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# VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

## Nurses' Final Examination—General Nurse Training

3RD AND 4TH MARCH, 1965

### SURGICAL NURSING

Time allowed: Three hours

*Important.*—Read the questions carefully, and answer only what is asked as no marks will be given for irrelevant material.  
All questions compulsory.

1. Discuss the pre- and post-operative care of a patient undergoing radical mastectomy for carcinoma of the breast. —[30 marks]
2. (a) (i) State what substance is used in mass immunization (e.g., the Army) as prophylaxis against tetanus. —[1 mark]  
(ii) How many injections are required and at what intervals? —[2 marks]  
(iii) What type of immunity is produced? —[1 mark]  
(iv) Is any danger associated with the use of this substance? —[1 mark]  
(b) (i) What types of wounds are likely to be infected by the *Clostridium tetani*? —[2 marks]  
(ii) What substance is necessary to give protection to a person not previously immunized? —[1 mark]  
(iii) What dangers are associated with these injections? —[2 marks]  
(iv) What precautions are taken to minimize such dangers? —[2 marks] —[12 marks]
3. What observations should be made of:—  
(a) the water-seal drainage after thoracotomy; —[4 marks]  
(b) the extremity of a limb recently encased in plaster? —[4 marks] —[8 marks]
4. (a) Why is there a risk of excessive bleeding in operations for the relief of obstructive jaundice? —[2 marks]  
(b) What substance is given to reduce this risk and by what route is it given? —[2 marks]  
(c) What are the indications that the common bile duct is patent and that it is safe to remove the T tube after choledochostomy? —[6 marks] —[10 marks]
5. A young patient detained in a Casualty Department is unexpectedly required to have a general anaesthetic. State five (5) questions to be asked of this patient, giving the reason for each. —[10 marks]
6. (a) What are the two main divisions of fractures and why is one much more important than the other? —[2 marks]  
(b) Define and give an example of:—  
(i) complicated fracture;  
(ii) pathological fracture;  
(iii) internal fixation of a fracture;  
(iv) skeletal traction. —[8 marks] —[10 marks]
7. (a) What is the daily fluid requirement of a patient having an intravenous infusion in the treatment of paralytic ileus? —[2 marks]  
(b) How many calories are supplied by 2 litres of 5% dextrose solution? —[2 marks]  
(c) What are the signs and symptoms of acute circulatory overloading and what is the immediate treatment? —[6 marks] —[10 marks]
8. What term is used to denote the following:—  
(a) localized collection of blood in the tissues;

- (b) (i) What types of wounds are likely to be infected by the Clostridium tetani? —[2 marks]
- (ii) What substance is necessary to give protection to a person not previously immunized? —[1 mark]
- (iii) What dangers are associated with these injections? —[2 marks]
- (iv) What precautions are taken to minimize such dangers? —[2 marks]
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- [10 marks]
8. What term is used to denote the following:—
- (a) localized collection of blood in the tissues;
- (b) blood in the peritoneal cavity;
- (c) dark stools containing partly digested blood;
- (d) bleeding into a joint cavity;
- (e) uterine bleeding between menstrual periods? —[10 marks]