

**OLLSCOIL NA hEIREANN  
THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND**

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY**

**SUMMER EXAMINATION 2004  
M.B., BCh, B.A.O. WRITTEN**

**MEDICINE**

**PAPER 1(A)**

**PROFESSOR P. BELL**

**Time allowed : 1 hour**

A 35 year old female with a long history of poorly controlled asthma is admitted to hospital with a further exacerbation.

Describe how you would make an initial rapid assessment of severity.

Outline the early (first 4 hours) emergency management of such a case.

What factors would you explore in the background history in trying to determine why her condition has been so poorly controlled?

Describe the overall approach to longer term management including measures you would put in place before discharge.

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**MEDICINE**  
**PAPER 1B**

Professor T. O'Brien  
 Dr. T. O'Gorman  
 Dr. E. Mulkerrin  
 Dr. K. Daly

**Time allowed : 2 hours**

**EACH QUESTION (1,2,3, & 4) MUST BE ANSWERED ON A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK**

1. A 55 year old obese hypertensive patient with type 2 diabetes mellitus asks your advice on starting an exercise programme. He takes mixtard insulin 20 units bd and is on an ACE inhibitor, HMG Co A reductase inhibitor and aspirin. What advice would you give to the patient to safely start an exercise programme?
  
2. A 19 year old girl presents with a six week history of bloody diarrhoea.
  - (a) What features in the patient's clinical story are useful in allowing you to distinguish between a functional (Irritable Bowel Syndrome) and an organic cause for the diarrhoea?
  - (b) What features in the patient's clinical story suggest that the diarrhoea is due to pathology in the left colon?
  - (c) How would you investigate her?  
At sigmoidoscopy the mucosa in the girl's rectum and distal sigmoid colon is inflamed. The mucosa in the mid sigmoid is normal
  - (d) How would you treat her?
  
3. Write short notes on the following :
  - (a) Stroke prevention in a 75 year old man with atrial fibrillation.
  - (b) Drug management of a 68 year old woman with Alzheimer's Disease.
  - (c) Assessment of a 70 year old patient with recurrent loss of consciousness.
  
4. Discuss the following :
  - (a) Antiplatelet therapy in acute coronary syndromes.
  - (b) Management of a 30 year old female presenting with fast atrial fibrillation 24 hours after a flu like illness.
  - (c) Diagnosis and management of atrial septal defect.