Anatomical planes

Explained answer key

1. A plane separates anterior from posterior portions. Name it.

Coronal, also called frontal. Identify the separated portions: front and back.

2. A plane divides the body into right and left portions but misses the midline. Which specific term fits?

Parasagittal. It is sagittal, but not midsagittal.

3. A section separates superior and inferior portions. Which plane produced it?

Transverse. “Upper and lower” is the relevant pair in anatomical position.

4. “Every sagittal plane is a median plane.” Correct the sentence.

Every median plane is sagittal, but sagittal planes can also lie away from the midline.

5. A student says “frontal and coronal are different planes.” What should change?

Frontal and coronal are two names for the same plane.

6. Is “vertical plane” enough information to choose between sagittal and coronal?

No. Both are vertical in anatomical position. Ask which portions the plane separates.

Terminology reference: OpenStax, Anatomy and Physiology 2e, section 1.6. Questions and explanations by Atlas Library.

For another attempt, cover the answers and explain which portions each plane separates.