
Nurses' Final Examination—General Nurse Training

30TH MARCH, 1978

MEDICAL 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. (a) Explain how angina pectoris differs from myocardial infarction.—[2 marks]
- (b) Describe the health education of a male patient, fifty (50) years of age, who has been diagnosed as suffering from angina pectoris.
Use the following headings:—
- (i) Diet. —[2 marks]
 - (ii) Rest and activity. —[2 marks]
 - (iii) Use of Anginine (glyceryl trinitrate). —[2 marks]
 - (iv) Psychological support. —[2 marks]
- [10 marks]
2. (a) List three (3) factors predisposing to the formation of deep vein thrombosis. —[3 marks]
- (b) What measures are employed to help prevent the occurrence of deep vein thrombosis? —[5 marks]
- (c) Define pulmonary embolism. —[2 marks]
- [10 marks]
3. A man, fifty-five (55) years of age, has been admitted with severe pulmonary emphysema.
- (a) State three (3) common predisposing causes of emphysema.—[3 marks]
 - (b) In emphysema, the alveoli become dilated and lose their elasticity. This results in difficulty with what phase of ventilation? —[1 mark]
 - (c) What type of acid-base imbalance is likely to occur when carbon dioxide is retained? —[1 mark]
 - (d) In what position is a patient with emphysema likely to be most comfortable? —[1 mark]
 - (e) State three (3) signs of long-term oxygen lack which might be found in a patient with emphysema. —[3 marks]
 - (f) Postural drainage, percussion, and bronchodilator aerosols have been ordered. In what sequence would these treatments be given? —[1 mark]
- [10 marks]

4. An infant is admitted to hospital suffering from pertussis (whooping cough).

Outline the following:—

- (a) Cause and mode of spread. —[2 marks]
 (b) Factors which may precipitate a spasm of coughing. —[4 marks]
 (c) Four (4) possible complications. —[2 marks]
 (d) Measures to prevent the occurrence of whooping cough in the community. —[2 marks]
- [10 marks]

5. A normally stabilised patient suffering from diabetes mellitus may, under certain circumstances, pass into ketoacidosis coma.

- (a) List three (3) possible causes for the occurrence of such a coma. —[3 marks]
 (b) When notified of the impending admission of such a patient, what specific preparation is made to receive him? —[4 marks]
 (c) List the observations made upon admission of the patient and state what baseline findings could be anticipated.—[5 marks]
- [12 marks]

6. In what position and for what reasons may the following patients be nursed?

- (a) A patient with severe haematemesis and melaena. —[2 marks]
 (b) A patient immediately after a lumbar puncture. —[2 marks]
 (c) A patient with overdose of barbiturates. —[2 marks]
 (d) A patient during an acute phase of generalized rheumatoid arthritis. —[2 marks]
- [8 marks]

7. (a) What is acute pyelonephritis? —[1 mark]
 (b) What are the symptoms and signs of acute pyelonephritis? —[5 marks]
 (c) What investigations will be required for diagnosis and treatment of acute pyelonephritis? —[2 marks]
 (d) Why is it important that the full course of treatment be completed even if symptoms of acute pyelonephritis have subsided?—[2 marks]
- [10 marks]

8. A young adult is admitted with suspected bacterial meningitis.

- (a) Name two (2) organisms that commonly cause bacterial meningitis. —[1 mark]
 (b) Name one (1) specific diagnostic procedure and state significant findings. —[2 marks]
 (c) Describe the nursing care of this patient under the following headings:—
 (i) Observations and their significance. —[5 marks]
 (ii) Patient comfort. —[3 marks]
 (iii) Food and fluids. —[2 marks]
 (d) Name two (2) possible complications of meningitis. —[2 marks]
- [15 marks]

9. From the list of drugs on the left, match a common untoward or undesired effect from the list on the right.

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| (a) Morphine. | |
| (b) Chloramphenicol
(Chloromycetin). | 1. Gastro-intestinal bleeding. |
| (c) Frusemide (Lasix). | 2. Eighth cranial nerve damage. |
| (d) Phenytoin sodium
(Dilantin). | 3. Tachycardia. |
| (e) Digoxin. | 4. Bone marrow depression. |
| (f) Phenylbutazone
(Butazolidin). | 5. Severe potassium depletion. |
| (g) Colchicine. | 6. Sodium retention, oedema. |
| (h) Streptomycin. | 7. Pulsus bigeminis. |
| (i) Prednisolone
(Delta-Cortef) | 8. Hyperplasia of gums. |
| (j) Aminophylline. | 9. Respiratory depression. |
| | 10. Diarrhoea. |

—[10 marks]

10. A male, forty-three (43) years of age, has been admitted with a history of gastric pain and black, tarry stools. A diagnosis of peptic ulcer is made.

Rest, diet and drugs are the major components of care for a patient with a peptic ulcer.

(a) How would you ensure maximum rest for this patient? —[2 marks]

(b) Describe the dietary regime that might be followed. Consider what foods should be encouraged, what foods omitted, and how the patient is encouraged to accept his diet. —[3 marks]

—[5 marks]