatum receives input primarily from the:****

- A. Thalamus
- B. Cortex
- C. Cerebellum
- D. Spinal cord

****Answer: B****

29. **Output nuclei of the basal ganglia include the:**

- A. Globus pallidus internus and substantia nigra reticulata
- B. Caudate and putamen
- C. Subthalamic nucleus
- D. Red nucleus

Answer: A

30. **Increased activity of the indirect pathway leads to:**

- A. Bradykinesia
- B. Hemiballismus
- C. Chorea
- D. Dystonia

Answer: A

Spinal Cord & Reflexes (10 Questions)

31. **The stretch reflex is:**

- A. Polysynaptic
- B. Inhibitory
- C. Mediated by Golgi tendon organs
- D. Monosynaptic

Answer: D

32. **Reciprocal innervation in the stretch reflex involves:**

- A. Inhibition of the agonist

- B. Excitation of the antagonist
- C. Inhibition of the antagonist
- D. Crossed extensor response

****Answer: C****

33. ****Gamma motor neurons innervate:****

- A. Extrafusal fibers
- B. Intrafusal fibers
- C. Golgi tendon organs
- D. Joint receptors

****Answer: B****

34. ****The Golgi tendon reflex protects against:****

- A. Overstretching
- B. Overcontraction
- C. Hypoxia
- D. Pain

****Answer: B****

35. ****Type Ia afferents detect:****

- A. Slow muscle stretch
- B. Rapid muscle stretch
- C. Tension
- D. Vibration

****Answer: B****

36. **The crossed extensor reflex is:**

- A. Ipsilateral
- B. Monosynaptic
- C. Contralateral
- D. Mediated by muscle spindles

Answer: C

37. **Coactivation of alpha and gamma motor neurons ensures:**

- A. Muscle relaxation
- B. Spindle sensitivity during contraction
- C. Inhibition of antagonists
- D. Increased tendon tension

Answer: B

38. **A patient with loss of deep tendon reflexes likely has damage to:**

- A. Golgi tendon organs
- B. Muscle spindles
- C. Alpha motor neurons
- D. Gamma motor neurons

Answer: C

39. **The flexor reflex is:**

- A. Monosynaptic
- B. Polysynaptic
- C. Contralateral
- D. Mediated by Golgi tendon organs

****Answer: B****

40. ****Nuclear chain fibers are associated with:****

- A. Type Ia afferents
- B. Type II afferents
- C. Gamma motor neurons
- D. Extrafusal fibers

****Answer: B****

**Brainstem (10 Questions)**

41. ****The medullary respiratory center regulates:****

- A. Voluntary breathing
- B. Basic respiratory rhythm
- C. Cough reflex
- D. Olfactory processing

****Answer: B****

42. ****Decerebrate rigidity is caused by overactivity of the:****

- A. Medullary reticulospinal tract
- B. Pontine reticulospinal tract
- C. Corticospinal tract
- D. Vestibulospinal tract

****Answer: B****

43. **The red nucleus is located in the:**

- A. Medulla
- B. Pons
- C. Midbrain
- D. Thalamus

Answer: C

44. **The reticular activating system (RAS) is essential for:**

- A. Digestion
- B. Consciousness
- C. Thermoregulation
- D. Hormone secretion

Answer: B

45. **The superior colliculi are involved in:**

- A. Auditory reflexes
- B. Visual reflexes
- C. Pain modulation
- D. Balance

Answer: B

46. **Damage to the periaqueductal gray matter would impair:**

- A. Pain suppression
- B. Respiration
- C. Eye movement
- D. Hearing

****Answer: A****

47. ****The inferior olivary nucleus sends input to the:****

- A. Thalamus
- B. Cerebellum
- C. Basal ganglia
- D. Hippocampus

****Answer: B****

48. ****Pontine nuclei relay motor information between the:****

- A. Cortex and thalamus
- B. Cortex and cerebellum
- C. Spinal cord and brainstem
- D. Basal ganglia and cerebellum

****Answer: B****

49. ****The medial longitudinal fasciculus coordinates:****

- A. Head and eye movements
- B. Limb proprioception
- C. Pain pathways
- D. Sleep-wake cycles

****Answer: A****

50. ****A patient with medial medullary syndrome would have deficits in:****

- A. Facial sensation
- B. Tongue movement

C. Arm strength

D. Visual fields

****Answer: B****

**Diencephalon & Limbic System (10 Questions)**

51. ****The suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) regulates:****

A. Hunger

B. Circadian rhythm

C. Thirst

D. Body temperature

****Answer: B****

52. ****Damage to the ventroposterior thalamic nucleus impairs:****

A. Motor planning

B. Somatic sensation

C. Vision

D. Emotion

****Answer: B****

53. ****The hypothalamus controls all EXCEPT:****

A. Body temperature

B. Hunger

C. Voluntary movement

D. Thirst

****Answer: C****

54. ****The hippocampus is critical for:****

- A. Fear response
- B. Memory consolidation
- C. Olfactory processing
- D. Sleep regulation

****Answer: B****

55. ****Korsakoff's syndrome is associated with damage to the:****

- A. Amygdala
- B. Hippocampus
- C. Dorsomedial thalamus
- D. Hypothalamus

****Answer: C****

56. ****The amygdala is primarily involved in:****

- A. Reward processing
- B. Fear and anxiety
- C. Motor coordination
- D. Language production

****Answer: B****

57. ****Melatonin is secreted by the:****

- A. Pineal gland
- B. Pituitary gland

C. Hypothalamus

D. Thalamus

****Answer: A****

58. ****A lesion in the habenular nuclei would most affect:****

A. Olfaction-emotion linkage

B. Circadian rhythm

C. Motor coordination

D. Pain perception

****Answer: A****

59. ****The anterior thalamic nuclei relay information to the:****

A. Limbic system

B. Motor cortex

C. Visual cortex

D. Brainstem

****Answer: A****

60. ****Stimulation of the lateral hypothalamus causes:****

A. Satiety

B. Hunger

C. Thirst

D. Sleep

****Answer: B****

Cerebral Cortex (10 Questions)

61. **Wernicke's area is responsible for:**

- A. Speech production
- B. Language comprehension
- C. Motor planning
- D. Face recognition

Answer: B

62. **The angular gyrus links visual input to:**

- A. Motor execution
- B. Language processing
- C. Emotional responses
- D. Memory consolidation

Answer: B

63. **A patient with damage to the right parietal lobe would likely have difficulty with:**

- A. Language production
- B. Spatial awareness
- C. Face recognition
- D. Hearing

Answer: B

64. **Broca's aphasia is characterized by:**

- A. Fluent but nonsensical speech
- B. Non-fluent speech with intact comprehension

C. Impaired comprehension

D. Inability to read

****Answer: B****

65. ****The prefrontal cortex is critical for:****

A. Reflex arcs

B. Working memory

C. Pain modulation

D. Basic motor control

****Answer: B****

66. ****Split-brain syndrome results from damage to the:****

A. Corpus callosum

B. Anterior commissure

C. Hippocampus

D. Thalamus

****Answer: A****

67. ****The limbic association area integrates:****

A. Motor commands

B. Emotional processing

C. Visual stimuli

D. Auditory signals

****Answer: B****

68. ****Alexia (inability to read) is caused by lesions in the:****

- A. Angular gyrus
- B. Broca's area
- C. Wernicke's area
- D. Primary visual cortex

****Answer: A****

69. ****The dominant hemisphere for language in most individuals is the:****

- A. Right
- B. Left
- C. Frontal
- D. Occipital

****Answer: B****

70. ****A patient with prosopagnosia cannot:****

- A. Recognize faces
- B. Produce speech
- C. Understand language
- D. Coordinate movement

****Answer: A****

****Cerebellum (10 Questions)****

71. ****The lateral cerebellar zone is connected to the:****

- A. Vestibular nuclei
- B. Motor planning centers in the cortex

C. Spinal cord

D. Medulla reticular formation

****Answer: B****

72. ****Dentate nucleus output primarily targets the:****

A. Thalamus

B. Red nucleus

C. Spinal cord

D. Hypothalamus

****Answer: A****

73. ****Damage to the flocculonodular lobe causes:****

A. Dysmetria

B. Ataxia during rapid movement

C. Intention tremor

D. Dysarthria

****Answer: B****

74. ****Climbing fibers originate from the:****

A. Inferior olivary nucleus

B. Pontine nuclei

C. Vestibular nuclei

D. Reticular formation

****Answer: A****

75. ****Purkinje cells release:****

- A. Glutamate
- B. GABA
- C. Dopamine
- D. Acetylcholine

****Answer: B****

76. ****The cerebellum compares intended movement with actual movement via:****

- A. Efference copy from the ventral spinocerebellar tract
- B. Feedback from muscle spindles
- C. Input from the basal ganglia
- D. Visual cortex signals

****Answer: A****

77. ****A patient with dysdiadochokinesia has difficulty with:****

- A. Rapid alternating movements
- B. Balance during standing
- C. Speech articulation
- D. Muscle tone regulation

****Answer: A****

78. ****The vestibulocerebellum primarily regulates:****

- A. Posture and equilibrium
- B. Limb coordination
- C. Motor planning
- D. Eye tracking

****Answer: A****

79. **Mossy fibers synapse on:**

- A. Purkinje cells
- B. Granule cells
- C. Basket cells
- D. Deep cerebellar nuclei

Answer: B

Brain Activity, Sleep, EEG & Epilepsy (10 Questions)

1. **Which neurotransmitter is released by the Raphe nuclei to promote sleep?*

- A. Acetylcholine
- B. Dopamine
- C. Serotonin
- D. Glutamate

Answer: C

2. **The reticular activating system (RAS) is NOT activated by:*

- A. Pain
- B. Visual stimuli
- C. Olfactory stimuli
- D. Auditory stimuli

Answer: C

3. **EEG beta waves are most characteristic of:*

- A. Deep sleep
- B. Relaxed wakefulness with eyes closed
- C. Active mental work
- D. REM sleep

Answer: C

4. **During REM sleep, which of the following occurs?*

- A. Increased muscle tone
- B. Regular heart rate
- C. Vivid dreaming

D. Delta wave dominance

****Answer: C****

5. ****A patient experiences brief episodes of staring and eyelid fluttering without loss of postural control. This describes:****

A. Tonic-clonic seizure

B. Absence seizure

C. Complex partial seizure

D. Myoclonic seizure

****Answer: B****

6. ****The thalamocortical system is critical for maintaining:****

A. Reflex arcs

B. Consciousness

C. Muscle tone

D. Respiratory rhythm

****Answer: B****

7. ****Which structure regulates circadian rhythm via melatonin secretion?****

A. Suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN)

B. Pineal gland

C. Hypothalamus

D. Amygdala

****Answer: B****

8. ****Decerebrate rigidity is caused by loss of cortical input to the:****

- A. Medullary reticular nuclei
- B. Pontine reticular nuclei
- C. Red nucleus
- D. Vestibular nuclei

****Answer: B****

9. ****A paradoxical EEG pattern (similar to wakefulness) is seen in:****

- A. NREM Stage 3
- B. REM sleep
- C. Coma
- D. Seizure aura

****Answer: B****

10. ****Generalized seizures most often propagate through:****

- A. Corpus callosum
- B. Thalamocortical loops
- C. Basal ganglia circuits
- D. Cerebellar pathways

****Answer: B****

**Cerebellum (10 Questions)**

11. ****Dysmetria is characterized by:****

- A. Inability to perform rapid alternating movements
- B. Slurred speech

C. Overshooting or undershooting a target

D. Loss of balance during standing

****Answer: C****

12. ****The dentate nucleus primarily sends output to the:****

A. Thalamus

B. Red nucleus

C. Spinal cord

D. Vestibular nuclei

****Answer: A****

13. ****Climbing fibers originate from the:****

A. Inferior olivary nucleus

B. Pontine nuclei

C. Vestibular nuclei

D. Reticular formation

****Answer: A****

14. ****Purkinje cells release which neurotransmitter?*****

A. Glutamate

B. GABA

C. Dopamine

D. Serotonin

****Answer: B****

15. ****A lesion in the flocculonodular lobe causes:****

- A. Dysarthria
- B. Ataxia during rapid movement
- C. Intention tremor
- D. Hemiballismus

****Answer: B****

16. ****The cerebellum adjusts muscle force by comparing intended movement with:****

- A. Visual feedback
- B. Efference copy from motor commands
- C. Basal ganglia output
- D. Sensory cortex input

****Answer: B****

17. ****The lateral cerebellar zone is involved in:****

- A. Postural control
- B. Planning sequential movements
- C. Limb coordination
- D. Eye tracking

****Answer: B****

18. ****Mossy fibers synapse directly onto:****

- A. Purkinje cells
- B. Granule cells
- C. Basket cells
- D. Deep cerebellar nuclei

****Answer: B****

19. ****A patient with cerebellar damage would exhibit:****

- A. Resting tremor
- B. Intention tremor
- C. Chorea
- D. Rigidity

****Answer: B****

20. ****The spinocerebellum (intermediate zone) primarily coordinates:****

- A. Axial muscle tone
- B. Distal limb movements
- C. Motor planning
- D. Visual reflexes

****Answer: B****

****Note:**** These questions emphasize high-yield concepts from the final two lectures, integrating anatomy, function, and clinical correlates.