Supplementary Online Content


eAppendix. Survey Distributed to Residents

This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work
**eAppendix. Survey Distributed to Residents**

The following is a survey about your approach to studying/reading. We hope to correlate our findings with ABSITE scores and determine which technique is most beneficial. All of the survey data is anonymous and your answers are sent directly back to the resident conducting the survey. It is not seen by faculty or the program director, so please be as honest as you can. We sincerely appreciate your contribution to our work. The following questions refer to your study habits during the year leading up to the January 2014 ABSITE exam.

1) What was your PGY level at the time of the most recent, January 2014, ABSITE?

2) Were you on your research year in January 2014 (if applicable)?
   - Yes
   - No

3) What is your current specialty interest? (Choose up to two)
   - Breast
   - Cardiothoracic
   - Colorectal
   - Endocrine
   - General Surgery
   - Minimally Invasive Surgery
   - Pediatric Surgery
   - Plastic Surgery
   - Surgical Oncology
   - Transplant
   - Trauma/Critical Care
   - Vascular
   - Undecided

4) Does your residency program have protected studying/reading time (counted towards the 80 hour/week restriction)?
   - Yes
   - No

5) Did you attend an ABSITE prep course for the January 2014 ABSITE (one outside of your residency program)?
   - Yes
   - No

6) With respect to studying for clinical duties/patient care, did you have a regular year-round reading schedule that you followed consistently?
   - Yes
   - No

7) Which of the following best describes the frequency with which you read for clinical duties/patient care?
   - Daily
   - Weekly
   - Monthly
   - Sporadically
   - None

8) How long was each reading/studying session with regards to clinical duties/patient care, on average?
• Enter number of minutes: _______________

Please rate your agreement with the following statements regarding your study habits pertaining to clinical duties/ patient care:

9) I rarely read and only when I absolutely had to for (clinical duties/ patient care)
   4 strongly agree  3 agree somewhat  2 disagree somewhat  1 strongly disagree

10) I read only when I encountered unfamiliar cases or rotations (clinical duties/ patient care)
    4 strongly agree  3 agree somewhat  2 disagree somewhat  1 strongly disagree

11) I read consistently throughout the year (clinical duties/ patient care)
    4 strongly agree  3 agree somewhat  2 disagree somewhat  1 strongly disagree

12) With respect to studying for the January 2014 ABSITE, did you have a regular year-round reading schedule that you followed consistently?
    • Yes
    • No

13) Which of the following best describes the frequency with which you read in preparation for the January 2014 ABSITE?
    • Daily
    • Weekly
    • Monthly
    • Sporadically
    • none

14) How long was each reading/studying session with regards to the January 2014 ABSITE, on average?
    • Enter number of minutes: _______________

Please rate your agreement with the following statements regarding your preparation for the most recent January 2014 ABSITE:

15) I did not prepare at all
    4 strongly agree  3 agree somewhat  2 disagree somewhat  1 strongly disagree

16) I prepared by reading only during the last two weeks prior to the ABSITE
    4 strongly agree  3 agree somewhat  2 disagree somewhat  1 strongly disagree

17) I prepared by reading regularly for 1-2 months before the ABSITE
    4 strongly agree  3 agree somewhat  2 disagree somewhat  1 strongly disagree

18) I prepared by reading consistently throughout the year in preparation for the ABSITE
    4 strongly agree  3 agree somewhat  2 disagree somewhat  1 strongly disagree

Please identify your reading sources:

19) Which source did you utilize most often when studying/reading for patient care/clinical duties?
    • Standard Surgical Textbook
    • SCORE curriculum
    • ACS Fundamentals of Surgery

© 2015 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.
• Journal Articles
• Peer reviewed Internet source
• SESAP
• Google searches
• ABSITE review book (specify which): __________________

20) How satisfied were you with the quality of the source you selected in the prior question?
4 very satisfied 3 somewhat satisfied 2 somewhat dissatisfied 1 strongly dissatisfied

21) Which source did you utilize 2nd most often when studying/reading for patient care/clinical duties?
• Standard Surgical Textbook
• SCORE curriculum
• ACS Fundamentals of Surgery
• Journal Articles
• Peer reviewed Internet source
• SESAP
• Google searches
• ABSITE review book (specify which): __________________

22) How satisfied were you with the quality of the source you selected in the prior question?
4 very satisfied 3 somewhat satisfied 2 somewhat dissatisfied 1 strongly dissatisfied

23) Which source did you utilize MOST often in preparation for January 2014 ABSITE?
• Standard Surgical Textbook
• SCORE curriculum
• ACS Fundamentals of Surgery
• SCORE practice questions
• SESAP
• Print based practice questions
• Smartphone app practice questions
• ABSITE review book (specify which): __________________

24) How satisfied were you with the quality of the source you selected in the prior question?
4 very satisfied 3 somewhat satisfied 2 somewhat dissatisfied 1 strongly dissatisfied

25) Which source did you utilize 2nd most often in preparation for January 2014 ABSITE?
• Standard Surgical Textbook
• SCORE curriculum
• ACS Fundamentals of Surgery
• SCORE practice questions
• SESAP
• Print based practice questions
• Smartphone app practice questions
• ABSITE review book (specify which): __________________

26) How satisfied were you with the quality of the source you selected in the prior question?
4 very satisfied 3 somewhat satisfied 2 somewhat dissatisfied 1 strongly dissatisfied

27) Which of the following best described your focus or goal when studying/reading?
• My primary focus is on patient care or clinical duties
• My primary focus is preparing for the January 2014 ABSITE
• My focus is equally weighted or divided for both
28) Which of the following was the most important barrier to following a consistent studying/reading plan:
- My desire to spend time with my significant other
- My desire to spend time with my child/children
- Other family obligations
- Outside hobbies/interests
- Lack of motivation to read
- Resident work hours
- Other non-clinical academic duties (research, administrative, etc.)

29) What is your opinion regarding the ABSITE results?
- My ABSITE score doesn't matter to me at all
- I just need to pass to avoid disciplinary measures from my program director
- I want to do well, but don't feel it will significantly affect my career goals
- I must do well because it is important in achieving future career goals

30) What was your Percent Correct on the January 2014 ABSITE (circled below)?

31) What was your Percentile on the January 2014 ABSITE (outlined in a square below)?

32) What was your USMLE Step 1 score?

33) What was your USMLE Step 2 score?

34) What was your MCAT score?

35) What was your age at the time of the 2014 ABSITE?

36) Gender
- Male
- Female

37) Did you have children at the time of the 2014 ABSITE exam?
- Yes
- No

38) Have you ever been placed into remediation/coaching (including mandatory tutoring) for previous poor ABSITE performance?
- Yes
- No

39) Have you ever been placed into remediation/coaching for any other reason?
- Yes
- No

This concludes the survey, thank you for your input!