

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

REGISTRATION EXAMINATION—(GENERAL NURSES)

6th AUGUST, 1980

SURGICAL NURSING

SECTION B

Important—

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

All questions are compulsory.

Mr Andrew Martin aged 60 years is a retired teacher and was very healthy until 10 years ago when he was diagnosed as having atherosclerotic peripheral arterial disease. He has had a right leg amputated below the knee and is now admitted to hospital with a right leg ulcer.

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- (a) Describe the post-operative care in regard to the wound and stump. [7 marks]
  - (b) How may you, as a nurse, help Mr Martin and his family adjust to the loss of an amputation? [3 marks]
  - (c) Investigate how Mr Martin's condition is not amenable to reconstructive surgery. Mid-thigh amputation is advised. [3 marks]
  - (d) Outline briefly the concept of management of this patient which will improve blood flow to the leg. [3 marks]
  - (e) Name two (2) investigations performed for peripheral arterial vascular disease. [4 marks]
- A 55-year-old woman is admitted for a dilatation and curettage of uterus for diagnostic purposes.
- (1) What advice is given to the patient prior to her discharge? [3 marks]
  - (2) Describe the post-operative nursing observations of this patient when placing the patient in the position. [3 marks]
  - (3) In what position will the patient be placed during the operation and what specific precautions should be taken when placing the patient in this position? [4 marks]
  - (4) Outline the pre-operative preparation of this patient. [4 marks]
  - (5) List four (4) conditions of differing aetiology for which dilatation and curettage may be performed. [3 marks]
  - (6) Define the underlined terms. [3 marks]

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Nurses Act 1958

## Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

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**Important:—**

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**Answer only what is asked as no marks will be given for irrelevant material.**

**ALL questions are compulsory.**

1. Mr Andrew Martin, aged 66 years, is a retired teacher who lives in happy family conditions with his wife. For some years he has had atherosclerotic, peripheral arterial vascular disease.

He is now admitted to your ward with threatened gangrene of the right leg.

- (a) Name the major arteries which supply the lower leg. —[2 marks]
- (b) List the clinical features of peripheral arterial vascular disease. Explain briefly why these clinical features occur. —[4 marks]
- (c) Name two (2) investigations performed for peripheral arterial vascular disease. —[1 mark]
- (d) Outline briefly the conservative management of this patient which will improve blood flow to the extremities. —[3 marks]

Investigations show Mr Martin's condition is not amenable to reconstructive surgery. Mid-thigh amputation is advised.

- (e) How may you, as a nurse, help Mr Martin and his family adjust to the idea of amputation? —[3 marks]
  - (f) Describe Mr Martin's specific post-operative care in regard to the wound and stump. —[7 marks]
- [20 marks]

2. A 24-year-old woman is admitted for a dilatation and curettage of uterus for diagnostic purposes.

- (a) Define the underlined terms. —[2 marks]
  - (b) List four (4) conditions of differing aetiology for which a dilatation and curettage may be performed. —[2 marks]
  - (c) Outline the pre-operative preparation of this patient. —[4 marks]
  - (d) In what position will the patient be placed during the operation and what specific precautions should be taken when placing the patient in this position? —[2 marks]
  - (e) Describe the post-operative nursing observations of this patient after return to the ward and explain their significance. —[3 marks]
  - (f) What advice is given to the patient prior to her discharge? —[2 marks]
- [15 marks]

3. A woman, 30 years of age, is admitted with a small lump in her left breast.

(a) What investigations should 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) List 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]

4. A patient is admitted with a suspected rupture of a kidney. What observations and investigations would be carried out and explain how these assist in the management of this patient's condition? —[10 marks]

5. (a) A youth has suffered a severe chest injury in a road accident. On examination, you find that part of the thorax is being drawn in on inspiration and bulges out on expiration. What is the term used for the above condition? —[1 mark]

(b) The patient is dyspnoeic and cyanotic. What first aid measures would you carry out to improve ventilation? —[2 marks]

(c) In hospital, the patient is found to have a haemothorax and has an underwater seal drainage commenced. What is the purpose of this type of drainage? —[1 mark]

(d) How is safe, efficient functioning of the underwater seal drainage ensured? —[4 marks]

—[8 marks]

6. (a) Define the term "paralytic ileus". —[1 mark]

(b) Name two (2) causes of paralytic ileus. —[1 mark]

(c) What observations would indicate that paralytic ileus was present in the early post-operative period? —[2 marks]

(d) How is this condition treated? —[3 marks]

—[7 marks]