

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

6TH JUNE, 1984

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. Mrs Murray is a 48 year old lady who has had a sub-total thyroidectomy for the surgical management of thyrotoxicosis.
- Name one (1) complication of thyrotoxicosis and state why it occurs. —[2 marks]
 - Name four (4) specific pre-operative investigations which could be performed for this patient. —[2 marks]
 - What specific drug is commenced 7–10 days pre-operatively and why?—[2 marks]
 - Outline the nurse's responsibility in the management of the wound for the first 48 hours post-operatively. —[4 marks]
 - List four (4) specific complications which may occur post-operatively. —[2 marks]
 - Outline the specific symptoms and signs of one (1) of these complications, and state the appropriate nursing intervention. —[4 marks]
- [16 marks]
2. A 20 year old man has sustained a fractured shaft of femur. He is admitted to the ward following reduction of the fracture and insertion of a Kuntscher rod in theatre. He is to be nursed in a Thomas splint with skeletal traction for a period of four weeks. Detail the medical and nursing actions aimed at preventing the following complications:—
- Chest complications —[2 marks]
 - Pressure sores —[2 marks]
 - Footdrop —[1 mark]
 - Constipation —[2 marks]
 - Boredom —[2 marks]
 - Osteomyelitis —[2 marks]
 - Insomnia —[2 marks]
 - Delayed union. —[2 marks]
- [15 marks]
3. While walking past an active building site, a person suddenly feels an apparent foreign body enter one of his eyes. He calls on you, a nurse, to render first aid. On examination of the eye, you notice a foreign body on the cornea.
- What first aid measures should be used? —[2 marks]
 - Your first aid efforts leave you doubtful of having effectively removed the foreign body.
What clinical treatment and advice may be required, and why? —[6 marks]
 - Name two (2) possible complications of such an eye injury —[2 marks]
- [10 marks]

4. Julie, 23 years of age, is admitted to the 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 made 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]
5. Pulmonary embolism is a serious post-operative complication.
- (a) What significant symptoms and signs would indicate the onset of this complication? —[4 marks]
 - (b) What drugs would be given in the treatment of pulmonary embolism? State the route, dosage and action of these drugs. —[6 marks]
 - (c) State four (4) nursing measures which should be taken to prevent pulmonary embolism. —[2 marks]
- [12 marks]
6. Mrs Rees, 32 years of age, is to be admitted to a surgical ward for elective laparoscopic tubal ligation the following day.
- (a) Describe care of this patient under the following headings:—
 - (i) Consent —[2 marks]
 - (ii) Psychological care —[2 marks]
 - (b)
 - (i) Name one (1) specific post-operative cause of discomfort. —[1 mark]
 - (ii) State the reason for this discomfort. —[1 mark]
 - (iii) List two (2) nursing measures to relieve discomfort. —[1 mark]
- [7 marks]