

# Station Vignette

You are a third-year student on GP rotation.

The GP has asked you to take a brief history from Tony Arundel, a 50-year-old man who has come into the practice after taking a nasty fall off his skateboard.

### Vital signs:

Temperature: 37.6 degrees Celsius.Blood pressure: 120/80 mmHg.

Heart rate: 65/minute.Respirations: 14/minute.

- **BMI:** 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

#### **TASK**

You have a total of **7 minutes** to take a history.

## This includes:

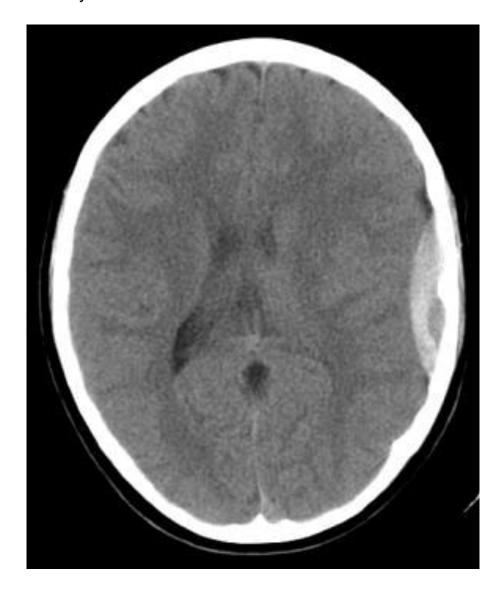
- History of presenting complaint
- Constitutional history
- Past medical history
- Medications history
- Social history
- Family history
- · Focussed systems review.

At the end of the allotted time, you will have **1 minute** to answer the examiner's questions.

You do **NOT** need to complete a physical examination.

# **EXAMINER QUESTIONS**

- 1. State **three (3)** initial investigations you would perform on Tony.
- 2. Describe Tony's head scan below:



3. If Tony had presented to the ED only being able to open his eyes to pain stimulation, making incomprehensible sounds, and only flexing to withdraw from pain, what would his overall **Glasgow coma scale score** be?

	Question	Patient Information	Grade
Introduction			
Presenting complaint		<ul><li>I hit my head on the pavement pretty hard, doc.</li></ul>	/1
Pain history	Onset Character Radiation Associated symptoms Timing Exacerbating/relieving factors	<ul> <li>S – Whole head, but especially the left side, which is where I landed.         <ul> <li>Started pretty much right after I hit my head.</li> <li>C – Sharp pain at the site of injury.</li> <li>R – No radiation.</li> <li>A – Feeling a bit dizzy too.</li> <li>T – Constant.</li> <li>E – Exacerbated by moving around, and relieved by staying still.</li> <li>S – Mid-score (5 to 6 out of 10).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	17
General/cons titutional history	Severity General health Energy levels Appetite Diet Night sweats, fevers, and chills	<ul> <li>□ Generally been well.</li> <li>□ Feeling a bit fatigued.</li> <li>□ No appetite, feeling really sick.</li> <li>□ Diet normally includes all food groups.</li> <li>□ No night sweats, chills, but feeling a little cold.</li> <li>□ Sleep has been good.</li> </ul>	/6
	Sleep		
Systems review	Neurological  Pain.  Gait.	Neurological  ☐ My entire head has been painful. ☐ I haven't really been able to walk that straight. I kind of feel like I'm drunk.	/14
	<ul><li>Continence.</li><li>Memory loss.</li><li>Dizziness or vertigo.</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Nope, I haven't lost control of my bowels or urine.</li> <li>I don't really remember what happened to be honest.</li> <li>I've been feeling a bit dizzy, but I don't feel like the world has been spinning around me.</li> </ul>	
	• Fainting.	<ul> <li>I did faint for a bit when I first got hit, my friends told me I was out for like 3 minutes.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Funny turns.</li> <li>Numbness or paraesthesia.</li> <li>Dysphasia or dysarthria.</li> <li>Dysphagia.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Nothing like that.</li> <li>I haven't felt numb anywhere.</li> <li>Haven't had any problems with my speech.</li> <li>I haven't really had anything to eat or drink since then, so I don't know.</li> </ul>	

	Change in cognition.	<ul> <li>My memory has been a little foggy since I got hurt.</li> </ul>	
	<ul><li>Gastrointestinal</li><li>Nausea.</li><li>Vomiting.</li></ul>	Gastrointestinal  ☐ I haven't been feeling the best to be honest. I've been feeling really nauseated.  ☐ I did vomit once on the way here, doc.	
	Haematological  Tiredness.	No other gastrointestinal symptoms.  Haematological  I have been feeling a bit more tired than usual.  No other haematological symptoms.	
	Urinary	Urinary No urinary symptoms.	
Medications history and allergies	Prescribed, over the counter, and herbal remedies Allergies	□ No medications. □ No allergies.	/2
Medical	Past and current	☐ Had asthma as a child, but that has	/1
history Surgical history	medical conditions Surgical procedures	seemed to go away.  No surgical history.	/1
Social history	Home situation Occupation	<ul> <li>Things are well at home.</li> <li>University student studying graphic design (not very stressful).</li> </ul>	/6
	Immunisations  Substance use (smoking, alcohol, and recreational drugs)	<ul> <li>□ Up to date with immunisations.</li> <li>□ Occasionally smokes (maybe once or twice a month), consumes 3 standard drinks per night on the weekends.</li> <li>Never taken any recreational drugs.</li> </ul>	
	Travel Pets	<ul><li>□ Not travelled anywhere recently.</li><li>□ No pets at home.</li></ul>	
Family history	Parents' health Conditions that run in the family	<ul><li>□ Both parents alive and well.</li><li>□ No conditions run in family.</li></ul>	/2
Questions	□□□ Q1 – 0.5 each, 3 of: Bedside: Blood glucose, venous blood gas, and ECG. Blood investigations: Full blood count and clotting studies. Imaging: Non-contrast head CT scan. □□□ Q2 – 0.5 each: Presence of a left-sided acute epidural haematoma with slight midline shift to the right. No signs of evident fracture. No loss of grey-white matter differentiation. □ Q3 – 8 (E2 V2 M4)		
Communicati on skills	☐ Appropriate questionid☐ Actively listens to pation	<u> </u>	/4

	☐ Systematic approach to history taking ☐ Appropriate conclusion and summary		
Global score	Overall impression of candidate based on warmth, clarity and competence:  1 = fail  2 = borderline  3 = pass/expected  4 = good  5 = excellent	/5	
Total score Comments:		/53	