

**DRAFT General Exam Test Questions**  
**From the**  
**Book and Paper Group Certification Development Task Force**

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Note: An astrisk (\*) denotes a correct answer.

1. A surface disturbance that may be caused by friction is called
  - a. abrasion.\*
  - b. accretion.
  - c. embossment.
  - d. mending.
  - e. vibration.
  
2. Compensation for loss:
  - a. Should be documented in treatment records and should be detectable by common examination methods, including examination in visible light, in ultraviolet radiation, and under low power magnification.\*
  - b. In-painting may or may not be reversible, as long as there is documentation.
  - c. Can obscure portions of the original if needed to fully support the original.
  - d. The conservation professional should select a method of compensation that favors marginal aesthetic improvement.
  
3. Phloroglucinol reagent is used to test fibers for the presence of
  - a. casein
  - b. lignin\*
  - c. metal impurities
  - d. protein
  - e. starch
  
4. What is the minimum relative humidity necessary to support mold growth?
  - a. 35%
  - b. 45%
  - c. 55%

d. 65%\*

5. Environmental Monitoring as a means of preventative conservation provides:
- A means of identifying potential material stability problems caused by large fluctuations in the temperature and relative humidity levels.\*
  - A means for identifying the source of a staff health problem.
  - Information to staff as to the best location for storage of specific cultural materials.
  - May be done automatically by the monitoring systems as provided by the heating and air-conditioning system.

6. pH is a measurement of
- hydronium ions in solution\*
  - hydrogen ions in solution
  - acidic compounds in solution
  - salt levels in solution
  - none of the above

7. A classic example of friable media is
- Black ink
  - Collage
  - Oil paint
  - Pastel\*
  - Watercolor

8. Dew point is the temperature at which humidity
  - a. absorbs.
  - b. achieves equilibrium.
  - c. condenses.\*
  - d. evaporates.
  - e. neutralizes.
  
9. Generally speaking, a polymer with a high degree of polymerization is
  - a. an additive polymer.
  - b. a condensation polymer.
  - c. less stable.
  - d. more stable.\*
  - e. more branched.
  
10. Buffer solutions may be used in conservation treatment to
  - a. Keep enzyme activity at optimum levels
  - b. Calibrate pH monitoring equipment
  - c. Prevent changes in pH that may cause solubility of dye-containing colorants
  - d. Minimize the amount of enzyme needed to digest an adhesive
  - e. All of the above\*
  
11. A scratch is an example of
  - a. an abrasion.\*
  - b. an accretion.
  - c. examination.
  - d. a planar distortion.
  - e. vibration.

12. Preservation is:

- a. the protection of cultural property through activities that minimize chemical and physical deterioration and damage and that prevent loss of informational content.\*
- b. intended to return cultural property to an assumed state, often through the addition of non-original materials.
- c. the recording of pertinent information derived from restoration activities.
- d. the investigation of the structure, materials, and condition of cultural property as provided by staff recollections and depicted by illustrations of similar cultural materials.

13. Which of the following bleaches is not an oxidizing bleach

- a. Chloramine-T
- b. Chlorine dioxide
- c. Hydrogen peroxide
- d. Light bleaching
- e. Sodium borohydride\*

14. An object is exposed to high levels of ultraviolet light. What are some likely degradation reactions?

- a. Moisture equilibrium.
- b. Free radical formation.\*
- c. Formation of particulate matter.
- d. Heat.
- e. Radiation.

15. Visual examination of surface irregularities and planar distortions may be enhanced by

- a. infrared light.
- b. raking light.\*
- c. transmitted light.
- d. ultraviolet light.
- e. all of the above.

16. To dilute a strong acid, you must:

- a. add the acid to water\*
- b. add water to the acid
- c. alternate additions of water and acid
- d. add a strong base to the acid
- e. add ethanol to the acid

17. An object has an area that includes multiple small scratches that appear to have resulted from the object rubbing against another object over the years. This can be described as

- a. abrasion.\*
- b. accretion.
- c. acidity.
- d. intaglio.
- e. all of the above.

18. Filling an area of loss and inpainting are examples of a possible treatment for

- a. abrasions.\*
- b. accretions.
- c. acidity of an object.
- d. cross linking.
- e. ultraviolet light exposure.

19. The best practice to prepare for emergency recovery situations that pose serious risks to cultural property is to

- a. develop an emergency response plan.\*
- b. rehearse emergency evacuation drills.
- c. monitor terrorist threat levels.
- d. ensure staff is trained in CPR.

20. An object is to be transported by truck to another city. Shock absorbing foam within the crate is used in part to reduce the likelihood of which type of damage:

- a. Abrasion\*
- b. Accretions
- c. Staining
- d. Mold
- e. All of the above

21. In your documentation, where would you note the type of adhesive that you selected to use on the object?

- a. Condition
- b. Description
- c. Photodocumentation
- d. Testing
- e. Treatment\*

22. Which of the following is NOT required by the *AIC's Commentaries to the Guidelines for Practice* when documenting an object?

- a. Black and white photography.\*
- b. Date of the examination.
- c. Name of the conservator.
- d. Permanent repository for documentation.
- e. Retention of samples taken.

23. According to the *AIC's Commentaries to the Guidelines for Practice*, documentation is required whenever an object is

- a. analyzed or sampled
- b. examined
- c. treated or altered
- d. damaged
- e. all of the above\*

24. A buffer solution is used to:

- a. Resist changes in pH with the addition of a weak acid or base\*
- b. Resist changes in pH with the addition of a strong acid or base
- c. Weaken a strongly acidic solution
- d. Strengthen a weakly acidic solution

- e. Reduce the likelihood of causing an explosion

25. The only treatment step, of those listed below, that could be considered “reversible” in paper conservation is

- a. Consolidation
- b. Deacidification
- c. Mending\*
- d. Mold removal
- e. Washing

26. A HEPA filter will capture which of the following:

- a. Activated charcoal.
- b. Amyl acetate
- c. Small particulates.\*
- d. Solvent vapors.
- e. Zeolites.

27. An object appears to have active mold growth. What are some precautions that should be taken while working with this object?

- a. Increase the humidity level.
- b. Spray or wipe the object with bleach.
- c. Wear gloves and a HEPA filtering mask.\*
- d. Wear nitrile gloves and a solvent filtering respirator.
- e. Wear UV filtering goggles.

28. A leaky pipe in a room has resulted in active mold growth. What is a possible way of reducing further growth in situ.

- a. Reduce humidity by turning up the heat.
- b. Reduce humidity by turning up the air conditioning.\*
- c. Create an anoxic environment.
- d. Place an IR light source in the room.
- e. All of the above.

29. The AIC Code of Ethics requires:

- a. an awareness of issues concerning the safety of materials and procedures.\*
- b. provisions for working and storage conditions to protect cultural property.
- c. disclosure of any circumstances that necessitate significant deviations from the original preservation agreement.
- d. all of the above.

30. Documentation should:

- a. Record the present condition of the object, conceptualize how treatment of the object will be carried out, record actual treatment, and inform the owner at all stages. \*
- b. Be kept only until the owner, curator, or other professional signs off on the finished treatment.
- c. be made public by the conservator at any point.
- d. record information that will be obscured or lost through use, during treatment, or over time

31. Which technique can be used to visualize a watermark

- a. Beta-radiography\*
- b. Colorimetry
- c. Fourier transform infrared spectrometry
- d. Thin layer chromatography
- e. X-ray diffraction

32. If the conservator is called upon during an authentication process, what guidance does the AIC Code of Ethics provide?

- a. There is a potential conflict of interest associated with these activities when the conservation professional stands to gain from increased value or heightened prestige of the cultural property.\*

- b. The goals of art dealing (buying and selling cultural property for profit), authentication and appraisal tend to be in line with the goals of preservation of cultural property.
- c. The conservation professional must refer every owner's/custodian's request for authentication or appraisal of cultural property to an independent party.
- d. All of the above.

33. A buffer is a mixture of:

- a. a weak acid and its conjugate base
- b. a strong acid and its conjugate base
- c. a weak base and its conjugate acid
- d. a strong acid and a strong base
- e. A and C\*