

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

3795-10c

Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

1ST AUGUST, 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. A male patient has just been admitted to the ward following a motor car accident. He is unconscious and has sustained severe head injuries. Describe his nursing management under the following headings:—
- (a) Specific observations required and the significance of any changes recorded. —[8 marks]
 - (b) Nursing care required while he is unconscious for the first 72 hours. —[10 marks]
 - (c) How you can assist the family during his hospitalization. —[2 marks]
- [20 marks]
2. A 6 year old boy has returned to the ward following a tonsillectomy.
- (a) Approximately 12 hours after surgery, the patient starts to bleed from the tonsillar bed.
 - (i) What type of haemorrhage is this called and what could be the possible cause? —[2 marks]
 - (ii) What actions would be taken for this patient, before the arrival of the doctor? —[4 marks]
 - (b) What instructions would you give to the parents of the child prior to his discharge from hospital? —[4 marks]
- [10 marks]
3. A patient with a gastric ulcer is to undergo surgery for this condition.
- (a) Define and state the aims for each of the following:—
 - (i) selective vagotomy. —[2 marks]
 - (ii) pyloroplasty. —[2 marks]
 - (b) Describe the nursing care of this patient relating to care of the nasogastric tube and intravenous therapy. —[6 marks]
- [10 marks]
4. (a) What is hypovolaemic (oligaemic) shock? —[1 mark]
- (b) Give four (4) signs of hypovolaemic shock. —[2 marks]
- (c) What is the main principle of treatment of hypovolaemic shock? —[1 mark]
- (d) Give the precautions you would take before you change a bottle/bag of blood. —[2 marks]
- (e) What are the early manifestations of a severe allergic reaction to a blood transfusion? —[3 marks]
- [9 marks]

5. John, 22 years of age, has a fractured shaft of the right femur. His limb has been immobilised in a Thomas splint with skeletal traction. State the nursing actions which should be taken to ensure:—

- (a) maintenance of traction. —[2 marks]
- (b) adequate support of the limb in the splint. —[2 marks]
- (c) protection of pressure areas. —[2 marks]
- (d) prevention of infection of the pin sites. —[2 marks]

—[8 marks]

6. (a) State four (4) nursing measures employed in post-operative care to prevent pulmonary embolism. —[2 marks]

- (b) What symptoms and signs suggest the onset of pulmonary embolism? —[4 marks]
- (c) Name the specific test used to regulate heparin dosage. —[1 mark]
- (d) Name the antidote to heparin and state the dosage. —[1 mark]

—[8 marks]

7. Define the following:—

- (a) ectropion. —[1 mark]
- (b) entropion. —[1 mark]
- (c) tarsorrhaphy. —[1 mark]
- (d) blepharitis. —[1 mark]
- (e) chalazion. —[1 mark]

—[5 marks]