Tutor Marked Assignment No 1 **The asthmatic in an offshore environment**

Name Date

**1. Describe the underlying pathology in asthma (3 points)**

**2. Asthmatics have a wide range of factors which may precipitate attacks –list some of the most common (5 points)**

**3. One of the crew, a 28 year old roustabout has come to the Sick Bay complaining of cough and wheeze. You know that he has a history of mild asthma since childhood and he always declares his Ventolin inhaler at the beginning of each trip but you have never known him to actually need it.**

**What are the main points you would wish to cover in taking a history? (5 points) points)**

**4. Outline the essentials of your examination and investigation (5 points)**

**The results of your initial history and examination are:**

* **His symptoms came on 36 hours ago following working alongside a welder doing a lot of cutting work and are increasing in severity**
* **He is now short of breath on mild exertion –climbing 20 steps**
* **He is using accessory muscles of respiration, has air entry over all areas but there is a widespread expiratory wheeze.**
* **Pulse is 90, Respiratory Rate 20, Peak flow 60% of expected.**

**5. What is your estimate of the level of severity of this attack and what is your initial treatment? (4 points)**

**Unfortunately, your treatment has not helped the patient and in fact his condition seems to be deteriorating significantly.**

**6. What signs and symptoms would alert you to his worsening condition? (4 points)**

**7. How will your treatment change in view of this deterioration? What additional drugs might the Topside Dr advise you to use? (6 points)**