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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

NURSES' FINAL EXAMINATION-GENERAL NURSE TRAINING

3RD JUNE, 1976

EXAMINERS' GUIDE TO MEDICAL NURSING PAPER

The following is forwarded as a general indication to examiners of the essential information expected in answers to the various question. The suggestions are not intended to be either complete or inflexible, but it is hoped they may be of some guidance to examiners and to that extent lead to uniformity of marking.

- Question 1.
- (a) (i) Acute onset of severe breathlessness, usually with orthopnoea, cough, production of frothy, sometimes haemorrhagic sputum, sweating, fear, anxiety. -(3 marks)
 - (ii) Sudden increase in venous return, lying down, elevating legs. Intravenous infusions. Sudden left ventricular decompensation, e.g. arrhythmias, infarction. -(3 marks)
 - (iii) Sit patient up. Hang legs over bed, give oxygen, try to reassure. Cyclical tourniquets to reduce venous return, get medical help. -(3 marks)
 - (b) (i) Raised jugular venous pressure, development of peripheral gravitational oedema. Hepatic congestion and enlargement, possibly jaundice, ascites, evidence of pleural effusions. -(3 marks)
 - (ii) (a) Rest in bed in acute phase in most comfortable position and then gradual increase in physical activity. -(3 marks)
 - (b) Reduced fluids, salt and calories, though with awareness of possible salt and water depletion with diuretics. Aim to achieve ideal weight. Stop smoking. -(3 marks)
 - (c) Digitalis, diuretics. -(2 marks)
- (20 marks)
- Question 2.
- (a) Insulin stored in refrigerator, but not frozen. Check fluid for discolouration or crystals. Check expiry date. How to draw up injection. How to administer. Suitable sites and need for rotation of sites. Care of equipment including means of sterilization, must be administered as ordered. -(5 marks)
 - (b) Causes -
 - (1) If meals delayed or missed.
 - (2) Too much insulin given.
 - (3) Or vomiting occurs.
 - (4) Or undue exercise undertaken.Warning signs - Hunger, sweating, giddiness, faintness, blurred vision.
Must always carry sugar or glucose.
Must always carry diabetic card or disc.
Immediate treatment necessary.
Take sugar, orange juice or biscuit immediately.
When recovered, report to doctor. -(5 marks)
- (10 marks)

- Question 3.
- (a) There is a lack of production of the intrinsic factor which is necessary for the absorption of Vitamin B₁₂. The latter being necessary for the proper manufacture of red blood cells in bone marrow. -(2 marks)
 - (b) Full blood examination - size and colour of cells.
Gastric test meal. Biopsy of gastric mucosa.
Sternal puncture for bone marrow biopsy.
Radioactive Vitamin B₁₂ absorption test. Serum Vitamin B₁₂ assay. -(2 marks)
 - (c) Sore, red, glazed tongue. Lemon tinted skin.
Tingling and numbness of extremities and other signs of nervous system involvement. Dyspeptic symptoms. -(3 marks)
 - (d) Vitamin B₁₂ (Cytamen) 100 microgrammes every 3 - 4 weeks for life. -(2 marks)
 - (e) Sub-acute degeneration of the spinal cord. -(1 mark)
- (10 marks)

- Question 4.
- (a) Inflammation of the colon with formation of ulcers in the intestinal mucosa. Most usually occurs in young adults. -(2 marks)
 - (b) Weakness.
Weight loss.
Anaemia.
Fever.
Sweating.
Dehydration. -(2 marks)
 - (c) Bland, nutritious diet. High caloric content.
Increased protein, vitamins. -(3 marks)
 - (d) Perforation of bowel.
Malignant changes.
Acute dilation. -(3 marks)
- (10 marks)

- Question 5.
- (a) Severe blood loss (surgical trauma).
Serum loss (severe burns).
Dehydration - (vomiting and diarrhoea).
3. Intravascular haemolysis.
4. Drugs - Kanamycin.
5. Acute glomerulonephritis.
6. Any other acceptable answer. -(2 marks)
1. Hypotension.
2. Toxins - Burns & crushing.
- (b) Report hypotension immediately. Recording of urinary output - report decrease in output. Early transfusions if renal shut down caused by surgery or burns. Specific according to condition named. -(2 marks)
 - (c) Fluid intake reduced to 400 mls + amount equal to previous day's urinary output. Diet with low protein 10- 20 Gm daily. Caloric content obtained from carbohydrate. Exclusion of salt and potassium containing foods. Vitamin supplements usually added. -(4 marks)
 - (d) Serum potassium levels. Blood urea levels. -(2 marks)
- (10 marks)

- Question 6.
1. Reassurance to child and parents.
 2. Position if possible - sitting up, well supported.
 3. Loose clothing - opened down front or napkin only.
 4. Humidification. No oxygen.
 5. Gentle, soothing handling.
 6. Frequent tepid sponging and pillow turning.
 7. Fluids according to condition.

2. Position if possible - sitting up, well supported.
3. Loose clothing - opened down front or napkin only.
4. Humidification. No oxygen.
5. Gentle, soothing handling.
6. Frequent tepid sponging and pillow turning.
7. Fluids according to condition. I.V. if necessary.
8. Nasal/mouth toilet.
9. Strict observations with special emphasis on signs of respiratory distress

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Question 6. (Contd.)

10. If respiratory distress, need for endotracheal tube or tracheostomy.
11. With assistance to airway, oxygen may be administered.
12. Mild sedation may be given once airway established.
13. Antibiotics, respiratory stimulants, decongestants.

-(10 marks)

Question 7.

- (a) Irregular.
- (b) Rapid and irregular with pulse deficit.
- (c) Very slow (less than 40 beats/minute), usually regular.
- (d) Pulse stops and patient loses consciousness, then pulse returns. Patient flushes and regains consciousness.
- (e) Premature beat in relation to basic rhythm.

-(10 marks)

Question 8.

- (a) Explanation of tonic phase, clonic phase and period of unconsciousness and recovery.
- (b), (c) and (d) Self-explanatory.

-(6 marks)

-(4 marks)

-(10 marks)

Question 9.

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|-------|-----|--------|-----|
| (i) | (b) | (vi) | (c) |
| (ii) | (a) | (vii) | (h) |
| (iii) | (f) | (viii) | (g) |
| (iv) | (e) | (ix) | (j) |
| (v) | (d) | (x) | (i) |

-(10 marks)