

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

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REGISTRATION EXAMINATION - (GENERAL NURSES)

3RD AUGUST, 1983

EXAMINERS' GUIDE TO SURGICAL NURSING - SECTION B

The following is forwarded as a general indication to examiners of the essential information expected in answers to the various questions. The suggestions are not intended to be either complete or inflexible, but it is hoped they may be of some guidance to examiners and to that extent lead to uniformity of marking.

- Question 1.**
- (a) First aid measures to prevent:-
    - Shock - Maintain airway. Lie down. Elevate feet. Reduce pain.
    - Care of patient's mental state.
    - Further injury - Remove from area. Lie down. -(5 marks)
  - (b) Immediate treatment on admission
    - Assessment. Airway. Pain relief. Fluid replacement. Treat shock. Observations.
    - Brief description of each, giving examples, p.r.n. catheter, tetanus prophylaxis. -(8 marks)
  - (c) (i) Infection - Aseptic technique. Reverse barrier nursing. Filtered air. Sterile equipment. Restrict visitors. -(3 marks)
  - (ii) Contractures - Exercises. Splints. Positioning. -(2 marks)
  - (iii) Depression - Reasonable answers. Children. Scarring. Breadwinner. -(2 marks)
- (20 marks)
- Question 2.**
- (a) Ensure closed system for "positive pressure" ventilation. -(1 mark)
  - (b) Use "floppy" low pressure cuff or deflate cuff hourly for five minutes & reinflate. -(1 mark)
    - Aseptic technique. -(1 mark)
    - Pressure of suction tested prior to use.
    - Brief description of insertion and removal of catheter. -(2 marks)
    - Brief description of control of ventilation because positive pressure ventilation is interrupted. -(2 marks)
  - (c) Sudden, distressed restlessness of patient. "Gurgling" in tracheostomy tube. Stridor. Cyanosis. Deterioration in chest movements, etc. Rise in ventilating pressure. Tachycardia. -(3 marks)
- (10 marks)
- Question 3.**
- (a) Left side of heart. -(1 mark)
  - (b) Limb - cold, pale/blotchy; absence of pulse; paraesthesia; lack of movement; severe pain. General signs accompanying pain. Diminished sensation. -(3 marks)
  - (c) (i) Any acceptable answer. Should include:- Observations; methods to prevent pressure; care of skin; avoidance of tight bandages/adhesive. Dorsalis pedis pulse. -(4 marks)
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Question 3. (Contd.)

- (c) (ii) Bleeding - signs of haemorrhage - local;  
- general.  
Further obstruction - observations to detect  
this.  
Infection. -(4 marks)  
-(12 marks)

Question 4.

- (a) Congenital malformation of the spine in which the posterior portion of the laminae of the vertebra fails to close. -(2 marks)
- (b) Hydrocephalus - abnormal accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid within the skull, causing enlargement of the cranium. -(1 mark)  
Neurogenic bladder - an inadequately functioning bladder with loss of control and sensation. -(1 mark)
- (c) Loss of sensory and motor function below level of defect. Varying degrees of weakness and paralysis (paraparesis). -(1 mark)  
-(5 marks)

Question 5.

- (a) Loss of transparency of the normal lens within the eye. -(1 mark)
- (b) Not to touch eye.  
Avoid coughing, sneezing  
Avoid straining  
To lie relatively still  
Avoid sudden movements of the head  
To call nurse if needs anything.  
(Any 5 points) -(5 marks)  
-(6 marks)

Question 6.

- (a) Injury.  
Hydronephrosis  
Carcinoma; or other acceptable answer. -(1 mark)
- (b) Intravenous pyelography.  
Blood urea.  
Renal biopsy - or other. -(1 mark)
- (c) Urine - postoperative voiding;  
- amount, colour.  
Wound - bleeding  
- swelling  
- signs of infection  
- discharge  
- drainage tube. -(4 marks)
- (d) Because of pain, position of incision and lack of pain relief, and possible inadequate repositioning and physiotherapy pre and post operative. -(2 marks)  
-(8 marks)

Question 7.

- Principles in management:-  
(i) Establish diagnosis  
(ii) Replace fluids and electrolytes  
(iii) Aspirate stomach  
(iv) Prepare for emergency surgery to relieve obstruction as soon as the condition of the patient permits it. -(4 marks)

Question 8.

- Self-explanatory. -(5 marks)
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