

# PLAB 1 Practice Test Questions and Answers

## 1. What is 'specificity' of a diagnostic test?

- A) The proportion of diseased patients who test positive
- B) The proportion of disease-free individuals who test negative (true negative rate) — a specific test rarely gives false positives
- C) The accuracy of the test across all populations
- D) The proportion of all negative tests that are true negatives

## 2. What is 'sensitivity' of a diagnostic test?

- A) The proportion of people without disease who test negative (true negative rate)
- B) The proportion of people with the disease who test positive (true positive rate) — a sensitive test rarely misses disease
- C) The probability that a positive test correctly identifies disease
- D) The proportion of all positive tests that are true positives

## 3. What are the four components of valid informed consent?

- A) Signature, witness, medical assessment, and doctor's agreement
- B) Voluntary decision, capacity, adequate information/disclosure, and the ability to communicate the decision
- C) Written form, two witnesses, patient's signature, and consultant approval
- D) Patient request, clinical indication, family agreement, and legal approval

## 4. What does a 'confidence interval' (CI) tell you in clinical research?

- A) The range within which a test value is considered normal
- B) The range within which the true population value is likely to lie with a specified probability (e.g., 95% CI) — a wide CI indicates less precision
- C) The statistical significance of a result
- D) The range of values that guarantee clinical significance

**Answers: 1-B 2-B 3-B 4-B**

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