

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

29TH NOVEMBER, 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.

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1. A patient is admitted with a diagnosis of intestinal obstruction.
The patient has been vomiting and is dehydrated.
- (a) State two (2) causes of intestinal obstruction. —[2 marks]
 - (b) Name an important diagnostic investigation in this condition and state its significance. —[2 marks]
 - (c) Outline the specific medical management prior to surgery.—[3 marks]
 - (d) State the principles of operative treatment for intestinal obstruction. —[2 marks]
 - (e) Following surgery to relieve the obstruction:—
 - (i) what would be the criteria for commencement of oral fluids? —[2 marks]
 - (ii) what physiological process must be present before commencement of oral fluids and how would you recognise this? —[2 marks]—[11 marks]
2. A 30 year old married woman with 3 children is admitted to hospital for a modified radical mastectomy.
- (a) What diagnostic procedure can be performed in theatre to confirm malignancy before proceeding with the mastectomy? —[1 mark]
 - (b) What do you understand by a modified radical mastectomy? —[2 marks]
 - (c) Following modified radical mastectomy, this patient is depressed over the disfiguring effects of the operation. How can she be helped? —[6 marks]
 - (d) (i) Why are complications more likely to occur with a radical mastectomy than with a modified radical mastectomy?
(ii) List two (2) complications of a radical mastectomy. —[3 marks]
- [12 marks]

3. (a) What investigations and observations are undertaken to ensure adequate fluid replacement in the treatment of severe burns? —[5 marks]
- (b) In the nursing management of a patient with severe burns of the anterior chest wall (treated by the open method), what measures are taken to prevent infection? —[5 marks]
- [10 marks]
4. A patient has a temporary tracheostomy and a cuffed tube is in position. What nursing measures are taken to prevent:—
- (a) infection —[4 marks]
- (b) respiratory obstruction —[3 marks]
- (c) development of undue anxiety in the patient? —[2 marks]
- [9 marks]
5. Julie, 23 years of age, is admitted to your ward for head injury observation following a car accident. She is fully conscious on admission, but had a brief period of unconsciousness after the accident. You are asked to take half-hourly observations and report any deterioration in condition.
- (a) List the observations you would make and explain the variations which may indicate a worsening of Julie's condition. —[8 marks]
- (b) What complication of head injury requires immediate surgery? —[1 mark]
- (c) What is the purpose of this surgery? —[1 mark]
- [10 marks]
6. (a) What is a varicose vein? —[1 mark]
- (b) List three (3) predisposing causes of varicosities of the lower limb. —[2 marks]
- (c) Deep vein thrombosis is a complication of surgery.
- (i) What is meant by deep vein thrombosis? —[1 mark]
- (ii) What post-operative measures are taken to prevent this occurring? —[3 marks]
- (iii) What are the clinical features? —[2 marks]
- (iv) State one (1) important complication. —[1 mark]
- [10 marks]
7. (a) A female patient is admitted to the ward with a cystocele.
- (i) Define this condition. —[1 mark]
- (ii) State two (2) symptoms of this condition. —[1 mark]
- (iii) What surgical treatment may be undertaken for this condition? —[1 mark]
- (b) What terms are used to describe:—
- (i) the procedure in which a Bartholin's cyst is opened, and permanent drainage of the gland is established, —[½ mark]
- (ii) the operation whereby all the uterus, the upper part of the vagina, both uterine (Fallopian) tubes and ovaries are removed, —[1 mark]
- (iii) the overgrowth of endometrial tissues on the ovary/uterine tubes? —[½ mark]
- (c) Define the following and state the reason why the following procedures are performed:—
- (i) hysterosalpingogram —[2 marks]
- (ii) cone biopsy of the cervix. —[2 marks]
- [9 marks]

8. A woman, 40 years of age, is admitted with tension pneumothorax following a motor car accident.

- (a) Define the underlined term, and indicate its clinical significance. —[2 marks]
- (b) What immediate treatment is the doctor likely to carry out? —[1 mark]
- (c) Outline nursing observations and their significance in the first 24 hours. —[6 marks]
- (Include observations regarding chest drainage.) —[9 marks]

9. An elderly lady is brought to Casualty with a Colles' fracture following a fall. Subsequently the fracture is reduced, a plaster is applied and the patient is admitted for 24 hours.

- (a) Where is the injury situated and what type of deformity is characteristic of this fracture? —[1 mark]
- (b) Following application of the plaster:—
- (i) What observations are made of the limb and plaster? —[4 marks]
- (ii) What care is given the plaster while it is wet? —[2 marks]
- (iii) What advice is given this patient prior to discharge? —[3 marks]
- [10 marks]

10. What do the following terms mean:—

- (a) intermittent claudication
- (b) tetany
- (c) pilonidal sinus
- (d) comminuted fracture
- (e) oophoritis?
- [5 marks]

11. An elderly man, 80 years of age, is to undergo intraocular surgery following which both eyes will need to be covered.

How is this patient helped to overcome any difficulties which may arise because of his temporary loss of vision?

—[5 marks]