

Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

1ST JUNE 1988

SURGICAL NURSING

SECTION B**Important:-****Read your questions very carefully.****Answer only what is asked as no marks will be given for irrelevant material.****ALL questions are compulsory.**

1. Pulmonary embolism is a serious postoperative complication.

- (a) List the clinical features of this condition. —[2 marks]
- (b) What measures may be taken pre and postoperatively to help prevent pulmonary embolism? —[4 marks]
- (c) What drugs may be given in the treatment of pulmonary embolism? —[2 marks]
- (d) State route, dosage and action of two (2) of these drugs. —[2 marks]
- [10 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 first aid treatment he should have received at the accident scene. —[3 marks]
- (b) Describe the initial treatment which should be carried out 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 postoperative management of this patient under the following headings:
- (i) care of the limb
- (ii) prevention of decubitus ulcers (pressure sores). —[6 marks]
- [13 marks]

3. Mrs Bryce, 28 years of age, is admitted to your ward with severe blood loss due to an incomplete abortion.

- (a) Define incomplete abortion. —[1 mark]
- (b) Give four (4) symptoms and signs which may be evident. —[4 marks]
- (c) Outline the specific nursing care of this patient on admission. —[5 marks]
- [10 marks]

4. Certain conditions may predispose to the development of paralytic ileus.

- List five (5) conditions wherein the onset of paralytic ileus may occur, and briefly explain why each may be a cause. —[5 marks]

5. Mr Alexander, a 45 year old married man, has been a heavy cigarette smoker for thirty years.

(a) What specific symptoms will suggest that he is suffering from carcinoma of the lung? —[4 marks]

(b) What four (4) investigations will help confirm the diagnosis? —[2 marks]

Mr Alexander had a lobectomy performed, and returned to the ward with two intercostal catheters.

(c) Where have these catheters been placed and why? —[2 marks]

(d) Describe how the intercostal catheters and underwater seal drainage apparatus will be managed in terms of care, observation and when it is safe to remove them. —[8 marks]

(e) In what position is the patient usually nursed following lobectomy? State reason(s) for same. —[1 mark]

(f) Name two (2) specific postoperative complications and how they would be recognised. —[3 marks]

—[20 marks]

6. A woman, 50 years of age, is admitted following road trauma. She is unconscious and in addition to head injuries, has a corneal abrasion.

(a) Describe the specific neurological observations which should be made of this patient and state the changes which would indicate deterioration in this patient's condition. —[7 marks]

(b) (i) State two (2) functions of the cornea. —[1 mark]

(ii) Name two (2) complications which could arise as a result of the corneal abrasion. —[1 mark]

(iii) Name a mydriatic drug and state why it may be ordered. —[1 mark]

(iv) List two (2) other measures which may be taken in the management of this condition. —[2 marks]

—[12 marks]