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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

Registration Examination—General Nurses

SURGICAL NURSING

2 DECEMBER 1987

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. Using the following headings describe in detail the nursing management of a patient who is admitted unconscious after a head injury.

- (a) Observations and their significance —[8 marks]
- (b) Prevention respiratory complications —[3 marks]
- (c) Maintenance of patient's nutritional state while unconscious. —[3 marks]

—[14 marks]

2. Following a skiing accident, a young man is admitted to the casualty department with a closed fracture of the shaft of the femur.

- (a) Describe the principles of the first aid treatment he should have received at the accident scene. —[3 marks]
- (b) Describe the initial management of patient on arrival in hospital —[4 marks]
- (c) Following manipulation of the fracture, application of skeletal traction and a Thomas splint, the patient returns to the ward.

Discuss the following aspects of postoperative management of this patient under the following headings:

- (i) care of the limb —[4 marks]
- (ii) prevention of decubitus ulcers (pressure sore) —[4 marks]

—[15 marks]

3. Mrs Robinson, a forty-three year old married woman, presents to her local doctor with a history of irregular vaginal bleeding over the past two months.

- (a) What is the medical term for "irregular vaginal bleeding"? —[½ mark]
- (b) Name two (2) investigations likely to be carried out by Mrs Robinson's doctor. —[1 mark]
- (c) Define one (1) of these procedures listed in (b). What explanation would be given to Mrs Robinson? —[3 marks]

A diagnosis of "stage 2" cervical carcinoma is made

- (d) Explain the above diagnosis in terms of spread of the malignancy. —[½ mark]
- (e) Describe the surgery of choice in this situation. —[2 marks]

—[7 marks]

5. A male patient, 30 years of age, has suffered 25% burns, involving the trunk, upper right arm and face, while rescuing his children from a burning house.

(a) Describe the immediate medical and nursing management on admission to hospital.

(Exclude area of the burned surface.)

—[8 marks]

(b) The burns are treated by the "open method".

What measures are necessary to help prevent:

(i) infection?

—[3 marks]

(ii) contractures?

—[2 marks]

(iii) reactive depression?

—[2 marks]

—[15 marks]

6. John, aged 6 years, is recovering following tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy.

(a) Outline the management of postoperative reactionary haemorrhage. —[5 marks]

(b) Name two (2) complications which may present postoperatively. State the symptoms and signs which would suggest the onset of these complications. —[5 marks]

(c) What advice would be given to John's mother prior to his discharge from hospital three (3) days postoperatively? —[5 marks]

—[15 marks]