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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958.

Nurses' Final Examination—General Nurse Training

3RD DECEMBER, 1975

SURGICAL NURSING

Time allowed: Three hours

Important:—

Read your questions very carefully.

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

ALL questions are compulsory.

1. Mr. Baker, seventy-six (76) years of age, has had a history of a right inguinal hernia for several years. On admission, the hernia is found to be strangulated.
- (a) What is meant by a strangulated hernia and why is immediate surgery necessary? —[2 marks]
- (b) Prior to his transfer to theatre in 1½ hours' time:—
- (i) Describe the observations you would make and indicate the significance of these. —[6 marks]
- (ii) Indicate the treatment likely to be carried out. —[4 marks]
- (c) Mr. Baker returns to the ward at 4 p.m., and you are to make a written and verbal report for the night staff prior to going off duty at 9.30 p.m. What would you include in this report? —[10 marks]
- [22 marks]
2. A man, thirty (30) years of age, is admitted after sustaining a blow to the head. He is conscious on admission.
- (a) State the observations that would be made of this patient and indicate the signs that could signify development of cerebral compression. —[7 marks]
- The patient develops cerebral compression and at operation is found to have extradural haematoma and brain damage. He fails to regain consciousness and because of respiratory difficulties requires insertion of a cuffed endotracheal tube.
- (b) Explain the following aspects of nursing care in regard to the endotracheal tube and the respiratory tract.
- (i) Prevention of infection. —[3 marks]
- (ii) Prevention of tracheal necrosis. —[2 marks]
- [12 marks]

3. A female patient, forty-five (45) years of age, is admitted with intermittent obstructive jaundice which is thought to be due to cholelithiasis. X
- (a) What is cholelithiasis? --[1 mark]
- (b) A cholecystogram is ordered. Describe the specific preparations which would be required prior to this investigation. --[2 marks]
- The patient is to have a cholecystectomy and choledochostomy:
- (c) Why may Vitamin K. be ordered prior to surgery and by what route will it be given? --[2 marks]
- (d) What part of the biliary tract is likely to be the site of the obstruction? --[1 mark]
- Following surgery, a corrugated drain tube and T tube are in situ:
- (e) What is the purpose of the T tube? --[1 mark]
- (f) Prior to removal of the T tube, what needs to be ascertained and how may this be done? --[3 marks]
- [10 marks]
4. Mrs. June Crosbie, thirty-five (35) years of age, married, with 2 young children is admitted for operation of permanent ileostomy. X
- (a) (i) What is an ileostomy? --[2 marks]  
(ii) What is the most likely condition necessitating this operation? --[2 marks]
- (b) List four (4) factors which should be taken into account when "siting" an ileostomy. --[2 marks]
- (c) During the pre- and post-operative phase, what emotional support should be given to Mrs. Crosbie? --[5 marks]
- (d) During the post-operative phase, what advice should be given to Mrs. Crosbie in relation to the following:--
- (i) use of appliances; --[5 marks]  
(ii) prevention of skin excoriation/odour? --[14 marks]
5. An elderly lady has sustained a Colles' fracture which requires manipulation and plaster application.
- (a) What is meant by a Colles' fracture? --[1 mark]
- (b) To what level above and below the fracture site does the plaster extend? --[1 mark]
- (c) How would you care for the plastered limb during the first 24 hours? Include observations. --[4 marks]
- [6 marks]
6. State the reasons for which each of the following are carried out:--
- (a) Saving for inspection consecutive specimens of urine following injury to the lumbar region;
- (b) Administration of Tetanus Immunoglobulin;
- (c) Papaincoiaou Smear;
- (d) Observation of the radial pulse following injury to the elbow;
- (e) Underwater seal drainage following pulmonary lobectomy;
- (f) Adequate fluid intake following prostatectomy. --[9 marks]
7. A patient is admitted with a suspected embolism of the femoral artery. Describe the specific nursing care required for this patient's limb preceding possible emblectomy. --[8 marks]

8. A female patient is returned to the ward following a radical mastectomy. She has 2 drain tubes connected to closed suction apparatus. No skin graft was required.
- (a) What observations should be made of the wound and drainage apparatus during the next 10 days? —[4 marks]
  - (b) What measures are used to ensure maximum healing and to minimise the risk of infection? —[3 marks] —[7 marks]
9. What action should be taken by *the nurse* in each of the following circumstances?
- (a) In recovery room, a child appears to have respiratory obstruction following tonsillectomy. —[2 marks]
  - (b) An overweight man suffers a burst abdomen following removal of abdominal sutures. —[2 marks]
  - (c) A patient bleeds profusely following a femoral arteriogram. —[2 marks] —[6 marks]
10. Why are each of the following pre-operative procedures undertaken?
- (a) Written consent for operation. —[1 mark]
  - (b) Full ward urine test. —[1 mark]
  - (c) Estimation of weight. —[1 mark]
  - (d) Fasting for at least 6 hours. —[1 mark]
  - (e) Administration of pre-medication including Morphine 10 mg., Atropine 0.4 mg. —[2 marks] —[6 marks]