

General inspection

Colour
Breathing rate rhythm and depth
Patient positioning
Audible wheeze or stridor
Accessory muscle use or tripodding
Ask about pain and note discomfort

Hands

Clubbing
Peripheral cyanosis
Hypercapnic flap
Cigarette tar stains

Neck

Jugular venous pressure

Face

Conjunctiva (Anaemia)
Central cyanosis
Tongue / Dentition

Chest – inspection

Asymmetry
Scars
Shape and Deformities

Chest – Palpation

Chest expansion
Deviated apex beat
Deviated trachea
Tactile fremitus e.g. Repeat phrase “ninety-nine”

Chest – Percussion

Percuss anterior and posterior lung lobes

Chest – Auscultation

Breath sounds
Vocal resonance/fremitus
Whispering Pectoriloquy

Lymph Nodes

Occipital
Pre and Post-auricular
Submandibular
Submental
Tonsillar
Anterior and posterior cervical
Supraclavicular including scalene

Other considerations

Sputum colour and consistency
Perform peak flow reading
EtCO₂ capnometry
EtCO₂ capnography
Peak flow
Temperature

