

1. THEORY

1.1 Anatomy of the ear

Describe the major components and functions of the peripheral auditory system.

1.2 Causes of hearing loss

List the common causes of hearing loss.

1.3 Types of hearing loss

Define a conductive, mixed and sensori-neural hearing loss.

1.4 Knowledge of the profession

Describe the major areas in which the profession is involved, including all the various competencies that can be obtained and the various specialities.

1.5 Assessment conditions

i) Describe the physical environment required to perform audiometric assessments for suitability of hearing aids.

ii) Be aware of any applicable Australian or international standards that apply to the conduct of a hearing assessment.

iii) Have copies, or direct access to copies, of applicable standards.

1.6 Hearing aid prescription systems

i) Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of at least one of the recognised prescription techniques (eg NAL R, Fig6, POGO).

ii) Demonstrate knowledge of earmould acoustics.

iii) Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of compression strategies available.

iv) Demonstrate knowledge of power management strategies available.

1.7 Knowledge of hearing aids

Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of the range of hearing aids available from at least one hearing aid manufacturer.

2. CLIENTCONTACT

2.1 Rapport with client

Introduce self and role to client.

i) Establish appropriate rapport with client.

ii) Overview the sequence of initial interview and assessment.

iii)	Outline practice/hearing services administrative procedures.	.....	.....
2.2	Take case history		
i)	Gather relevant background information.	.....	.....
ii)	Establish a systematic questioning format.	.....	.....
2.3	Use effective communication strategies		
i)	Demonstrate effective use of interactive techniques.	.....	.....
ii)	Identify client communication difficulties and issues.	.....	.....
iii)	Demonstrate ethical practice and procedures when dealing with client.	.....	.....
2.4	Identify client concerns		
i)	Determine areas of client concern.	.....	.....
ii)	Discuss concerns with client.	.....	.....
iii)	Address client concerns.	.....	.....
2.5	Explain outcome of investigations		
i)	Explain results of investigations to client.	.....	.....
ii)	Explain degree of hearing loss and its implications in the day to day life of client.	.....	.....
2.6	Determine a course of action		
i)	Consider available options that support client needs.	.....	.....
ii)	Discuss and explain options and issues with client.	.....	.....
iii)	Explore alternatives suitable to client.	.....	.....
iv)	Determine a course of action.	.....	.....
v)	Gain informed consent from clients where applicable.	.....	.....
vi)	Establish a sequence of steps to achieve the outcome.	.....	.....
3.	CLIENT ASSESSMENT		
3.1	Client history		
	Identify significant features of client history.	.....	.....
3.2	Determine test format		
i)	Select a range of suitable tests.	.....	.....
ii)	Explain processes and procedures to client.	.....	.....
3.3	Pure Tone Audiometry		
i)	Perform a quick acoustic calibration and integrity check of an audiometer.	.....	.....
ii)	Instruct client on the task of audiometry.	.....	.....

- iii) Perform air thresholds assessment.
- iv) Perform bone thresholds assessment.
- v) Use appropriate masking.
- vi) Perform MCL assessment.
- vii) Perform UCL assessment.

3.4 Speech Audiometry

- i) Instruct client on the task of speech audiometry.
- ii) Perform speech discrimination testing using at least one of the commonly recognised basic speech tests.
- iii) Use appropriate masking.

3.5 Otoscopy

- i) Hold an otoscope correctly.
- ii) Identify excessive cerumen.
- iii) Identify a discharging ear.
- iv) Identify atresia.
- v) Identify a perforation.
- vi) Identify a grommet.
- vii) Identify the major landmarks on the tympanic membrane.

3.6 Impedance Audiometry

- i) Instruct client on the task of impedance audiometry.
- ii) Perform screening impedance audiometry.

3.7 Interpretation of results

- i) Identify a conductive hearing loss using PTA results.
- ii) Identify a sensori-neural hearing loss using PTA results.
- iii) Identify a mixed hearing loss using PTA results.
- iv) Identify normal middle ear function using IA results.
- v) Identify abnormal middle ear function using IA results.
- vi) Demonstrate an understanding of results obtained.
- vii) Determine if further testing is required.
- viii) Determine degree of hearing loss.
- ix) Demonstrate an ability to compare test results to ensure they are cohesive.

4. CLIENT TREATMENT

4.1 Prescription of hearing aids

Using an appropriate recognised technique, and in consultation with the client prescribe hearing aids.

4.2	Impression taking		
	Using appropriate safety techniques, take an ear impression.	.....	.....
4.3	Fitting of hearing aids		
i)	Fit hearing aid using real ear assessment techniques.	.....	.....
ii)	Fit hearing aid using free field assessment techniques.	.....	.....
iii)	Assess the occlusion effect and take appropriate action to minimise its effects.	.....	.....
iv)	Determine power output is acceptable to client.	.....	.....
v)	Demonstrate modification techniques to ensure a comfortable fit of the earmould.	.....	.....
vi)	Demonstrate a working knowledge of feedback management techniques.	.....	.....
vii)	Appropriately instruct a client on the use of hearing aids.	.....	.....
viii)	Ensure client expectations are realistic.	.....	.....
4.4	Follow up procedures		
i)	Inquire as to the benefits and limitations that a client derives from the use of hearing aids.	.....	.....
ii)	Ensure comfort of fit.	.....	.....
iii)	Modify acoustic performance of hearing aids as required.	.....	.....
iv)	Organise ongoing arrangements with client that are mutually acceptable.	.....	.....
5.	CLIENT REFERRAL		
5.1	Identify the need for referral		
i)	Demonstrate an understanding of the limits of own abilities and the need for appropriate referral to other sources of assessment and treatment.	.....	.....
ii)	Identify those times when other facilities and/or equipment may be required.	.....	.....
iii)	Discuss referral with client.	.....	.....
iv)	Explain process with client.	.....	.....
5.2	Identify appropriate source		
i)	Demonstrate a knowledge of appropriate agencies and individuals to whom a client might be referred if required.	.....	.....
ii)	Refer client to appropriate agency or individual.	.....	.....
5.3	Liase with source		
i)	Develop an appropriate relationship with the above agencies and individuals.	.....	.....
ii)	Establish contact with resource.	.....	.....
iii)	Provide key information to resource.	.....	.....
iv)	Discuss relevant issues and concerns with resource.	.....	.....
5.4	Monitor and follow up referral		
i)	Liase with resource to ensure continuity of case management.	.....	.....
ii)	Maintain channel of communication with client.	.....	.....

- iii) Review outcomes of referral with client.
- iv) Identify the need for further assessment or other referral.

6. PROFESSIONAL CONTACT

6.1 Report writing

- i) Write comprehensive reports that demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of results obtained.
- ii) Make appropriate recommendations for further assessment or treatment.
- iii) Hearing aid fitting and expected outcome, both long and short term.

7. HEARING AID MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

7.1 Manual check of hearing aid

- i) Check wax.
- ii) Check tubing.
- iii) Check switch.
- iv) Check volume control.
- v) Check operation of remote control.

7.2 Use of test box

- i) Check gain.
- ii) Check power.
- iii) Check distortion.
- iv) Check battery consumption.

7.3 Minor hearing aid repairs

- i) Remove wax.
- ii) Replace hook.
- iii) Replace tubing.
- iv) Reboot an ITE.

7.4 Major hearing aid repairs

- Know the system for obtaining hearing aid repairs.

