RIGHT ANSWER

WRONG QUESTION

Teachers sometimes receive answers to test questions that appear irrelevant to the question. Closer inspection often reveals that the answer came from material included in the course but it just doesn’t apply to the specific information sought on the test.

Art Linkletter had a program entitled “Children Say the Funniest Things.” The children’s responses to Art’s questions were legitimate statements, they just didn’t fit the question he had asked. In our classes, when we ask questions to which the student does not know the correct answer, we are offered a piece of information the student has garnered during the course in the hopes that any biological information is better than no information.

With this understanding, we can procure some enjoyment from these “bizarre” answers rather than be disturbed that our students have not paid more attention to the pearls of wisdom we have bestowed upon them. Below are some questions and some rather unique answers from my last exam. Your challenge is to figure out what the correct question should have been.

**Question:** List an advantage of being a homeotherm. List a disadvantage.
**Answer:** Advantage - More traits from parents. Disadvantage - Hard to distinguish them.

**Question:** Compare amniocentesis to chorionic villi sampling as to when the samples can be taken.
**Answer:** The amniocentesis can be done before the birth and villi sampling can be done after birth.

**Question:** What is one of the problems associated with using immunosuppression drugs?
**Answer:** It will at the time make the body immune then it will, when taken off, throw the body for a loop. The body becomes dependent on it.

**Question:** Do all humans possess the same MHCs? Explain.
**Answer:** No, it is different in males and females.

**Question:** Can you think of any incidents in the life cycle of humans when they would be classified as osmoconformers? Explain.
**Answer:** During menstruation humans would be classified as osmoconformers.

Now that you are aware of the uniqueness and originality of students’ answers to the questions you select for them to answer, you may have a few examples that would further enlighten us on the topic of “Right Answer—Wrong Question”. Please submit your answers and questions to our humor columnist:

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Directions Better Not Given

Teachers say the funniest things as well! In keeping with the theme of light-hearted biology, we are also collecting examples of instructions that we would really rather not have written. The memorable typo on the fermentation lab handout used in the general bio lab is offered below as an example.

“Once the molasses has been added, place the Ehrlenmeyer flask under a warm desk lamb. If there are none on the bench top, please check your bottom bench drawer where they are usually stored.”

A really “baaaaaaad” direction that sent numerous students in a legitimate search of greener pastures…