

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

Nurses' Final Examination – General Nurse Training

31ST MAY, 1978

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. 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 and an abdomino-perineal resection of the rectum was performed 24 hours ago.
 - (a) Describe the care of all wounds including colostomy, up to the time of discharge. —[10 marks]
 - (b) Explain the role of the nurse in assisting Mrs. Bennett to adjust to and care for her colostomy. —[10 marks]—[20 marks]

2. A patient is admitted to hospital following a car accident with a history of transient loss of consciousness.

Describe the observations that would be made and indicate those changes that may signify the early onset of cerebral compression. —[10 marks]

3. After undergoing thoracotomy, a patient has an underwater seal chest drainage established.

- (a) Why is underwater seal drainage necessary? —[2 marks]
 - (b) In what position would the patient be nursed after recovery from anaesthesia? —[1 mark]
 - (c) How would the position be maintained? —[2 marks]
 - (d) Describe the care of the underwater seal drainage apparatus. —[6 marks]
 - (e) What instructions and assistance should be given to the patient to enable him to breathe deeply and to cough in the post-operative period? —[3 marks]
- [14 marks]

4. A patient is to have a blood transfusion.

- (a) During transfusion of the first 100–150 mls., what changes in the patient's condition might indicate that incompatibility (haemolytic reaction) is taking place? —[4 marks]
 - (b) What immediate action should be taken if a haemolytic reaction did occur? —[2 marks]
 - (c) What precautions must be taken prior to the connection of each unit of cross-matched blood to the transfusion set? —[4 marks]
- [10 marks]

5. (a) What is the main purpose of each of the following in the treatment of burns which cover a large area of the body surface?

- (i) Plasma or serum transfusion or plasma substitutes. —[2 marks]
 - (ii) Catheterization of the bladder. —[1 mark]
 - (iii) Haematocrit estimation. —[1 mark]
 - (iv) Serum electrolytes. —[1 mark]
 - (v) High protein diet. —[1 mark]
- (b) What points would need to be considered in preventing infection of a patient with 35% burns to the face, chest and arms? —[4 marks]
- [10 marks]

6. The aims of bladder care in a patient following prostatectomy are to prevent clot retention and infection.

- (a) What nursing activities would you employ to achieve these aims? —[5 marks]
 - (b) What would lead you to suspect that the patient may be developing clot retention? —[3 marks]
 - (c) What nursing actions may be necessary should the patient develop clot retention? —[2 marks]
- [10 marks]

7. Jennifer, four (4) years of age, has returned to the ward following tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy.

- (a) Describe the observations made in the next 24 hours and indicate their significance. —[5 marks]
 - (b) What instructions are given Jennifer's mother prior to Jennifer's discharge the following day? —[5 marks]
- [10 marks]

8. A woman, thirty (30) years of age, is admitted with a small lump in her left breast.

(a) What investigations will be performed? —[2 marks]

Investigations prove she has carcinoma of the breast and a radical mastectomy is to be performed.

(b) State the area to be included in the skin preparation. —[2 marks]

(c) What are the important points to be remembered in the post-operative care in order to:—

(i) promote wound healing;

(ii) prevent chest infection;

(iii) preserve function of the arm on the affected side? —[6 marks]

—[10 marks]

9. What is the difference between:—

(a) skin traction and skeletal traction; —[2 marks]

(b) comminuted fracture and compound fracture; —[2 marks]

(c) open reduction and closed reduction? —[2 marks]

—[6 marks]