Top-Rated Review Resources

USINIEP

2021

A STUDENT-TO-STUDENT GUIDE

Updated study admice for Step 1 success

All new communication willis section in flocks the new Step 1 bauptint

Non'y 1,400 must know concepts with many new liphy-jeft to tacks

Expanded Miturations, belosis, and memonatics to belog varied her prioritations

Student-grown ozam strategies to bond your score

TAG LE VIKAS BHUSHAN MATTHEW SOCHAT

"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested."

-Sir Francis Bacon

"Always read something that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it."

-P.J. O'Rourke

"So many books, so little time."

—Frank Zappa

"If one cannot enjoy reading a book over and over again, there is no use in reading it at all."

-Oscar Wilde

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

-Arthur Ashe

▶ How to Use the Database	2
▶ Question Banks	4
▶ Web and Mobile Apps	6
▶ Comprehensive	10
► Anatomy, Embryology and Neuroscience	y, 12
▶ Behavioral Science	14
▶ Biochemistry	14
▶ Cell Biology and Histology	15
► Microbiology and Immunology	16
▶ Pathology	18
▶ Pharmacology	19
▶ Physiology	21

► HOW TO USE THE DATABASE

This section is a database of top-rated basic science review books, sample examination books, websites, apps, and commercial review courses that have been marketed to medical students studying for the USMLE Step 1. For each recommended resource, we list (where applicable) the Title, the First Author (or editor), the Series Name (where applicable), the Current Publisher, the Copyright Year, the Number of Pages, the ISBN, the Approximate List Price, the Format of the resource, and the Number of Test Questions. We also include Summary Comments that describe their style and overall utility for studying. Finally, each recommended resource receives a Rating. Within each section, resources are arranged first by Rating and then alphabetically by the first author within each Rating group.

A letter rating scale with six different grades reflects the detailed student evaluations for **Rated Resources**. Each rated resource receives a rating as follows:

A+	Excellent for boards review.
A A–	Very good for boards review; choose among the group.
B+ B	Good, but use only after exhausting better resources.
В-	Fair, but there are many better resources in the discipline; or low-yield subject material.

The Rating is meant to reflect the overall usefulness of the resource in helping medical students prepare for the USMLE Step 1. This is based on a number of factors, including:

- The importance of the discipline for the USMLE Step 1
- The appropriateness and accuracy of the material
- The readability of the text
- The quality and number of sample questions
- The quality of written answers to sample questions
- The cost
- The quality of the user interface and learning experience, for web and mobile apps
- The quality and appropriateness of the images and illustrations
- The length of the text (longer is not necessarily better)
- The quality and number of other resources available in the same discipline

Please note that ratings do not reflect the quality of the resources for purposes other than reviewing for the USMLE Step 1. Many books with lower ratings are well written and informative but are not ideal for boards preparation. We have not listed or commented on general textbooks available for the basic sciences.

Evaluations are based on the cumulative results of formal and informal surveys of thousands of medical students at many medical schools across the country. The summary comments and overall ratings represent a consensus opinion, but there may have been a broad range of opinion or limited student feedback on any particular resource.

Please note that the data listed are subject to change in that:

- Publisher and app store prices change frequently.
- Retail and online bookstores may set their own prices.
- New editions and app versions come out frequently, and the quality of updating varies.
- The same book may be reissued through another publisher.

We actively encourage medical students and faculty to submit their opinions and ratings of these basic science review materials so that we may update our database. In addition, we ask that publishers and authors submit for evaluation review copies of basic science review books, including new editions and books not included in our database. We also solicit reviews of new books, mobile apps, websites, flash cards, and commercial review courses.

Disclaimer/Conflict of Interest Statement

None of the ratings reflects the opinion or influence of the publisher. All errors and omissions will gladly be corrected if brought to the attention of the authors through our blog at firstaidteam.com. Please note that USMLE-Rx, ScholarRx, and the entire *First Aid for the USMLE* series are publications by certain authors of *First Aid for the USMLE Step 1*; the following ratings are based solely on recommendations from the student authors of *First Aid for the USMLE Step 1* as well as data from the student survey and feedback forms.

▶ QUESTION BANKS



UWorld Obank

\$269-\$799 Test/3000+ q

uworld.com

A diverse question bank with many questions requiring multistep reasoning, which may be more difficult than the actual test. Explanations are detailed with figures and tables. Tests and performance scores can be customized per user preferences. Accessible via iOS and Android mobile apps.



NBME Practice Exams

\$60 Test/200 q

nbme.org/students/sas/Comprehensive.html

Exams consist of retired Step 1 questions. Performance on these exams shows a "moderate correlation" with performance on the actual exam. The postexam review shows incorrect answers, but without explanations. You will not be able to review correctly answered questions. Students use these as rough gauges of score progression over their study period. Additional feature includes an in-person practice session at Prometric (\$75 fee) for students who wish to practice the logistics of exam day.



AMBOSS

\$59-\$286 Test/3500 q

amboss.com

Integrated question bank for Step 1 and Step 2 CK exams with an additional interactive online library of medical resources. Contains numerous color-coded illustrations within the clinical vignettes. Allows for the selection of questions by difficulty level. Includes personalized study plan. Free trial available, accessible through iOS or Android mobile apps. Can be accessed for a "lifetime" (until the end of medical school).

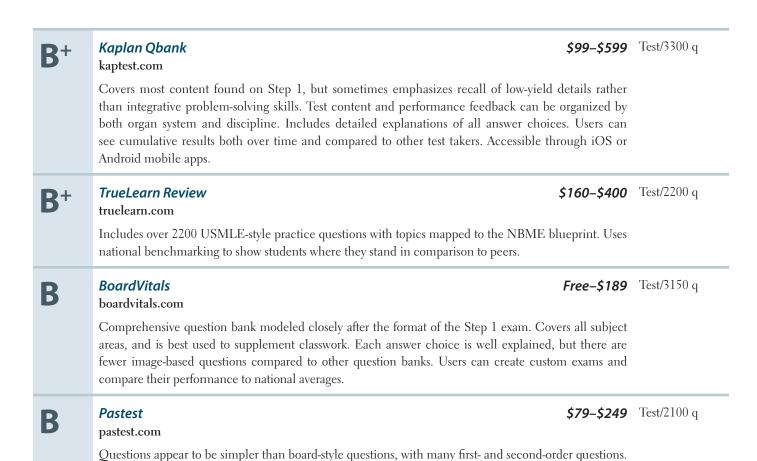


USMLE-Rx Qmax

\$79_\$349 Test/2300+ q

usmle-rx.com

Offers Step 1-style questions accompanied by thorough explanations. Omits obscure material and distills high-yield information. Best used after a first readthrough of First Aid. Each explanation includes references from First Aid. However, the proportion of questions covering a given subject may not reflect the actual exam's relative emphasis. Question stems avoid "buzzwords" and explanations provide indepth answers and concepts. Most useful to help commit First Aid to memory. Provides detailed performance analyses. Free trial available, accessible through iOS and Android mobile apps.



Explanations are accompanied by references to *First Aid* and short video clips to reinforce information. Also has a progressive learning system through cases. Accessible through iOS or Android mobile apps,

with a free 48-hour trial.

▶ WEB AND MOBILE APPS

Anki ankisrs.net Free Flash cards

Flash card-making resource designed for retention of facts through spaced repetition. Premade decks of cards are available. Free access via desktop and smartphone for Windows, Mac, and Android. The iOS app must be purchased for \$25. Available in different languages. Mobile interface is user friendly.

Boards and Beyond A boardsbeyond.com

\$19-\$299

Review/ Test/2300 q

Includes approximately 450 videos averaging ~26 minutes each, covering the breadth of Step 1 material. Membership includes access to the companion books as PDFs. A collection of videos is offered as free samples on the website.

SketchyMedical A sketchymedical.com **\$100-\$550** Review

Video library of narrated lectures with thorough explanations that present microbiology, pharmacology, and pathology in a memorable style. Provides access to 350+ videos, 350+ review cards, and 3000+ quiz questions. All three versions can be purchased as a package. Free subscription gives access to certain videos and associated cards.

Rx Bricks A usmle-rx.scholarrx.com/rx-bricks **\$15-\$199** Study plan

Interactive platform providing short, topic-based modules (called Bricks) supplemented with clinical cases, interactive art, and other tools to help learn core Step 1 exam material. Goals for reviewing the module are identified at the start of the Brick, and the objectives for each goal are met by the end of the topic review. At the end of each Brick, there are practice questions to assess the level of knowledge gained and allow for review in more detail if needed. Integrated with links to First Aid Step 1 Express videos, First Aid Step 1 Flash Facts, and the USMLE-Rx Step 1 Qmax question bank.

Physeo physeo.com **\$30-\$150** Review

Online review containing 400+ hours of review videos covering physiology. Accessible via website or mobile app. Includes a supplemental full-color PDF textbook. Videos are concise and focus on highyield material, and board-style practice questions are included after each topic to help solidify understanding. Similar structure to Pathoma, but with physiology focus.

USMLE-Rx Step 1 Express

\$49-\$199 Review/Test

usmle-rx.com

More than 80 hours of high-yield videos explaining material from First Aid for the USMLE Step 1. Videos include more than 600 extra images and multimedia clips. Includes many step-by-step breakdowns of how to answer USMLE-style questions. Subscription includes a color workbook with over 200 pages.

Web platform that includes exam study scheduling tool, 7,200+ USMLE Step 1- and Step 2-focused variable quality multiple choice questions, 16,000+ flash cards with spaced repetition, and 1600+ videos, memory anchors, and reference articles. Includes a curriculum analysis and search engine,

collaboration features for study groups, and a mobile app with quizzes and videos.

Medbullets

step1.medbullets.com

Free-\$250 Review/ Test/1000 q

Free online learning and collaboration community for students preparing for their exams. Supplements medical school coursework and Step 1 studying with simplified, to-the-point online search platform that is best used as a reference. Free for the initial 90 days. Premium content is available for a fee and includes an online question bank and adaptive learning system.

B⁺ Ninja Nerd Medicine

Free

youtube.com/c/NinjaNerdMedicine

Contains videos with line diagrams explained in a simplified way. Topics include pulmonary medicine, hepatic pathology, cardiac pathology, endocrine pathology, and COVID-19. Limited content necessitates use of additional resources for comprehensive study.

WebPath: The Internet Pathology Laboratory B+

Free

Review/ Test/1300 q

webpath.med.utah.edu

Features more than 2700 gross and microscopic images, clinical vignette questions, and case studies. Includes nine general pathology exams and 11 system-based pathology exams with approximately 1300 questions. Also features 170 questions associated with images. Questions are useful for reviewing boards content but are typically untimed, easier, and shorter. No multimedia practice questions. Not regularly updated with regard to high-yield Step 1 material.

Digital Anatomist Project: Interactive Atlases B

Free Review

da.si.washington.edu/da.html

Contains an interactive neuroanatomy course along with a three-dimensional atlas of the brain, thorax, and knee. Atlases have computer-generated images and cadaver sections. Each atlas also has a quiz in which users identify structures in the slide images. However, questions do not focus on high-yield anatomy for Step 1.

Dr. Najeeb Lectures B

\$199 Review

drnajeeblectures.com

Provides 800+ video lectures covering basic medical sciences and clinical medicine with thousands of hand-drawn illustrations and mnemonics. Website provides mobile video support on smartphones and tablets. Free lectures accessible at drnajeeblectures.com/free-medical-videos.html.

Firecracker B

\$99-\$499

Review/ Test/2800 q

firecracker.lww.com

Learning platform divided into modules arranged by organ systems. Contains lectures, periodic quizzes on flagged review material, actual exam simulation, and page references to First Aid for the USMLE Step 1 and other texts. Features customizable quizzes and personalized study plans. Accessible on all smartphones and tablets. Comprehensive; best if started early in preclinical years.

\$30-\$150 Review **KISSPrep** B kissprep.com Online lecture videos focused on select subjects from the Step 1 exam. Focuses on harder-to-learn content and teaches it in a simple, easy-to-understand manner. Quizzes and other interactive tools are available to help with knowledge retention. Not all Step 1 content is covered on this platform. Memorang **\$19-\$239** Flash cards B memorangapp.com Platform utilizing spaced repetition, available both in website and app form. Utilizes custom and/or premade flash card "study sets" derived from 15,000 flash cards that focus on specific subject areas and are then tested via various games and quizzing methods. Free 7-day trial, or monthly/annual membership. **Picmonic \$25-\$480** Review B picmonic.com Helpful resource for visual learners. Unique images and stories with daily quizzes and spaced repetition. Contains 1400 images and includes study guides, webinars, and infographics that help cover 16,000 facts of Step 1 material. Offered via both web and mobile platforms. Free Cases/Test Radiopaedia.org B radiopaedia.org A user-friendly website with thousands of well-organized radiology cases and articles. High-yield anatomy and pathology are covered with images described in detail. Good resource to learn how to read CT scans and ultrasound images. Quiz mode allows students to make a diagnosis based on radiographic findings. Good complement to classes and clerkships. Free Review Innerbody Research Binnerbody.com/htm/body.html Contains interactive 3D models of the human body. Students can view anatomic details by system or organ. Can be helpful to master complex anatomic concepts. **\$105-\$720** Review/ Lecturio B-Test/2150 q lecturio.com/usmle-step-1 Online platform for comprehensive exam preparation, including over 220 hours of lectures, a flash card deck, quizzes, and a question bank. Organized by subject matter and allows users to customize

their learning experience. Some content may be beyond the scope of the exam and better suited for medical school coursework. Lectures and quizzes may be accessed for free. iOS and Android apps are

available.

▶ COMPREHENSIVE

A

First Aid for the Basic Sciences: General Principles

\$75 Review

LE

McGraw-Hill, 2017, 528 pages, ISBN 9781259587016

Comprehensive review of the basic sciences covered in year 1 of medical school. Similar to the first part of *First Aid*, organized by discipline, and includes hundreds of color images and tables. Best if started with first-year coursework and then used as a reference during boards preparation.

A

First Aid Cases for the USMLE Step 1

\$50 Cases

Lε

McGraw-Hill, 2018, 496 pages, ISBN 9781260143133

Hundreds of high-yield cases organized by organ system. Each case features a clinical vignette with relevant images, followed by questions and short, high-yield explanations. Offers coverage of many frequently tested concepts, and integrates subject matter in the discussion of the vignette. Helpful in reviewing material outlined in *First Aid for the USMLE Step 1*.



First Aid for the Basic Sciences: Organ Systems

\$72 Review

LE

McGraw-Hill, 2017, 912 pages, ISBN 9781259587030

A comprehensive review of the basic sciences covered in year 2 of medical school. Similar to the second part of *First Aid*, organized by organ system, and includes hundreds of color images and tables. Each organ system contains discussion of embryology and anatomy, physiology, pathology, and pharmacology. Best if started with second-year coursework and then used as a reference during boards preparation.

A-

Cracking the USMLE Step 1

\$45 Review

PRINCETON REVIEW

Princeton Review, 2013, 832 pages, ISBN 9780307945068

Comprehensive review book with hundreds of illustrations, charts, and diagrams along with 2 full-length practice tests with detailed answer explanations available online. Limited student feedback.

B⁺

USMLE Step 1 Secrets in Color

\$43 Review

Brown

Elsevier, 2016, 800 pages, ISBN 9780323396790

Clarifies difficult concepts in a concise, readable manner. Uses a case-based format and integrates information well. High-quality clinical images. Complements other boards study resources, with a focus on understanding preclinical fundamentals rather than on rote memorization. Slightly lengthy for last-minute studying. There is negative feedback about the number of errors in the book.

B⁺

USMLE Step 1 Lecture Notes 2020

\$330 Review

KAPLAN

Kaplan Medical, 2019, 2624 pages, ISBN 9781506254944

Extremely comprehensive review of Step 1 topics through videos and lecture notes. Split into individual sections covering pathology, pharmacology, physiology, biochemistry and medical genetics, immunology and microbiology. Generally best used to fill gaps in understanding and to review unfamiliar topics that one has not come across, and therefore the notes and associated videos are commonly used by foreign medical graduates. Some sections are quite detailed and go beyond the scope of the Step 1 exam.

B⁺

Crush Step 1: The Ultimate USMLE Step 1 Review O'CONNELL

\$45 Review

Elsevier, 2017, 704 pages, 9780323481632

Detailed, text-heavy review book with practice questions included. Coverage of many high-yield topics but includes some outdated information. Best if used with coursework, but also recommended as a supplemental reference for boards review. Its biostatistics chapter is regarded as one of the best parts of the book.

B

Kaplan USMLE Step 1 Qbook

\$50 Test/850 q

KAPLAN

Kaplan Medical, 2017, 468 pages, ISBN 9781506223544

Consists of over 850 exam-like questions organized by the traditional basic science disciplines. Similar to the Kaplan Qbank, and offers USMLE-style questions with clear, detailed explanations; however, lacks classic images typically seen on the exam. Also includes access to a sample online question bank and a guide on test-taking strategies.

B

medEssentials for the USMLE Step 1

\$55 Review

Kaplan

Kaplan Medical, 2019, 528 pages, ISBN 9781506223599

A comprehensive review divided into general principles and organ systems, organized using high-yield tables and figures. Helpful for visual learners, but can be overly detailed and time consuming. Includes color images in the back along with a monthly subscription to online interactive exercises, although these are of limited value for Step 1 preparation. Pages may be too thin to allow for handwritten annotating. Comes with a free mobile version.

B

Step-Up to USMLE Step 1 2015

\$60 Review

McInnis

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2015, 528 pages, ISBN 9781469894690

An organ system—based review text with clinical vignettes that is useful for integrating the basic sciences covered on Step 1. Composed primarily of outlines, charts, tables, and diagrams. Limited scope of material covered. Includes access to a sample online question bank.

B-

USMLE Step 1 Made Ridiculously Simple

\$30 Review/Test 1000 q

CARL

MedMaster, 2017, 416 pages, ISBN 9781935660224

Concise, succinct text. Online access to more than 1000 practice questions. Uses a table and chart format organized by subject, but some charts are poorly labeled. Consider as an adjunct to more comprehensive sources.

► ANATOMY, EMBRYOLOGY, AND NEUROSCIENCE

High-Yield Gross Anatomy

\$45 Review

DUDEK

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2015, 320 pages, ISBN 9781451190236

A good review of gross anatomy with some clinical correlations. Contains color clinical photos and well-labeled, high-yield radiographic images, but often goes into excessive detail that is beyond the scope of the boards.

A^-

Clinical Anatomy Made Ridiculously Simple

\$30 Review

GOLDBERG

MedMaster, 2016, 175 pages, ISBN 9780940780972

An easy-to-read text offering simple diagrams along with numerous mnemonics, helpful charts, and amusing associations. The humorous style has variable appeal to students, so browse the content before purchasing. Offers good coverage of selected topics. Includes a CD-ROM atlas of normal radiographic anatomy. Best if used during coursework. Includes more detail than typically tested on Step 1.

B⁺

BRS Embryology

\$56 Review/ Test/220 q

DUDEK Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2014, 336 pages, ISBN 9781451190380

An outline-based review of embryology that is typical of the BRS series. Offers a good review and includes much more detail than is required for Step 1. A discussion of congenital malformations is included at the end of each chapter, along with over 220 USMLE-style questions with answers and explanations. The comprehensive exam at the end of the book is high yield. Includes access to a searchable online text on the free companion website, which also features interactive quizzing.

B⁺

High-Yield Embryology

\$43 Review

DUDEK

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2013, 176 pages, ISBN 9781451176100

A concise review of a relatively less-tested subject. Offers excellent organization with clinical correlations. Includes a high-yield list of embryologic tissue origins and USMLE-style case studies after each chapter. May not be suitable for dedicated Step 1 studying.

B⁺

Clinical Neuroanatomy Made Ridiculously Simple GOLDBERG

\$26 Review/Test/ Few q

MedMaster, 2014, 99 pages, ISBN 9781935660194

An easy-to-read, memorable, and simplified format with clever diagrams. Offers a quick, high-yield review of clinical neuroanatomy, but not a comprehensive resource for boards review. Places appropriate emphasis on clinically relevant pathways, cranial nerves, and neurologic diseases. Includes a CD-ROM with CT and MR images, a tutorial on neurologic localization, and interactive quizzes covering classic neurology cases. A light read, useful as a refresher before neurology rotations.

\$42 Review/ **High-Yield Neuroanatomy** B⁺ Test/50 q GOULD Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2015, 208 pages, ISBN 9781451193435 An easy-to-read, straightforward format with excellent diagrams and illustrations. Features a useful atlas of brain and spinal cord images, a glossary of important terms, and an appendix of neurologic lesions. Overall, a great resource and quick read, but more detailed than what is required for Step 1. \$40 Review Crash Course: Anatomy and Physiology B⁺ **S**TEPHENS Elsevier, 2019, 350 pages, ISBN 9780702073755 Part of the Crash Course review series for basic sciences, integrating clinical topics. Offers two-color illustrations, handy study tools, and Step 1 review questions. Contains an up-to-date self-assessment section. Provides a solid review of anatomy and physiology for Step 1. Best if started early. Anatomy—An Essential Textbook **\$50** Text/ B Test/400 q **GILROY** Thieme, 2017, 528 pages, ISBN 9781626234390 A thorough, visually appealing approach to learning anatomy. Contains over 650 colorful, helpful illustrations. Presents material in bullet-point format and tables. Includes over 160 clinical correlates and 400 USMLE-style questions, with the opportunity to complete practice questions online. **\$40** Flash cards **Netter's Anatomy Flash Cards** B HANSEN Elsevier, 2018, 688 flash cards, ISBN 9780323530507 Netter's illustrations in a question/answer column format that allows for self-testing. Each card includes commentary on the structures with a clinical correlation, and pairs well with the associated textbook. More effective as a supplement to coursework, and much too detailed for boards preparation. Lack of embryology correlates limits Step 1 usefulness. Includes online access with additional bonus cards and more than 400 multiple choice questions. Note: an iOS app has a similar cost and additional functionality. **Case Files: Anatomy \$35** Cases B Toy McGraw-Hill, 2014, 416 pages, ISBN 9780071794862 Review text that includes 58 well-chosen cases with discussion, comprehension questions, and takehome pearls. Tables are helpful, but schematics are black and white and not representative of Step 1. A reasonable book to work through for those who benefit from problem-based learning. Case Files: Neuroscience **\$35** Cases B-Toy McGraw-Hill, 2014, 432 pages, ISBN 9780071790253

Similar to other *Case Files* books, it includes 49 clinical cases with lengthy discussion and 3–5 multiple choice questions at the end of each case. Cases are helpful, but the discussion is too lengthy. Ques-

tions are not the most representative of those seen on boards. Limited student feedback.

▶ BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE



BRS Behavioral Science

FADEM

\$55 Review/ Test/600 q

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2020, 384 pages, ISBN 9781975118365

An easy-to-read outline-format review of behavioral science. Offers detailed coverage of mostly high-yield topics, but at a level of depth that often exceeds what is tested on Step 1. Better used prior to dedicated study period. Incorporates tables and charts as well as a statistics chapter. Features over 600 review questions, including an end-of-book comprehensive exam. References DSM-V criteria.

B

Biostatistics and Epidemiology: A Primer for Health and Biomedical Professionals \$75 Review Wassertheil-Smoller

Springer, 2015, 4th edition, 280 pages, 9781493921331

Book that focuses on the underlying framework of biostatistics and epidemiology and offers practical guidelines for research and interpretation. New edition has an expanded chapter on genetic epidemiology. Can be used for self-learning. While it can be used for clarifying certain concepts, content may go into greater breadth than needed for the boards, and there are no board-style questions. Limited student feedback.

▶ BIOCHEMISTRY



Pixorize

\$130-\$200 Review

pixorize.com

Visual mnemonic system focusing primarily on biochemistry, particularly mechanisms of metabolic diseases such as lysosomal storage diseases. Step-by-step videos and interactive images aid studying and review. Compare to Sketchy and Picmonic. Videos are generally shorter than Sketchy videos. Unlike Sketchy, Pixorize has a separate video for every disease that it covers. Most helpful for review after learning the material first elsewhere.

B⁺

Lippincott Illustrated Reviews: BiochemistryFerrier

\$78 Review/

Test/200 q

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2017, 560 pages, ISBN 9781496344496

An integrative and comprehensive review of biochemistry that includes good clinical correlations and effective color diagrams. Extremely detailed and requires significant time commitment, so it should be started with first-year coursework. High-yield summaries at the end of each chapter. Comes with access to the companion website, which includes over 200 USMLE-style questions.

B⁺

BRS Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Genetics

\$55 Review/ Test/500 q

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2019, 448 pages, ISBN 9781496399236

A highly detailed review featuring many images, figures, and clinical correlations. The biochemistry portion includes much more detail than required for Step 1, but may be useful for students without a strong biochemistry background or as a reference text. The molecular biology section is more focused and high yield. Also offers a chapter on laboratory techniques and over 500 clinically oriented practice questions.

\$38 Test/500 q PreTest Biochemistry and Genetics B⁺ WILSON McGraw-Hill, 2013, 592 pages, ISBN 9780071791441 500 questions with detailed, well-referenced explanations. Features a high-yield introduction and appendix, but may be overly detailed in some cases. A solid supplement to preclinical courses and board studying. \$40 Flash cards Lange Flash Cards Biochemistry and Genetics B BARON McGraw-Hill, 2017, 184 flash cards, ISBN 9781259837210 Flash card deck featuring clinical vignettes on one side and concise discussions on the other. Each section contains 2-3 cards on biochemistry principles. High level of detail may make this less ideal for dedicated boards studying. Note that no carrying case for the cards is included. **Case Files: Biochemistry \$35** Cases B Toy McGraw-Hill, 2014, 480 pages, ISBN 9780071794886 Includes 51 clinical cases with comprehensive discussion and summary box, albeit too much depth and not enough breadth for boards preparation. Some cases will almost certainly not be tested. Questions at the end of each case are not representative of those on Step 1.

► CELL BIOLOGY AND HISTOLOGY

Free Test **Blue Histology** www.lab.anhb.uwa.edu.au/mb140 Most helpful when used as a question bank during a dedicated histology course block. Includes many histology slides. Questions are accompanied by brief explanations. However, most are one-step questions and not suitable for board preparation. \$47 Review/Print + B⁺ Crash Course: Cell Biology and Genetics online **S**TUBBS Mosby, 2015, 216 pages, ISBN 9780723438762 Part of the Crash Course review series for basic sciences, integrating clinical topics. Offers two-color illustrations, handy study tools, and Step 1 review questions. Includes online access. High level of detail makes this resource best suited for coursework. BRS Cell Biology and Histology **\$54** Review/ B Test/320 q GARTNER Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2018, 448 pages, ISBN 9781496396358 Covers concepts in cell biology and histology in an outline format. Can be used alone for cell biology study, but may have fewer histology images than some other resources. Includes more detail than is required for Step 1, and information is less high yield than that of other books in the BRS series. Interactive quizzes on the free companion website provide additional practice.

► MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Medical Microbiology and Immunology Flash Cards

\$40 Flash cards

ROSENTHAL

Elsevier, 2016, 192 flash cards, ISBN 9780323462242

Flash cards covering the microorganisms most commonly tested on Step 1. Each card features color microscopic images and clinical presentations on one side and relevant bug information in conjunction with a short case on the other side. Also includes Student Consult online access for extra features. Overemphasizes "trigger words" related to each bug. Not a comprehensive resource.

Basic Immunology B⁺ **A**BBAS

\$70 Review

Elsevier, 2019, 336 pages, ISBN 9780323549431

A useful text that offers clear explanations of complex topics in immunology. Best if used in conjunction with coursework and later skimmed for quick Step 1 review. Includes colorful diagrams, images, tables, and a glossary for further study. Features online access.

Clinical Microbiology Made Ridiculously Simple B⁺

\$38 Review

MedMaster, 2019, 418 pages, ISBN 9781935660330

An excellent, easy-to-read, detailed review of microbiology that includes clever and memorable mnemonics. The sections on bacterial disease are most high yield, less emphasis placed on pharmacology. Recommended to read during coursework and review the concise charts at the end of each chapter during boards review. All images are cartoons; no microscopy images that appear on boards. Requires a supplemental source for immunology.

Microcards: Microbiology Flash Cards B⁺

\$53 Flash cards

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2015, 312 flash cards, ISBN 9781451192353

A well-organized and complete resource for students who like to use flash cards for review. Cards feature the clinical presentation, pathobiology, diagnosis, treatment, and high-yield facts for a particular organism. Some cards also include excellent flow charts organizing important classes of bacteria or viruses. Overall, a good review resource, but at times it is overly detailed, requiring a significant time commitment. Also useful as an aid with coursework. Includes access to online USMLE-style questions with answers.

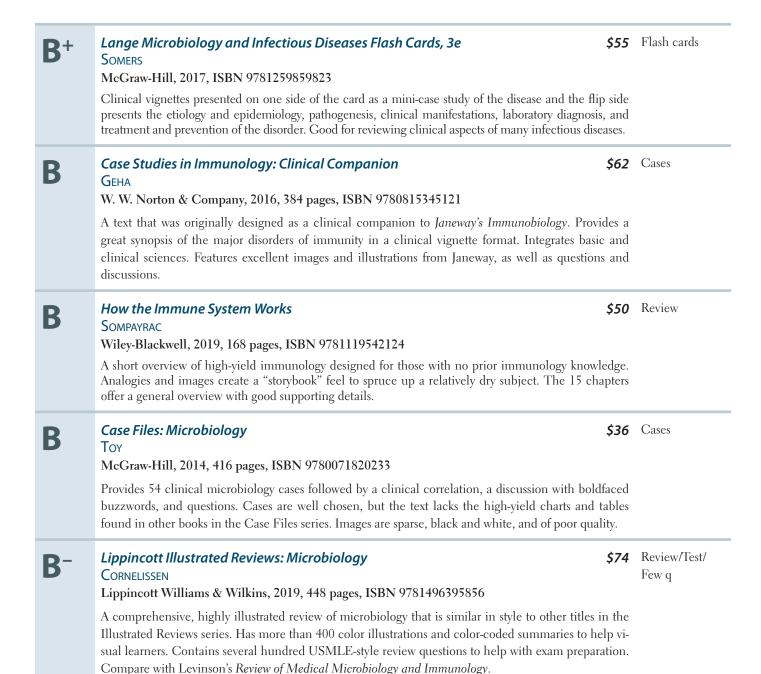
Review of Medical Microbiology and Immunology B⁺ LEVINSON

\$77

Review/ Test/650 q

McGraw-Hill, 2020, 864 pages, ISBN 9781260116717

A clear, comprehensive text with outstanding diagrams and tables. Includes an excellent immunology section. Contains a chapter summarizing details on medically important organisms. Can be used as reference for reviewing immunology concepts. Can be detailed and dense at points, so best if started early with coursework. Includes practice questions, but does not provide detailed explanation of answers. Compare with Lippincott Illustrated Reviews: Microbiology.



▶ PATHOLOGY

Pathoma: Fundamentals of Pathology

\$85-\$120 Review/Lecture

Pathoma, 2021, 226 pages, ISBN 9780983224648

Integrated approach to pathology review, combining a focused textbook with 35+ hours of online lectures. Book contains more than 350 color images. Videos combine "chalk talk" and slide formats to explain pathogenesis in an easy-to-understand manner. Online subscription needed for full access.

A^-

Crash Course: Pathology

\$40 Review

McKINNEY

GOLJAN

Elsevier, 2019, 438 pages, ISBN 9780702073540

Part of the Crash Course review series for basic sciences, integrating clinical topics. Offers two-color illustrations, handy study tools, and Step 1 review questions. Includes online access. Best if started during coursework.

B⁺

Rapid Review: Pathology

\$65

Review/ Test/500 q

Elsevier, 2018, 864 pages, ISBN 9780323476683

A comprehensive source for key concepts in pathology, presented in a bulleted outline format with many high-yield tables and color figures. Features detailed explanations of disease mechanisms. Integrates concepts across disciplines with a strong clinical orientation. Lengthy, so best if started early with coursework. Includes access to online question bank with more than 500 questions. Covers material for both Step 1 and Step 2 exams.

B+

Robbins and Cotran Review of Pathology

\$55 Test/1100 q

KLATT

Elsevier, 2014, 504 pages, ISBN 9781455751556

A question book that follows the main Robbins textbooks. Questions are more detailed, difficult, and arcane than those on the actual Step 1 exam, but the text offers a great review of pathology integrated with more than 1100 images. Thorough answer explanations reinforce key points. Requires significant time commitment, so best if started with coursework. Table of contents closely follows the organization of Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease, 8th edition.

B

BRS Pathology

GUPTA

\$55 Review/

Test/450 q

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2020, 496 pages, ISBN 9781975136628

A concise resource highlighting high-yield information, supplemented by summary tables for focused review and exam preparation. Questions at the end of every chapter as well as a comprehensive exam help in reviewing frequently tested topics. A supplemental online interactive question bank allows for additional review of the topics from the textbook. This book is recommended for use alongside coursework.

Pathophysiology of Disease: Introduction to Clinical B Medicine

\$90 Text

HAMMER

McGraw-Hill, 2018, 832 pages, ISBN 9781260026504

An interdisciplinary text useful for understanding the pathophysiology of clinical symptoms. Effectively integrates the basic sciences with mechanisms of disease. Features great graphs, diagrams, and tables. In view of its length, most useful if started during coursework. Includes 120 case studies, checkpoint questions that appear in every chapter, and a few non-boards-style questions. The text's clinical emphasis nicely complements BRS Pathology.

Haematology at a Glance B

\$51 Review

MEHTA

Wiley-Blackwell, 2014, 136 pages, ISBN 9781119969228

A resource that covers common hematologic issues. Includes color illustrations. Presented in a logical sequence that is easy to read. Good for use with coursework.

Pocket Companion to Robbins and Cotran Pathologic B **Basis of Disease**

\$39 Review

MITCHELL

Elsevier, 2016, 896 pages, ISBN 9781455754168

A condensed version of Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease that is good for reviewing keywords associated with most important diseases. Presented in a highly condensed format, but the text is complete and easy to understand. Contains no photographs or illustrations but does include tables. Useful as a quick reference.

▶ PHARMACOLOGY

Master the Boards USMLE Step 1 **Pharmacology Flashcards**

\$55 Flash cards

FISCHER

Kaplan, 2015, 200 flash cards, ISBN 9781618657947

Easy-to-read flash cards with drug and questions on one side and discussion on the other. Useful for a quick pharmacology review. Some drugs/material may be beyond the scope of the Step 1, or more appropriate at the Step 2 level.

B⁺

Crash Course: Pharmacology

\$40 Review

PAGE

Elsevier, 2019, 336 pages, ISBN 9780702073441

Part of the Crash Course review series for basic sciences, integrating clinical topics. Offers two-color illustrations, handy study tools, and Step 1-style review questions with a self-assessment section. Includes online access. Gives a solid, easy-to-follow overview of pharmacology.

Katzung & Trevor's Pharmacology: Examination B⁺ and Board Review

\$54 Review/ Test/800 q

TREVOR

McGraw-Hill, 2018, 592 pages, ISBN 9781259641022

A well-organized text with concise explanations. Features good charts and tables; the crammable list in Appendix I is especially high yield for Step 1 review. Also good for reviewing drug interactions and toxicities. Offers two 100-question practice exams. Text includes many low-yield/obscure drugs. Compare with Lippincott Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology, both of which are better suited to complementing coursework than last-minute studying for boards.

Lange Pharmacology Flash Cards B **B**ARON

\$39 Flash cards

McGraw-Hill, 2017, 266 flash cards, ISBN 9781259837241

A total of 230 pocket-sized flash cards of relevant drugs formatted with clinical vignettes on one side and relevant information on the other side (eg, mode of action, adverse effects, clinical uses). Particularly high-yield information is highlighted in bold. Mainly useful as a supplement for pharmacology knowledge, rather than as a primary resource. Printed on less durable material.

Pharmacology Flash Cards B

\$45 Flash cards

Brenner

Elsevier, 2017, 230 flash cards, ISBN 9780323355643

Flash cards for more than 200 of the most commonly tested drugs. Cards include the name of the drug (both generic and brand) on the front and basic drug information on the back, with occasional cards covering high-yield pharmacology pathways. Divided and color coded by class, and comes with a compact carrying case. Lacks figures and clinical vignettes.

BRS Pharmacology B

\$55 Review/ Test/200 q

LERCHENFELDT

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2019, 384 pages, ISBN 9781975105495

Features two-color tables and figures that summarize essential information for quick recall. A list of drugs organized by drug family is included in each chapter. Too detailed for boards review; best used as a reference. Also offers end-of-chapter review tests with Step 1-style questions and a comprehensive exam with explanations of answers. An additional question bank is available online.

Lippincott Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology B-

\$76 Review/ Test/380 q

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2018, 576 pages, ISBN 9781496384133

A resource presented in outline format with practice questions, many excellent illustrations, and comparison tables. Effectively integrates pharmacology and pathophysiology. Best started alongside coursework, as it is highly detailed and requires significant time commitment. Focuses on basic principles.

▶ PHYSIOLOGY

Physiology Costanzo

\$60 Text

Elsevier, 2017, 528 pages, ISBN 9780323478816

A comprehensive, clearly written text that covers concepts outlined in BRS Physiology in greater detail. Offers excellent color diagrams and charts. Each systems-based chapter features a detailed summary of objectives and a Step 1-relevant clinical case. Includes access to online interactive extras. Requires time commitment, but helps develop a strong foundation in physiology concepts. Best if started alongside coursework. Practice questions at end of each chapter.

Color Atlas of Physiology

\$50 Review

SILBERNAGL

Thieme, 2015, 472 pages, ISBN 9783135450070

Contains more than 180 high-quality illustrations of disturbed physiologic processes that lead to dysfunction. An alternative to standard texts, but not high yield for boards review.

Pulmonary Pathophysiology: The Essentials **W**EST

\$57 Review/ Test/75 q

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2017, 264 pages, ISBN 9781496339447

A volume offering comprehensive coverage of respiratory physiology. Clearly organized with useful charts and diagrams. Review questions at the end of each chapter provide answers but no explanations. Best used as a course supplement during the second year, less ideal for use immediately prior to Step 1.

B⁺

BRS Physiology COSTANZO

\$55 Review/ Test/350 q

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2018, 304 pages, ISBN 9781496367617

A clear, concise review of physiology that is both comprehensive and efficient, making for fast, easy reading. Includes excellent high-yield charts and tables, but lacks some figures from Costanzo's Physiology. Features high-quality practice questions with explanations in each chapter along with a clinically oriented final exam. An excellent reference during times of focused Step 1 studying, but best if started early in combination with coursework. Respiratory and acid-base sections are comparatively weak.

B⁺

Vander's Renal Physiology

\$49 Text

EATON

McGraw-Hill, 2018, 224 pages, ISBN 9781260019377

Well-written text on renal physiology, with helpful but sparse diagrams and practice questions at the end of each chapter. Too detailed for Step 1 review, however. Best if used with organ-based coursework to understand the principles of renal physiology.

Pathophysiology of Heart Disease B⁺

\$57 Review

Lippincott Williams & Williams, 2020, 480 pages, ISBN 9781975120597

Great resource that outlines an in-depth explanation of both cardiac physiology and pathology. Best used as a supplement when learning the material for the first time, as it helps build a strong foundation. Because the book itself is rather dense, it is not recommend as a primary resource during focused boards studying period.

Acid-Base, Fluids, and Electrolytes Made B⁺ **Ridiculously Simple**

\$24 Review

PRESTON

MedMaster, 2017, 166 pages, ISBN 9781935660293

A resource that covers major acid-base and renal physiology concepts. Provides information beyond the scope of Step 1, but remains a useful companion for studying kidney function, electrolyte disturbances, and fluid management. Includes scattered diagrams and questions at the end of each chapter. Consider using after exhausting more high-yield physiology review resources.

Endocrine Physiology B

\$59 Review

MOLINA

McGraw-Hill, 2018, 320 pages, ISBN 9781260019353

Questions at the end of each chapter are helpful solidify knowledge, but some are not representative of Step 1 questions. Provides more detailed explanations of endocrine physiology than Costanzo review offers, but much too lengthy for Step 1 review. May be useful as a coursework adjunct.

Netter's Physiology Flash Cards B

\$40 Flash cards

MULRONEY

Saunders, 2015, 450 flash cards, ISBN 9780323359542

Flash cards contain a high-quality illustration on one side with question and commentary on the other. Good for self-testing, but too fragmented for learning purposes and not comprehensive enough for boards.