FRCPath Immunology Part 2 oral examination question example question

Stem

A GP calls you for advise to request for "RAST" Allergy test - to Sultanas, Raisins, Chocolate and Tomatoes. He informs you he has seen a 32 year old lawyer, who is anxious and thinks she is having reactions to lots of different things. She is demanding that she should have an Adrenaline Auto-Injector and he wants the above tests done to reassure her.

You arranged to see the patient in the clinic. She informs you that the first episode happened at around 10:30 in the night when she ate a handful of dry sultanas and within 20 minutes developed significant itching of the palms, facial swelling and a generalised rash, she went to the local A&E, and was treated with antihistamines and steroids. When she woke up next morning, she continued to have significant facial swelling and it took about a further two days for the symptoms to completely resolve.

Since then she has had several similar episodes with various different foods:

- 1. A chocolate dessert (Gu desert)
- 2. Mediterranean vegetables with cherry tomatoes
- 3. Del Monte prepared fruit (piece of pineapple and melon)
- 4. Chicken kebab dish (with salad + tomato + cucumber + lettuce)
- 5. Mustard mayo
- 6. Jamaican bun with raisins
- 7. Ribena (kind of grape juice)
- 8. Tesco white chocolate plus strawberry sponge cake

She has attended A&E 6 times with similar episodes.

Part	Question	Answer	Marks
a)	What additional information would you need to explore in the clinic?		9
b)	What is your diagnosis / differential diagnosis? List all the possbilities given the clinical scenario.		8

с)	What allergy investigations should be performed in this scenario? What are the advantages and limitations of each type of testing?	25
d)	You will be provided some more information during the viva and will be asked four more questions.	15