

SC.912.L.14.36 – Circulatory System – Example 3 Answer

What causes blood pressure?

- A. cholesterol in the blood**
- B. stress that exercise puts on heart muscle**
- C. contraction of the ventricles in the heart**
- D. removal of oxygen from the blood**

Answer

C. contraction of the ventricles in the heart

Blood pressure is caused by contraction of the ventricles of the heart and also by the elasticity of the arterial walls. When the heart contracts, blood pressure is the highest. This is called systolic pressure. When the heart is relaxed, blood pressure is lowest. This is called diastolic pressure. Some pressure is maintained in the vessels at all times, even with the heart is in diastole. This pressure is kept relatively constant by the elastic properties of the walls of the arteries.