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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

*Nurses Act 1958*

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**Nurses' Final Examination—General Nurse Training**

4TH JUNE, 1975

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**SURGICAL NURSING**

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*Time allowed: Three hours*

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**Important:—**

Read the questions very carefully.

Answer only what is asked as no marks will be given for irrelevant material.

ALL questions are compulsory.

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1. Mrs. Bennett, thirty-six (36) years of age, is married with three school aged children and normally is employed as a kindergarten teacher. She has been diagnosed as having cancer of the rectum, and an abdominal perineal resection was performed 24 hours ago.
  - (a) Describe how you would care for all wounds including colostomy, up to the time of discharge. —[12 marks]
  - (b) Explain your role as a nurse in assisting Mrs. Bennett to adjust to and care for her colostomy. —[12 marks]—[24 marks]
  
2. A person receives scalp and facial lacerations in a motor car accident.

What first aid treatment would be used to:—

  - (a) control bleeding from scalp wound; —[1 mark]
  - (b) prevent shock occurring; —[2 marks]
  - (c) maintain a clear airway? —[2 marks]—[5 marks]

3. (a) Define the term "paralytic ileus". —[1 mark]  
 (b) Name two (2) causes of paralytic ileus. —[2 marks]  
 (c) What observations would lead you to suspect that paralytic ileus was present in the early post-operative period? —[2 marks]  
 (d) How is this condition treated? —[3 marks] —[8 marks]
4. A patient has deep vein thrombosis following surgery and is to have Heparin by means of an intravenous infusion.
- (a) What is the purpose of administering Heparin? —[1 mark]  
 (b) What check would be made to ensure the dose is suitable? —[1 mark]  
 (c) What signs might be noticed by the nurse that would indicate that the patient was having too much Heparin? —[2 marks]  
 (d) Name the drug which should be readily available for use as an antidote to Heparin. —[1 mark] —[5 marks]
5. An elderly lady is brought to Casualty with a Colles' fracture following a fall. Subsequently the fracture is reduced and a plaster is applied and the patient admitted for 24 hours.
- (a) What type of deformity is characteristic of this fracture? —[1 mark]  
 (b) Following application of the plaster:—  
 (i) What observations would you make of the limb? —[2 marks]  
 (ii) How would you care for the plaster while it was wet? —[2 marks]  
 (iii) What advice would you give to this patient on discharge? —[3 marks] —[8 marks]
6. A patient is admitted with thyrotoxicosis, for the operation of sub-total thyroidectomy.
- (a) State four (4) features which may have initially prompted this patient to consult her doctor. —[2 marks]  
 (b) State two (2) diagnostic tests which may be performed prior to operation. —[1 mark]  
 (c) In the post-operative period, what might each of the following indicate:—  
 (i) increasing restlessness, anxiety and complaints of tightness around the neck; —[1 mark]  
 (ii) hoarseness; —[1 mark]  
 (iii) carpo-pedal spasm; —[1 mark]  
 (iv) tachycardia, hyperpyrexia and extreme restlessness? —[1 mark]  
 (d) What treatment would be given for carpo-pedal spasm? —[1 mark] —[8 marks]
7. A man is admitted to hospital following a petrol tank explosion, with 30 per cent. burns involving his face, chest and upper limbs.
- In the immediate treatment of this patient:—
- (a) (i) Name two (2) types of intravenous fluid that may be given initially. —[1 mark]  
 (ii) Why are these particular fluids given? —[1 mark]  
 (b) What observations are made by the nursing staff that are aimed at estimating the adequacy of fluid replacement? —[4 marks]  
 (c) What laboratory investigations may be ordered? State a reason for each. —[2 marks]  
 (d) State two (2) types of drugs that may be ordered by the doctor, giving reason for administration of each drug. —[3 marks] —[11 marks]

8. A patient is admitted with a condition of renal calculi.
- (a) List two (2) main presenting signs or symptoms. —[1 mark]
- (b) State two (2) types of drugs, with examples, which may be used to relieve symptoms. —[2 marks] —[3 marks]
9. A man, forty-five (45) years of age, has returned from theatre following a right nephrectomy.
- (a) State two (2) likely reasons for the doctor to perform a nephrectomy. —[1 mark]
- (b) State two (2) specific diagnostic investigations which may have been performed prior to operation. —[1 mark]
- (c) Why may the following complications occur:—
- (i) haemorrhage; —[1 mark]
- (ii) chest infection? —[1 mark]
- (d) What observations would you make of the wound and the urine, and what would be the significance of these? —[3 marks] —[7 marks]
10. (a) A patient is to have a blood transfusion.
- (i) What precautions must be taken prior to the connection of each unit of cross-matched blood to the transfusion set? —[4 marks]
- (ii) At what stage during the transfusion of a unit of blood might the first signs or symptoms of incompatibility be recognized? —[1 mark]
- (iii) State four (4) features that could indicate transfusion reaction due to incompatible blood. —[2 marks]
- (iv) If the patient is observed to be having a reaction, what immediate action should be taken by the nursing staff? —[2 marks]
- (b) Name the blood group which may be transfused to any patient in an emergency. —[1 mark]
- (c) During a transfusion, what measures are taken to prevent infection? —[2 marks] —[12 marks]
11. Define the following and state one (1) condition with which each may be associated:—
- (a) Surgical emphysema.
- (b) Pyloroplasty.
- (c) Mediastinal shift. —[4½ marks]
12. What is the purpose of the following?
- (a) Estimation of prothrombin time in a patient with jaundice prior to cholecystectomy. —[1½ mark]
- (b) Administration of oral antibiotics if bowel surgery is contemplated. —[1 mark]
- (c) Use of miotic eye drops in glaucoma. —[1 mark]
- (d) Use of an intercostal catheter following lobectomy. —[1 mark] —[4½ marks]