

VTNE Self Study: Domain 3

Dentistry — 20 Practice Questions

1. What is the most important reason dental radiographs are obtained during a prophylaxis?

- A. To determine patient age only
- B. Most dental disease occurs below the gumline
- C. To avoid anesthesia
- D. To measure jaw strength

2. Which instrument is used to remove supragingival calculus?

- A. Curette
- B. Periosteal elevator
- C. Scaler
- D. Extraction forceps

3. Which teeth are classified as carnassial teeth in the dog?

- A. Maxillary canine and mandibular canine
- B. Maxillary fourth premolar and mandibular first molar
- C. Maxillary first incisor and mandibular fourth premolar
- D. Maxillary molars only

4. Which statement about anesthesia for dental procedures is TRUE?

- A. Dentistry can safely be performed without anesthesia
- B. Intubation is unnecessary during dental cleanings
- C. Endotracheal intubation helps protect the airway
- D. Sedation alone is always sufficient

5. Which stage of periodontal disease includes bone loss?

- A. Stage 1
- B. Stage 2
- C. Stage 3 or higher
- D. Gingivitis only

6. A periodontal probe is used to:

- A. Polish teeth
- B. Evaluate gingival pocket depth
- C. Remove tartar
- D. Extract loose teeth

7. Which structure anchors the tooth to the alveolar bone?

- A. Enamel
- B. Gingiva
- C. Periodontal ligament
- D. Cementum only

8. What is the best method for polishing teeth after scaling?

- A. Aggressive polishing for several minutes per tooth
- B. No polishing is needed
- C. Brief polishing using light pressure
- D. Scrubbing vigorously to remove remaining tartar

9. Which dental abnormality occurs when the crown pulp cavity becomes exposed?

- A. Attrition
- B. Tooth resorption
- C. Fractured tooth with pulp exposure
- D. Malocclusion

10. Which dental instrument is used to remove subgingival plaque and calculus?

- A. Curette
- B. Scaler only
- C. Hemostat
- D. Luxator

11. Which patient finding is most consistent with advanced periodontal disease?

- A. White teeth only
- B. Halitosis and gingival recession
- C. Increased appetite only
- D. Dry nose

12. Which teeth are labeled 104 and 204 in canine dental nomenclature?

- A. Canine teeth
- B. Fourth premolars
- C. Maxillary incisors
- D. Maxillary canine teeth

13. During dental radiography, what is the purpose of the bisecting angle technique?

- A. Prevent anesthesia complications
- B. Produce diagnostic images without distortion
- C. Speed up tooth extraction
- D. Avoid using film

14. What is the primary cause of periodontal disease?

- A. Viral infection
- B. Plaque accumulation
- C. Excess fluoride
- D. Trauma

15. Which of the following should be used to prevent overheating and pulp damage during polishing?

- A. Dry polishing cup only
- B. Continuous heavy pressure
- C. Light pressure with intermittent contact
- D. Steel polishing brush

16. A technician notices gingival bleeding and inflammation without attachment loss. What condition is most likely present?

- A. Gingivitis
- B. Stage 4 periodontal disease
- C. Tooth fracture
- D. Oral neoplasia

17. Which dental instrument is specifically used to loosen the periodontal ligament during extractions?

- A. Luxator
- B. Curette
- C. Probe
- D. Scaler

18. Which oral pathology finding should be reported immediately to the veterinarian?

- A. Mild plaque
- B. Small amount of tartar
- C. Oral mass or non-healing lesion
- D. Slight staining of enamel

19. Why are chlorhexidine oral rinses sometimes used before dental procedures?

- A. To whiten teeth
- B. To reduce bacterial contamination
- C. To remove tartar completely
- D. To avoid intubation

20. Which statement about preventive dentistry is TRUE?

- A. Dental disease only affects teeth
- B. Home dental care can help slow periodontal disease progression
- C. Brushing damages enamel
- D. Dental chews replace professional cleanings completely

Answer Key & Explanations

Domain 3: Dentistry

1. **B** — Most disease occurs below the gumline
2. **C** — Scalers remove supragingival calculus
3. **B** — Maxillary 4th premolar and mandibular 1st molar are carnassials
4. **C** — Intubation protects the airway during dentistry
5. **C** — Stage 3+ includes bone loss
6. **B** — Probes measure gingival pocket depth
7. **C** — Periodontal ligament anchors the tooth
8. **C** — Brief, light polishing prevents damage
9. **C** — Pulp exposure is significant and painful
10. **A** — Curettes are used subgingivally
11. **B** — Halitosis and recession suggest advanced disease
12. **D** — 104/204 = maxillary canine teeth
13. **B** — Bisecting angle improves image accuracy
14. **B** — Plaque is the underlying cause
15. **C** — Light intermittent pressure reduces heat generation
16. **A** — Gingivitis involves inflammation without attachment loss
17. **A** — Luxators loosen the periodontal ligament
18. **C** — Masses/non-healing lesions warrant immediate evaluation
19. **B** — Chlorhexidine reduces bacterial load
20. **B** — Home care helps slow disease progression

Scoring Guide

18–20 Correct: VTNE Ready | 15–17 Correct: Strong Understanding | 12–14 Correct: Review Needed in Key Areas | Below 12: Focused Study Recommended