CORE Readiness Assessment
EXTENT OF MALTREATMENT
This question is concerned with the maltreating behavior and immediate effects on a child. It considers what is occurring or has occurred and what the results are (e.g., hitting, injuries, lack of supervision, etc.). The answer to this question also results in a finding/identification of maltreatment (as in an allegation or substantiation of the alleged maltreatment). This question is typically the focus of most hotline reports and investigations. So, it is very important. However relying only on information from this question is inadequate for assessing safety.

Information that answers this question includes:

- Type of maltreatment;
- Severity of maltreatment;
- Description of specific events;
- Description of emotional and physical symptoms;
- Identification of the child and maltreating caregiver;
- Condition of the child.
NATURE OF THE MALTREATMENT: SURROUNDING CIRCUMSTANCES
This question is concerned with the nature of what accompanies or surrounds the maltreatment. It addresses what is going on at the time that the maltreatment occurs or occurred. It serves to qualify the maltreatment by placing it in a context or situation that 1) precedes or leads up to the maltreatment, or 2) exists while the maltreatment is occurring. By selectively "assessing" this element separate from the actual maltreatment, we achieve greater understanding of how serious the maltreatment is. In other words, circumstances that accompany the maltreatment are important and are significant in themselves and qualify how serious the maltreatment is.

Information that answers this question includes:
- The duration of the maltreatment;
- History of maltreatment;
- Patterns of functioning leading to or explaining the maltreatment;
- Parent/legal guardian or caregiver intent concerning the maltreatment;
- Parent/legal guardian or caregiver explanation for the maltreatment and family conditions;
- Unique aspects of the maltreatment, such as whether weapons were involved;
- Caregiver acknowledgement and attitude about the maltreatment and;
- Other problems occurring in association with the maltreatment.
CHILD FUNCTIONING

This question is concerned with the child’s general behavior, emotions, temperament, and physical capacity. It addresses how a child is from day to day, rather than focusing on a point in time (i.e., CPI contact, time of maltreatment event). A developmentally appropriate standard is applied in the area of inquiry. This information element is qualified by the age of the child. Functioning is considered with respect to age appropriateness. Age appropriateness is applied against the “normalcy” standard. So, it is critical that you have a working understanding of child development given that you will be considering how a child is functioning in respect to what is expected given the child's age. Among the areas you will consider in information collecting and "assessing" are trust, sociability, self-awareness and acceptance, verbal skills/communication, independence, assertiveness, motor skills, intellect and mental performance, self-control, emotion, play and work, behavior patterns, mood changes, eating and sleeping habits and sexual behavior. Additionally, you consider the child’s physical capabilities including vulnerability and ability to make needs known.

Information that answers this question includes:

- General mood and temperament;
- Intellectual functioning;
- Communication and social skills;
- Expressions of emotions/feelings;
- Behavior;
- Peer relations;
- School performance;
- Independence;
- Motor skills;
- Physical and mental health;
- Functioning within cultural norms.

Child 1:
**ADULT FUNCTIONING**

This information element has strictly to do with how adults (the caregivers) in a family household are functioning. This question is concerned with how the adults (parents/legal guardians or caregivers) in the family household typically feel, think, and act on a daily basis. The question here focuses on adult functioning separate of parenting. We are concerned with how the adults behave regardless of the fact that they are parents or caregivers. The question is concerned with life management, social relationships, meeting needs, problem solving, perception, rationality, self-control, reality testing, stability, self-awareness, self-esteem, self-acceptance and coherence. Remember it is important that recent (adult related) history is captured here such as employment experiences, criminal history, substance use/abuse history, previous relationships, and violence in relationships.

Information that answers this question includes:

- Communication and social skills;
- Coping and stress management;
- Self-control;
- Problem solving;
- Judgment and decision making;
- Independence;
- Home and financial management;
- Employment;
- Citizenship and community involvement;
- Rationality;
- Self-care and self-preservation;
- Substance use;
- Mental health;
- Family and/or domestic violence;
- Physical health and capacity; and
- Functioning within cultural norms.
Caregiver 1:

Caregiver 2:
GENERAL PARENTING
This question explores the general nature and approach to parenting which forms the basis for understanding caregiver-child interaction in more substantive ways. When considering this information element, it is important to keep distinctively centered on the overall parenting that is occurring and not allow any maltreatment incident or discipline to shade your study. Among the issues for consideration within this element are: parenting styles and the origin of the style, basic care, affection, communication, expectations for children, sensitivity to an individual child, knowledge and expectations related to child development and parenting, reasons for having children, viewpoint toward children, examples of parenting behavior and parenting experiences.

Information that answers this question includes:
• Reasons for being a caregiver;
• Satisfaction in being a caregiver;
• Parent/legal guardian or caregiver knowledge and skill in parenting and child development;
• Parent/legal guardian or caregiver expectations and empathy for a child;
• Decision making in parenting practices;
• Parenting style;
• History of parenting behavior;
• Cultural practices; and
• Protectiveness.

Caregiver 1:

Caregiver 2:
DISCIPLINE OR BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

Discipline is considered in a broader context than socialization; teaching and guiding the child. Usually, staff focuses on discipline only within a punishment context, so emphasis on the importance of viewing discipline as providing direction, managing behavior, teaching, and directing a child are considered in answering this question. Study here would include the parent's methods, the source of those methods, purpose or reasons for, attitudes about, context of, expectations of discipline, understanding, relationship to child and child behavior, meaning of discipline.

Information that answers this question includes:
- Disciplinary methods;
- Perception of effectiveness of utilized approaches;
- Concepts and purpose of discipline;
- Context in which discipline occurs; and
- Cultural practices.

Caregiver 1:

Caregiver 2:
Core Readiness Assessment

Instructions: Please select one answer for each item.

1. The definition of a safe child is that
   ____ A) there are no impending danger threats to the child
   ____ B) the caregivers’ protective capacities control existing threats
   ____ C) there is a child who is vulnerable to impending danger
   ____ D) A or B
   ____ E) B or C

2. The following is (are) an example(s) of Present Danger
   ____ A) an infant child is left alone in a vehicle parked outside a mall
   ____ B) a caregiver is perceived as intoxicated and reckless in the presence of a vulnerable child
   ____ C) it is discovered that a caregiver has a criminal record relating to domestic violence
   ____ D) A and B
   ____ E) A and C

3. Which of the following statements best describes the definitions of Present Danger and Impending Danger?
   ____ A) Present Danger is immediate, significant, & observable; Impending Danger is imminent
   ____ B) Present Danger is immediate but not observable; Impending Danger is a danger pending reports
   ____ C) Present Danger is imminent but not observable; Impending Danger is immediate & significant
   ____ D) Present Danger is imminent, significant, & observable; Impending Danger is the risk of maltreatment
   ____ E) Present Danger is immediate and significant; Impending Danger is also immediate but not significant

4. Which of the following items is not among caregiver protective capacities?
   ____ A) Takes action for child
   ____ B) Talks about child to co-workers
   ____ C) Recognizes child’s needs
   ____ D) Aligns with child
   ____ E) Is emotionally attached to the child

5. Which of the following statements best describes the relationship between Danger Threats and risk factors?
   ____ A) All risk factors are Danger Threats, but not all Danger Threats are risk factors
   ____ B) All Danger Threats have risk factors, but not all risk factors are Danger Threats
   ____ C) Danger Threats are unrelated to risk factors
   ____ D) Three risk factors equal one Danger
   ____ E) None of the above
6. Which of the following is not part of the danger threshold criteria?
   ___ A) Vulnerable Child
   ___ B) Imminence
   ___ C) Severity
   ___ D) Observable
   ___ E) High Risk

7. What is the purpose of a safety plan?
   ___ A) Control for danger
   ___ B) Have parents promise to keep their children safe
   ___ C) Remove children from home
   ___ D) Make sure every family has a plan at first contact
   ___ E) A and B

8. In which information domain do we describe the caregiver’s explanation of how the child was injured?
   ___ A) Extent of Maltreatment
   ___ B) Surrounding Circumstances of Maltreatment
   ___ C) Child Functioning
   ___ D) Adult Functioning
   ___ E) Parenting Discipline

9. In which information domain does the following information belong?
   Gina gets angry at her one year old daughter, Brandi, for wetting the bed. Gina says Brandi has been potty trained since she was less than 9 months old and “she knows better.”
   ___ A) Extent of maltreatment
   ___ B) Surrounding circumstances of maltreatment
   ___ C) Adult Functioning
   ___ D) Parenting Discipline
   ___ E) Parenting General

10. Following completion of a Family Functioning Assessment-Investigation, which cases will be required to be opened for Case Management services?
    ___ A) Cases in which children are determined unsafe regardless of the level of risk
    ___ B) Cases in which children are determined safe but there is low risk
    ___ C) Cases in which children are determined safe but there is high risk
    ___ D) A and B
    ___ E) A and C
11. Which of the following best defines impending danger?
   ____ A) A child being in a state of danger due to parent/caregiver behaviors, attitudes, motives, emotions and/or situations which poses a specific threat of severe harm to a child
   ____ B) An immediate, significant, and clearly observable family condition that is actively occurring or in process of occurring at the point of contact with a family and will likely result in serious harm to a child, therefore requiring a prompt CPS response
   ____ C) Negative family conditions and/or circumstances that place a child ‘at risk’ of maltreatment
   ____ D) The point at which a negative family condition gets worse
   ____ E) It is the same as present danger

12. Caregiver protective capacities are:
   ____ A) Family resources
   ____ B) General parenting practices including discipline and knowledge of child development
   ____ C) Parenting protective factors
   ____ D) Parenting styles which support a child’s growth and development through the critical milestones of the child’s life and into adulthood
   ____ E) Personal and parenting behaviors, cognitive, and emotional characteristics which are specifically and directly associated with protecting one’s child(ren)

13. Which characteristic of a child is most associated with vulnerability to present and impending danger?
   ____ A) Calm
   ____ B) Dependence
   ____ C) Peer interaction problems
   ____ D) Assertive
   ____ E) Highly visible

14. During preparation for conducting the Family Functioning Assessment- Ongoing, case manager:
   ____ A) Reviews the CPI Family Functioning Assessment
   ____ B) Lists what case plan tasks to discuss with family during introduction
   ____ C) Obtains consultation with supervisor
   ____ D) A and B
   ____ E) A and C

15. Engaging is considered an essential worker skill
   ____ A) Only for case managers.
   ____ B) When families are cooperative
   ____ C) For both CPIs and Case Managers
   ____ D) Is optional
   ____ E) None of the above
16. Sufficient information
   A) Gives us a full picture
   B) Tells us everything about a family
   C) Is relevant to the particular information domain to most accurately inform the safety determination.
   D) A and B
   E) A and C

17. Risk of maltreatment means
   A) Likelihood of future maltreatment when compared with other families with similar characteristics
   B) Potential severity of abuse or neglect without intervention
   C) Lack of protective factors which make the child unsafe and in need of intervention
   D) Children are unsafe and in need of intervention, either through a safety plan or case management
   E) Case must be opened in order to protect the child

18. The purpose of the Family Functioning Assessment is?
   A) To determine if children are in present danger.
   B) To identify the parents caregiver protective capacities.
   C) To identify families where children are unsafe and are in need of ongoing services.
   D) To develop case plan outcomes.
   E) To identify the risk level of families.

19. The focus of the family functioning assessment is?
   A) The household where alleged maltreatment has occurred.
   B) The biological parents.
   C) Wherever the child is at the time of the hotline report.
   D) The residence of the parents.
   E) There is no focus for the family functioning assessment.

20. The initial risk assessment is completed?
   A) When the hotline is received by the CPI.
   B) For each parent, regardless of their household.
   C) Only when children are safe.
   D) At the conclusion of the family functioning assessment-Investigation
   E) At any time during the assessment.

21. There are _____ Danger Threats
   A) 8
   B) 12
   C) 5
   D) 20
   E) 11
22. This danger threat requires that you obtain supervisory approval prior to identifying
   A) Parent is violent, impulsive, or acting dangerously.
   B) Household conditions are hazardous
   C) Parent intentionally and willfully acted to cause injuries to the child
   D) Other
   E) None of the above

23. This danger threat is primarily only used at present danger and rarely should be considered
   for impending danger
   A) Child has serious illness or injury (indicative of child abuse) that is unexplained, or
      explanations are inconsistent with the illness or injury.
   B) Other.
   C) Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is not meeting the child’s essential medical needs and
      the child is /has already been seriously harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.
   D) Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is threatening to seriously harm the child; Parent/Legal
      Guardian/Caregiver is fearful he/she will seriously harm the child.
   E) All danger threats are both present and impending danger threats.

24. Assessing is
   A) Timely
   B) A one-time occurrence to complete the Family Functioning Assessment
   C) Continual and dynamic
   D) Record based information collection
   E) Completed without the family

25. Present Danger can occur at any time.
   A) True
   B) False

26. What is the primary basis for ongoing case management intervention?
   A) The parents want services
   B) Parents’ protective capacities are diminished and they are requesting help
   C) Children are unsafe due to impending danger and diminished protective capacities
   D) A and B
   E) B and C

27. The four ages and stages of child development are
   A) Birth, Baby, Child, Teen
   B) Baby, Pre-school, Pre-Teen, Teen
   C) Birth to 3, Pre-School, School Age, Adolescence.
   D) Birth, School, Teen, Adult
   E) None of the above
28. The three developmental domains for children are
   ___ A) Cognitive, Physical, and Social-Emotional
   ___ B) Education, Learning, and Play
   ___ C) Ages, Stages, and Development
   ___ D) Heredity, Environment, and Cognition
   ___ E) None of the above.

29. What is the most common maltreatment among infants?
   ___ A) Abandonment
   ___ B) Neglect
   ___ C) Abuse
   ___ D) All the above
   ___ E) None of the above

30. What are the legislative goals for dependent children?
   ___ A) Safety, permanency and well-being
   ___ B) Safety, preservation and reunification
   ___ C) Stability, preservation and reunification
   ___ D) Stability, permanence and well-being
   ___ E) None of the above

31. What is the requirement of the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act?
   ___ A) Allows agencies to remove children without reasonable efforts
   ___ B) Places the burden on the parents to prove the abuse did not occur
   ___ C) Mandates minimum timeframes that children must remain in out-of-home care prior to return
   ___ D) Mandates agencies to demonstrate reasonable efforts prior to removing a child
   ___ E) Both A and C

32. A child who is being deprived of or is allowed to be deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment may be a victim of
   ___ A) Abuse
   ___ B) Neglect
   ___ C) Harm
   ___ D) Abandonment

33. Any willful or threatening act that results in physical, mental or sexual injury or harm to a child is considered:
   ___ A) Abuse
   ___ B) Neglect
   ___ C) Harm
   ___ D) Abandonment
34. If you speak to a child on the telephone and enter a face-to-face contact in FSFN, you have
   ___ A) Falsified records
   ___ B) Recorded a client contact
   ___ C) Commenced an intake
   ___ D) Violated confidentiality
   ___ E) None of the above

35. Which are the following is a type of trauma
   ___ A) Terrorism
   ___ B) Physical Abuse
   ___ C) Natural Disaster
   ___ D) Sexual Abuse
   ___ E) All of the above

36. Which standard of proof means "the judge has enough evidence to create the belief that significant impairment to the child's safety may occur if the child is left in the home?"
   ___ A) Clear and Convincing Evidence
   ___ B) Substantial Compliance
   ___ C) Preponderance of the Evidence
   ___ D) Probable Cause
   ___ E) None of the above

37. When a child is exposed to chronic trauma and stress there are significant impacts to their brain development.
   ___ True
   ___ False

38. Complex trauma exposures involve the following
   ___ A) Simultaneous occurrence of child maltreatment
   ___ B) Sequential occurrence of child maltreatment
   ___ C) None of the above
   ___ D) Both A and B

39. What does ACE stand for?
   ___ A) Adverse Childhood Experiences
   ___ B) Advanced Cognitive Exercises
   ___ C) Advanced Cognitive Experiences
   ___ D) Adverse Cognitive Experiences
   ___ E) Adverse Childhood Exposure
40. Which of the following are examples of long term impacts of trauma?
   ____ A) Childhood developmental delays
   ____ B) higher rates of adolescence delinquency
   ____ C) Increases in adult psychiatric problems
   ____ D) higher rates of adolescence drug and alcohol use
   ____ E) All of the above

41. What tool provides a description of and factors to consider for each specific maltreatment?
   ____ A) Hotline Intake
   ____ B) Family Functioning Assessment
   ____ C) Case Plan
   ____ D) Child Maltreatment Index
   ____ E) Safety Plan

42. Which is NOT a Special Condition Referral?
   ____ A) Human Trafficking
   ____ B) Caregiver unavailable
   ____ C) Foster care referral
   ____ D) Child on child sexual abuse
   ____ E) Both A and D

43. According to Administrative Code, a specific type of injury or harm to a child is a/an
   ____ A) Maltreatment
   ____ B) Finding
   ____ C) Allegation
   ____ D) Intake
   ____ E) Indicator

44. Substance abuse:
   ____ A) May serve as a dis-inhibitor for the parent
   ____ B) Can lead to illegal activity
   ____ C) Can drain family resources
   ____ D) May impair child caring behaviors
   ____ E) All of the above

45. Domestic Violence is usually an individual, isolated event
   ____ True
   ____ False

46. The following is the correct ordering of the stages in the cycle of domestic violence:
   Incident, Tension building, Reconciliation, Calm
   ____ True
   ____ False
47. Domestic violence and family violence are the same thing  
   __ True  
   __ False

48. Domestic violence includes  
   __ A) Isolation  
   __ B) Intimidation  
   __ C) Economic abuse  
   __ D) Blaming  
   __ E) All of the above

49. Unsafe in-home cases involving domestic violence requires 2 safety plans  
   __ True  
   __ False

50. “You really like going to school, don’t you?” This is an example of  
   __ A) A closed leading question  
   __ B) Positive reinforcement  
   __ C) Reframing  
   __ D) A and C  
   __ E) All of the above

51. “Tell me about the times he is able to be patient.” This is an example of  
   __ A) A closed question  
   __ B) Open and exception finding question  
   __ C) An indirect question  
   __ D) Use of Summarization  
   __ E) None of the above

52. An interview goes from general to specific topics  
   __ True  
   __ False

53. Which of the following is the best way to begin discussion about a highly sensitive topic  
   __ A) Use a closed question  
   __ B) Open and exception finding question  
   __ C) Use a self-disclosure  
   __ D) Use an indirect question  
   __ E) Ask an exception finding question
54. With a pre-school child, which of the following questions are appropriate?
   ____ A) Tell me about the time dad hit you.
   ____ B) Which day of the week did your dad hit you?
   ____ C) Did your dad hit you before or after your mother left?
   ____ D) Why did your dad hit you?
   ____ E) All of the above

55. With an 8 year old child, which of the following introductions is appropriate?
   ____ A) I’m here to talk to you about your father hitting your mother
   ____ B) Why do you think I’m here?
   ____ C) My job is to work with children and their families.
   ____ D) I’m here to make sure you’re safe

56. Cultural dynamics of the family can change as the child develops and matures
   ____ True
   ____ False

57. Cultural sensitivity means
   ____ A) You should recognize the perspective of the family so you can help them adjust their communication style to fit your own.
   ____ B) Be willing to learn about other cultures so that you can compare and contrast them to your own cultural beliefs
   ____ C) Be aware of cultural differences within family dynamics
   ____ D) Understand and value their perspective but treat the case like any other case

58. What are some of the mental illnesses you may encounter as a child welfare professional?
   ____ A) Anxiety Disorders
   ____ B) Schizophrenia
   ____ C) Mood disorders
   ____ D) A and C
   ____ E) All of the above

59. Family dynamics are
   ____ A) Patterns of relating
   ____ B) Interactions between family members
   ____ C) Families beliefs
   ____ D) Family’s value system
   ____ E) A and B

60. Developmental disability is
   ____ A) Cognitive disability
   ____ B) Severe disability
   ____ C) Chronic disability
   ____ D) A and B
   ____ E) All of the above
61. People with limited cognitive functioning are more reliant on
   ___ A) Abstract thinking
   ___ B) Concrete thinking
   ___ C) Critical thinking
   ___ D) Literal thinking
   ___ E) B and D

62. Least Intrusive means
   ___ A) We only ask questions that pertain to the incident of alleged maltreatment
   ___ B) We do not remove children from their homes
   ___ C) We intervene to protect children in ways that produce the least amount of interference
       into a family’s life as possible
   ___ D) When removal is necessary, only placing children in foster care

63. The health and safety of the children served by our agencies is
   ___ A) considered when possible
   ___ B) of paramount concern
   ___ C) only considered when there is present
   ___ D) only considered when there is impending danger