

REGISTRATION EXAMINATION—(GENERAL NURSES)

SURGICAL NURSING

3rd APRIL, 1985

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

3RD APRIL, 1985

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 young man has sustained burns to 35% of his body surface after a petrol tank explosion.
 - (a) Describe his medical and nursing care on admission in providing for:—
 - (i) respiratory needs —[3 marks]
 - (ii) maintenance of fluid balance —[4 marks]
 - (iii) psychological support —[1 mark]
 - (iv) pain relief —[1 mark]
 - (v) minimising the risk of infection. —[2 marks]
 - (b) List the observations that would be made and state the significance of these observations. —[5 marks]

—[16 marks]

2. A man, 68 years of age, is admitted with a 4 year history of intermittent claudication.
 - (a) What underlying condition may cause this? —[1 mark]
 - (b) What does the term intermittent claudication mean? —[1 mark]
 - (c) What other symptoms and signs may be present? —[2 marks]
 - (d) What advice would you give him in order to:—
 - (i) maintain optimal blood flow; —[3 marks]
 - (ii) protect the limbs from injury and infection? —[3 marks]

—[10 marks]

3. Mrs Black has received a spinal anaesthetic for surgery. Describe the post-operative nursing management under the following headings. Include reasons for the specific care required.
 - (a) Position —[2 marks]
 - (b) Observations —[4 marks]
 - (c) Safety —[4 marks]

—[10 marks]

4. A patient is admitted with obstructive jaundice due to a stone in the common bile duct.
 - (a) Why would intramuscular vitamin K be ordered pre-operatively? —[2 marks]

Following cholecystectomy and choledochostomy, the wound is closed and the gall bladder bed is drained by a corrugated drain tube via a stab wound.

 - (b) What nursing measures would be used to avoid respiratory complications? —[3 marks]
 - (c) Describe the care of the wound and the corrugated drain tube. —[5 marks]

—[10 marks]

5. Two (2) builders were involved in an accident and received tetanus prone wounds.

Builder A has previously received tetanus immunization, but builder B has not.

- (a) What are tetanus prone wounds? —[2 marks]
(b) Discuss tetanus immunoprophylaxis for either builder A or builder B. —[4 marks]
(c) What other measures may be taken to prevent tetanus occurring? —[2 marks]

—[8 marks]

6. Tim Cameron, 3½ years of age, has been admitted to the ward for surgical correction of right squint (strabismus).

- (a) Define the term “strabismus”. —[1 mark]
(b) Explain the necessity of having strabismus corrected in children before the age of 8 years. —[2 marks]
(c) The objective of the nursing care plan is to provide psychological reassurance and support for Tim in the immediate post-operative phase.

List the actions necessary to achieve this objective. —[3 marks]

—[6 marks]

7. What is meant by the following?

- (a) Skeletal traction. —[2 marks]
(b) Skin traction. —[2 marks]
(c) Pneumothorax. —[2 marks]
(d) Strangulated hernia. —[2 marks]
(e) Thoracic underwater seal drainage. —[2 marks]

—[10 marks]