

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL NURSING**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2017**

**COURSE TITLE:           MEDICAL-SURGICAL NURSING I**

**COURSE CODE:           GNS 211**

**TIME ALLOCATED:       TWO (2) HOURS**

**MARKS ALLOCATED:     75**

**INSTRUCTION:**

- **ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**
- **THERE ARE SIX (6) PRINTED PAGES EXCLUDING COVER PAGE**
- **THERE ARE 2 SECTIONS, A AND B:**
  - **SECTION A: OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WORTH 25 MARKS**
  - **SECTION B: STRUCTURED QUESTIONS WORTH 50 MARKS**

***DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO BY THE  
INVIGILATOR***

## SECTION A: OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS (25 MARKS)

For each question, choose the most appropriate response and write in your answer booklet the corresponding letter only, in **capital letters**, e.g. 31 B. Each correct response carries 1 mark.

1. What is the purpose of the nursing process?
  - A. Used to identify, diagnose, and treat human responses to health and illness.
  - B. Used to diagnose medical illness and decide what medications are needed.
  - C. Allows the nurse to act individually and not with a team.
  - D. Used to speed up care and finish tasks as fast as possible.
  
2. Following an abdominal surgery, when are the sutures usually removed?
  - A. When there is no more bleeding
  - B. About 7 to 10 days post-operatively
  - C. Only upon discharge from the hospital
  - D. About a month post-operatively
  
3. How does splinting of the chest help alleviate pleuritic pain?
  - A. It stimulates mechanoreceptors, thereby distracting nociception
  - B. It minimises chest movements, thereby reducing friction between visceral and parietal pleura
  - C. It blocks intercostals nerves, thereby preventing them from transmitting pain
  - D. It allows the draining of fluids from the pleural space, thereby alleviate pressure and pain
  
4. A male patient has a sucking stab wound to the chest. Which action should the nurse take first?
  - A. Drawing blood for a hematocrit and hemoglobin level
  - B. Applying a dressing over the wound and taping it on three sides
  - C. Preparing a chest tube insertion tray
  - D. Preparing to start an I.V. line

5. In order to determine the infectious cause of this pneumonia, the nurse should anticipate obtaining which diagnostic test?
- A. Chest X-Ray
  - B. Tuberculin Skin Test (Mantoux or PPD)
  - C. Sputum Culture
  - D. Aspiration of pleural fluid
6. Arterial blood gasses are usually measured to diagnose \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Tuberculosis
  - B. Impaired liver functions
  - C. Arteriosclerosis
  - D. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases
7. Who, among the following people would usually need oxygen therapy? One with \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Congestive heart failure
  - B. Vertebral dislocation at the level of the thorax
  - C. Renal failure
  - D. None of the above
8. A client who has been involved in an accident sustained some rib fractures such that as he breathes out, part of the chest wall protrudes. The same portion is sucked in as he breathes in. Which of the following would be best immediate intervention for this client?
- A. Splinting the chest
  - B. Administering 100% oxygen
  - C. Measure arterial blood gases
  - D. Rush the client to theatre
9. After change of shift, you are assigned to care for the following clients. Which client should you assess first?
- A. A 68 year old client with tuberculosis who needs a sterile sputum specimen sent to the laboratory

- B. A 57 year old client with COPD and pulse oximetry reading from previous shift of 90% saturation
- C. A 72 year old client with pneumonia who needs to be started on intravenous antibiotics
- D. A 51 year old client with asthma complaining of shortness of breath after using a bronchodilator nebulizer

10. Hypertension is often referred to as a “silent killer” because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. It leads to comma before one dies.
- B. It can cause stroke and loss of speech
- C. One may die without symptoms
- D. It progresses slowly and over a long time

11. Which of the following statements is true in the practice of medical surgical nursing?

- (i). According to Orem’s self care theory, a physically fit client does not need any nursing
- (ii). Oxygen therapy may be toxic to a client
- (iii). Scrubbed hands are sterile
- (iv). After scrubbing, the finger tips are considered to be the cleanest part of the hands.

- A. i, iii & iv
- B. ii & iv
- C. ii only
- D. i, ii, iii & vi

12. In common cold, nasal congestion is usually a direct result of \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Collapse of nasal mucosa secondary to dehydration
- B. Inflammation of the nasal mucosa
- C. Elevated temperature and blood pressure
- D. A blockade by clones of microbes

13. Untreated tonsillitis may eventually complicate into the following:

- (i). Dehydration
- (ii). Peritonsillar abscess
- (iii). Weight loss
- (iv). Lung cancer

- A. i, iii & iii
- B. ii & iv
- C. ii only
- D. i, ii, iii & vi

14. The following are correct about deep vein thrombosis

- (i). It has no cure
- (ii). Swelling of legs can be one of the manifestations
- (iii). Risk factors include dehydration
- (iv). It can be prevented by range of motions

- A. ii, iii & iv
- B. ii & iv
- C. iv only
- D. i, ii, iii & vi

15. Which of the following best defines the diagnosis of hypertension?

- A. Any excessively high blood pressure reading, such as 180/110 mmHg
- B. Any blood pressure reading of 140/90 mmHg and above
- C. Abnormal blood pressure readings on at least two successive measurements taken at least a day apart
- D. Any blood pressure reading of 140/90 mmHg and above in an elderly client or a client with a family history of hypertension

Match each of the following disease conditions in column A with the corresponding description in column B. Write the corresponding letter only:

DISEASE CONDITION	CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE
16. Tension pneumothorax	A. Antibiotic therapy is the first line treatment
17. Right sided heart failure	B. Difficulties in breathing is one of the main manifestations
18. Left sided heart failure	C. Usually manifests as peripheral oedema
19. Secondary hypertension	D. The cause is not known
20. Common cold	E. Headache can be one of the manifestations, especially in its severe state.
	F. None of the above

State whether each of the following statements is True (T) or false (F) and write the corresponding only, e.g. 26 F

21. A chest infection that occurs in an inpatient within two days of hospital admission is known as a nosocomial infection
22. Over 90% of cases of hypertension are of unknown causes
23. All chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases are a result of either lung infection or prolonged inflammation
24. Cancer of the larynx and lungs has no cure
25. HIV is both a sexually transmitted infection and an opportunistic infection

## **SECTION B: SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS (50 MARKS)**

Answer the following questions as asked. Figures in brackets indicate marks allocated for each question.

### **QUESTION 1**

- (a) A doctor prescribed Cephadrine 1.5 gram IM OD for a client. The medication available is cephradine 500 mg/2 mL. Calculate the volume that you will administer, showing your working. [3]
- (b) Give a brief explanation to each of the following statements:
- (i). Chronic anaemia may lead to heart failure [3]
  - (ii). Tension pneumothorax is a medical emergency [3]
  - (iii). Angina pain can be triggered by exercise [3]
- (c) On a change of shift report, you noted that Mrs Chi is back from theatre with a tracheotomy.
- (i). State any one indication for a tracheotomy [1]
  - (ii). Describe any 4 possible complications which may arise from tracheotomy care, and the possible preventive measures which a nurse can consider for each of the complications described [12]

**Subtotal 25 Marks]**

### **QUESTION 2**

- (a) Outline any four (4) principles of surgical asepsis [5]
- (b) Musa came presenting with back pain, general body weakness, night sweats and weight loss. No coughing has been reported. Further investigations revealed that he is HIV positive
- (i). Based on the given information, what other medical diagnosis would you suspect, other than the HIV positive status? Justify your answer. [3]
  - (ii). Describe any other further investigation that you would recommend in order to rule out the diagnosis that you have stated above. [5]
  - (iii). Develop a nursing care plan for this client based on any three priority nursing diagnoses of your choice. [12]

**[Subtotal 25 Marks]**