

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

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Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

1ST DECEMBER, 1982

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.

1. A conscious patient is admitted with a severe head injury, but no other injuries.

(a) Describe the specific observations which should be made of this patient, and state the changes which would indicate deterioration in this patient's condition. —[8 marks]

(b) What is the most likely cause of rapid change in conscious state in this patient?

What treatment would be instituted? —[2 marks]

(c) Why may this patient develop hyperpyrexia? —[1 mark]

(d) Why is early detection of elevated body temperature important? —[1 mark]

—[12 marks]

2. A young adult is admitted to hospital with burns to the face, neck, chest and upper arm (30% of the body surface is involved).

(a) Why may shock occur in this patient? —[2 marks]

(b) Describe two (2) main aspects of the initial treatment which is aimed at preventing shock. —[2 marks]

(c) The doctor orders the burns to be treated by the "open" method. Describe the management of the burnt surface for the first 48 hours. —[6 marks]

(d) What complications may arise in a patient with burns to the face and neck? —[2 marks]

—[12 marks]

3. A 30 year old married woman is admitted with trichomonal vaginitis.

(a) Name the causative organism. —[1 mark]

(b) Describe the clinical features of this condition. —[2 marks]

(c) Outline the specific treatment and nursing management of this patient. —[3 marks]

—[6 marks]

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4. Mrs Hall, a 79 year old lady, is transferred to the recovery room of the operating theatre suite after undergoing major renal surgery.

- (a) Describe the total care that should be given to Mrs Hall during her stay in the recovery room, give reasons for your actions utilising the following headings:—
- (i) airway —[4 marks]
- (ii) observations. —[6 marks]
- (b) What are the indications that this patient is safe to return to the ward? —[2 marks]
- [12 marks]

5. A patient is having a blood transfusion.

- (a) What signs could indicate that the patient's circulation was becoming overloaded? —[2 marks]
- (b) (i) What may be observed in the patient during infusion of the first 100 ml. that could indicate a haemolytic reaction had occurred? —[3 marks]
- (ii) What immediate action should the nurse take if a haemolytic reaction did occur? —[2 marks]
- [7 marks]

6. (a) Define maxillary sinusitis. —[1 mark]
- (b) State six (6) symptoms and signs of maxillary sinusitis. —[3 marks]
- (c) What are the aims of treatment of this condition? —[2 marks]
- [6 marks]

7. (a) State the differences between a compound and a comminuted fracture. —[2 marks]
- (b) What two (2) types of microorganisms are most commonly responsible for severe infection in fractures? —[1 mark]
- (c) State the reasons why these microorganisms are likely to cause infection in fractures. —[2 marks]
- [5 marks]

8. A patient has returned from theatre following cholecystectomy and choledochostomy. A corrugated drain, and a "T" tube are in situ.

- (a) Where is the corrugated drain situated and what is its purpose? —[2 marks]
- (b) Where is the "T" tube situated, and what is its purpose? —[2 marks]
- (c) (i) What is the nurse's responsibility regarding the corrugated drain? —[2 marks]
- (ii) What observations are made of the "T" tube and drainage? —[2 marks]
- (iii) Describe how the patency of the common bile duct may be tested before removal of the "T" tube. —[2 marks]
- [10 marks]