

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

3795.4A 12c

Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

3RD DECEMBER, 1986

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. Mr Bryant is admitted with an open pneumothorax which has been caused by a bullet wound.
- (a) What is meant by pneumothorax? —[1 mark]
 - (b) Successful first aid has been given by Mr Bryant's friend. What first aid measures would have been used and why? —[3 marks]
 - (c) After resuscitation and improvement in the patient's condition, a thoracotomy is performed, the bullet removed and the lung and pleura sutured. Mr Bryant is returned to the ward with two (2) drainage tubes connected to underwater seal drainage.
 - (i) What is the purpose of both drain tubes and why is a seal necessary?—[3 marks]
 - (ii) What instructions should a registered general nurse give a student nurse about the management of this drainage? —[8 marks]
- [15 marks]
2. Mr Mason is admitted with suspected acute femoral arterial embolism.
- (a) What are the common underlying causes? —[2 marks]
 - (b) Why is it important that the condition be diagnosed and treated with urgency? —[1 mark]
 - (c) What are the clinical manifestations of an acute femoral embolism? —[3 marks]
 - (d) What drug may be ordered immediately condition is suspected? —[½ mark]
 - (e) What operative procedure may be necessary. —[½ mark]
 - (f) Describe the specific post-operative nursing management, including observations, and give reasons for your answer. —[6 marks]
- [13 marks]
3. A man, 45 years of age, has returned from the theatre following right nephrectomy.
- (a) State two (2) reasons for performing a nephrectomy and one specific investigation for each of the reasons given. —[2 marks]
 - (b) What observations are made of the wound and the urine, and what would be the significance of these? —[4 marks]
 - (c) Why may chest infection occur following nephrectomy? —[2 marks]
- [8 marks]
4. A patient is admitted to hospital following a car accident with a history of transient loss of consciousness.
- Describe the observations that would be made and indicate those changes that may signify the early onset of cerebral compression.
- [10 marks]

5. (a) Differentiate between "threatened abortion" and "incomplete abortion". —[2 marks]
- (b) Using clear headings, describe the management of each of these types of abortion. —[8 marks]
- [10 marks]
6. Surgical patients are at risk of developing wound infection.
- (a) Name two (2) microorganisms commonly implicated in wound infection and include the likely source and mode of spread. —[2 marks]
- (b) Wound dehiscence may be a related problem. Give an explanation of this condition and the stage at which it may be expected to occur post-operatively. —[2 marks]
- (c) List four (4) nursing actions when wound dehiscence occurs. —[2 marks]
- (d) Massive infection may result in the condition of septic (or bacteraemic) shock. Briefly explain this condition. —[2 marks]
- [8 marks]
7. A patient has a nasal pack in situ. Describe his medical management and nursing care whilst the pack is in situ. —[6 marks]