

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958.

Examination in Surgical Nursing

JULY, 1961

Time allowed: Three hours.

Important.—Read the questions carefully, and answer only what is asked, as no marks will be given for irrelevant material.

All questions compulsory.

SECTION A.

1. Describe in detail under the following headings, the nursing management during the first week of a patient who is unconscious following a head injury :—
- Care of the unconscious patient.
 - Observations to be made and their significance.
 - Care of the tracheostomy. [30 marks.]

SECTION B.

1. Describe the special pre-operative preparation of a jaundiced patient. [10 marks.]
2. (a) How may fluids be administered to a dehydrated patient?
(b) What types of fluid may be given? [10 marks.]
3. (a) List the reasons for the use of drain tubes in wounds.
(b) Discuss the nursing care of a drain tube in the pleural cavity following thoracotomy. [10 marks.]
4. What do you understand by :—
(a) post-operative pulmonary embolism ;
(b) post-operative pulmonary collapse ?
How are these conditions prevented ? [10 marks.]
5. Discuss the first aid care of a child suffering from burns to the back from burning clothing. [10 marks.]
6. Discuss briefly :—
(a) residual urine ; [3 marks.]
(b) Volvulus ; [3 marks.]
(c) gas gangrene. [4 marks.]
7. What part is played in the treatment of fractures by
(a) rest and (b) movement ?
Illustrate your answer by reference to the treatment of a simple Colles' fracture. [10 marks.]

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SECTION A.

1. A man, 45 years of age, is to be admitted to your ward suffering from severe coronary occlusion.
- (a) What is the immediate nursing and medical treatment? —[3 marks.]
 - (b) What observations would you make, and what findings would you expect? —[3 marks.]
 - (c) How would you ensure the patient received the rest required and how would this be graduated until the patient is rehabilitated? —[16 marks.]
 - (d) Intramuscular heparin is ordered.
 - (i) What site would you select for these injections? —[1 mark.]
 - (ii) List the dangers associated with intramuscular injections in general and heparin in particular. —[3 marks.]
 - (iii) What antidote is used to counteract the effect of excessive heparin? —[1 mark.]
 - (iv) What precautions are taken during the administration of dindevan? —[3 marks.]
2. An 18-months-old child is admitted with gastroenteritis. Discuss the management of this patient under the following headings:—
- (a) procedure on admission; —[6 marks.]
 - (b) initial handling of the child; —[6 marks.]
 - (c) nurse's initial approach to parents. —[8 marks.]

SECTION B.

1. What are the chief food constituents restricted in the diets ordered in the following conditions:—
- (a) hypertension;
 - (b) ulcerative colitis;
 - (c) diabetes mellitus;
 - (d) infective hepatitis;
 - (e) acute nephritis. —[5 marks.]
2. What is the significance of:—
- (a) noisy respirations in an unconscious patient;
 - (b) Koplik's spots;
 - (c) bulging fontanelle in a 3-months-old baby;
 - (d) nausea and anorexia when the patient has been digitalized;
 - (e) collapse immediately following an injection of penicillin? —[10 marks.]

3. Following a cerebro-vascular accident the patient is to be given nourishment via a Ryle's (Levin's) tube.

- (a) Describe the introduction of a Ryle's tube. —[5 marks.]
- (b) What are the dangers associated with this method of feeding an unconscious patient? —[2½ marks.]
- (c) How may these dangers be avoided? —[2½ marks.]
- (d) How would you ensure the patient received sufficient nourishment? —[5 marks.]

4. What is the significance of the observation of temperature, pulse and respiration in the following:—

- (a) diabetic coma; —[4 marks.]
- (b) pneumonia; —[4 marks.]
- (c) thyrotoxicosis; —[4 marks.]
- (d) heat stroke? —[3 marks.]

5. What do you understand by:—

- (a) oliguria;
- (b) haemopneumothorax;
- (c) dysphagia;
- (d) atrophy;
- (e) pleurisy? —[5 marks.]