

The purpose of the SSOMA entrance exam is to ensure that students have the right aptitude and background knowledge to successfully complete the course.

The exam contains basic information that is required through the medical course. This information is so basic and important that it is worth learning before commencing the course. For this reason SSOMA tests students to ensure that they have learnt this. Equally, we are more than happy to share the information that we consider vital below. All parts in bold may be tested.

There are no trick questions within this section and all questions are based on the information below. If you learn this information completely then you will pass with 100%. This information is consistent with the information written in The Spark in the Machine.

It is hoped that students start the course with substantially more knowledge than this but this is the basics. Suggested reading includes The Spark in the Machine, The Uncharted Body and watching The Octavia Course on video (there are enough free videos to get started!)

The pass mark of this part of the exam is 85%.

## The Divisions of the Body

**There are six divisions within the body.**

The divisions are divided into three yin and three yang. These divisions use the following Chinese words which you should learn:

**Yin and yang - the philosophical description of the dualistic nature of the universe. Yin is feminine, yang is masculine.**

**Tai- greater.**

**Shao - lesser.**

**Ming - dawn / bright.**

**Jue - reverting.**

The divisions are named as follows and are arranged from more outside to inside in the following order:

**Taiyang - Greatest yang.**

**Shaoyang - Lesser yang.**

**Yangming - The dawn of yang.**

**Taiyin - Greatest yin.**

**Shaoyin - Lesser yin.**

**Jueyin - Reverting (to yang) yin.**

Each division has an upper and lower end and these are then described as an organ. The organs *need* to be understood as condensations or concentrations of cells and energy *within* this division.

**The diaphragm marks the division between the upper and lower parts of the division.** The organs are just one part, albeit the most powerful, of the division.

Every part of the body can be placed within the six divisions: e.g. the shaoyin division is that of arterial blood vessels. At the upper end, above the diaphragm, this energy concentrates to make the heart which is simply the largest and most powerful arterial blood vessel. At the lower end a million tiny arteries create the nephrons which then form the kidneys. However, importantly, any arterial blood vessel in the body is part of shaoyin.

### Yang Divisions

**Taiyang is the division that creates skin, bladder and autonomic nervous system (what is described as, slightly confusingly, 'small intestine' and more pertinently should be small intestine or gut brain).**

**Shaoyang is the division that creates fascia and the lymph that flows within it. The upper end is called the triple burner (fascia) and the lower gallbladder (lymph... cleaner).**

**Yangming is the muscular layer of the digestive tract starting at mouth and ending at anus. The upper end is known as the 'stomach' and the lower organ known as the 'large intestine'.**

## **Yin Divisions**

**Taiyin is the mucosal layer of digestive tract, starting at mouth and ending at anus. The upper end is known as the 'lung' and the lower organ known as the 'spleen'.**

**Shaoyin is the division of arterial blood vessels. The upper end is the heart and the lower end becomes the kidney.**

**Jueyin is the division created by a cavity / channel in the embryo called the coelom. This channel then creates the pericardial and pleural channel above the diaphragm and peritoneal channel below the diaphragm. Below the diaphragm it also creates the liver. The veins sit within this division of the body.**

## **Pairing of the Divisions**

The divisions are paired in a yin/yang way in the following relations:

**Taiyang and Shaoyin.**

**Gut brain (known as 'small intestine') to heart.**

**Bladder and kidney.**

**Shaoyang to Jueyin.**

**Triple burner (fascia) to pericardium.**

**Gallbladder and liver.**

**Yangming to Taiyin.**

**Muscular layer of intestines to mucosal layer of intestines.**

## The Extraordinary Channels

The **dū mài** (channel) is the brain and spinal cord.

The **rěn mài** is the remains of the yolk sac.

The **chōng mài** is the arterial system below the diaphragm.

The **dài mài** is the channel that moves around the body like a belt.

The **yang qiao mài** is the spinal tracts, brain stem and cerebellum - coordinates muscles and balance.

The **yin qiao mài** is the vagus nerve and parasympathetic system - coordinates internal organs.

All of Western anatomical knowledge can be (and should be) placed within this framework.