

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

NURSES' FINAL EXAMINATION - GENERAL NURSE TRAINING

3rd August, 1977

SURGICAL NURSING

Time allowed: Three hours

Important:-

Read the questions very carefully.  
Answer only what is asked as no marks will be given for irrelevant material.  
ALL questions are compulsory.

1. A male patient, thirty (30) years of age, has suffered 25% burns, involving the trunk, upper right arm and face, while rescuing his children from a burning house.
  - a) What first-aid measures are taken to prevent shock and further injury? (5 marks)
  - b) What immediate care and treatment would be given on admission to hospital?  
(Exclude care of the burned surface). (8 marks)
  - c) The burns are treated by the "open method".  
What nursing measures are necessary to prevent:-
    - i) infection; (3 marks)
    - ii) contractures; (2 marks)
    - iii) depression? (2 marks)

(20 MARKS)
  
2. Alternate sutures have been removed from a middle-aged female patient who had a laparotomy and bowel resection 8 days ago. She is being made comfortable when she has a coughing fit and experiences a burst abdomen.
  - a) State the local and general factors which may have predisposed to this condition. (5 marks)
  - b) How is this emergency situation managed? (5 marks)

(10 MARKS)
  
3. A patient with a Colles' fracture has the affected arm plastered and is to be discharged from hospital. List the instructions to be given to this patient on discharge, and state reasons why these precautions are necessary. (5 MARKS)

2.

An elderly patient is admitted to hospital with an acute embolism to the right lower limb.

- a) List the observations required and indicate those which would lead one to suspect that the circulation was inadequate. (4 marks)
  - b) Outline the specific nursing care required in relation to the affected limb. (5 marks)
- (9 MARKS)

5. Mrs. Barnes is to have a cholecystectomy and choledochostomy after investigations have revealed that she has gall stones.

- a) What investigations may reveal the presence of gall stones? (1 mark)
  - b) Describe the specific care of the T tube post-operatively, including indications for its removal. (6 marks)
  - c) How can nursing care be used to avoid respiratory complications in this patient? (3 marks)
  - d) Give two (2) complications (other than respiratory) which can occur after this operation. (1 mark)
- (11 MARKS)

6. a) State the reasons for performing the operation of tracheostomy.

- b) State the important signs of acute respiratory obstruction in a patient following tracheostomy. (3 marks)
  - c) State the important points in the care of the tracheostomy with special reference to the use of cuffed tube. (6 marks)
- (12 MARKS)

7. Mrs. Reid has returned from the theatre following a sub-total thyroidectomy.

- a) How are the following complications recognized?
    - i) Concealed haemorrhage.
    - ii) Tetany. (5 marks)
  - b) What care is given if it is suspected that Mrs. Reid has a concealed haemorrhage causing respiratory distress? (4 marks)
  - c) What treatment is likely to be ordered if tetany occurred? (1 mark)
- (10 MARKS)

8. Define the following terms:-

- a) Rhinitis. (1 mark)
  - b) Vertigo. (1 mark)
  - c) Cholesteatoma. (1 mark)
  - d) Tympanoplasty. (1 mark)
  - e) Antrostomy. (1 mark)
- (5 MARKS)

9. Give reasons for the following procedures:-

- a) Mid-stream method of collecting urine. (1 mark)
- b) Culture of urine. (1 mark)
- c) Intravenous pyelogram. (1 mark)
- d) Cystoscopy. (1 mark)
- e) Blood urica. (1 mark)

(5 MARKS)

10. Mrs. Duke, a diabetic, seventy-four (74) years of age, who normally lives with her able-bodied husband of the same age, is admitted to your ward for a mid-thigh amputation. Discuss the psychological aspects of her care.

(5 MARKS)

11. Mr. Bourke is admitted to the ward suffering from a suspected perforated peptic ulcer. X

- a) What clinical features would assist the doctor to confirm this diagnosis? (3 marks)

Operation of oversewing of ulcer was performed. He returns to ward with an intravenous infusion and naso-gastric tube in situ.

- b) Discuss the post-operative management of this patient's naso-gastric tube.  
When could the naso-gastric tube and intravenous therapy be removed? (5 marks)

(8 MARKS)