

PLAINWORK

50 NCLEX-RN Practice Questions, Explained

Free PDF with answers and rationales

- 50 single-best-answer questions across 15 subject areas
- A rationale and a checkable reference for every answer
- Printable workbook plus a separate answer key
- Flashcard file that imports straight into Anki
- Spreadsheet of every question for your own drills

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Questions

How to use this book. Work in sets of 20. Cover the answer key, choose one best answer for each question, then check the rationale - including for the ones you got right. Note every topic you miss and revisit it after two days.

Question 1

ADVANCED SKILLS

Verification of NG tube after initial placement is performed by which of the following methods?

- A. X-ray
- B. Testing of aspirate pH
- C. Administering air into the tube ("Whoosh test")
- D. Measuring tube length

Question 2

ADVANCED SKILLS

The nurse is providing care for a patient who has an order to include "TKO" fluid infusion. The nurse understands that TKO fluids should be infusing at the following rate:

- A. 5 mL/hr
- B. 10-20 mL/hr
- C. 50 mL/hr
- D. 100 mL/hr

Question 3

ADVANCED SKILLS

The nurse is caring for a patient with a central venous access catheter. The nurse is repositioning the patient in bed when the CVAD extension tubing becomes tangled under the patient. As the patient is being turned, the tubing pulls the central venous catheter from the patient. What is the most appropriate first action?

- A. Cover the insertion site and apply direct manual pressure
- B. Call a Code Blue
- C. Have the patient "bear down"
- D. Attempt to reinsert the line

Question 4

ADVANCED SKILLS

A nurse is caring for a patient with an infusing IV who is receiving 2 grams of Rocephin (Ancef) into their 20 gauge right forearm PIV. The nurse notes that the IV site is swelling, reddened, and fluid is leaking at the infusion site. The nurse takes which of the following actions to appropriately address the complication?

- A. Slow the infusion and elevate the extremity
- B. Attempt to reposition the cannula and re-tape the infusion site to stabilize the device
- C. Stop the infusion and remove the cannula
- D. Increase the infusion rate to finish the Ancef infusion and then discontinue the site.

Question 5

ADVANCED SKILLS

A nurse receives an order to place an NG tube to decompress a patient's stomach due to ileus. The nurse correctly selects which type of tube to assist with stomach decompression?

- A. Levin
- B. Dobhoff
- C. Salem Sump
- D. Any of these tubes are appropriate

Question 6

CLINICAL SKILLS

The amount of suction pressure utilized for oropharyngeal suctioning is aligned to the patient's:

- A. Weight
- B. Height
- C. Age
- D. Gender

Question 7

CLINICAL SKILLS

The Glasgow Coma scale measures patients according to what three categories of response:

- A. Motor, Sensory, and Verbal
- B. Motor, Cognition, and Verbal
- C. Motor, Eye Opening, and Verbal
- D. Eye Opening, Verbal, and Auditory

Question 8

CLINICAL SKILLS

A nurse is performing an abdominal assessment and places his/her hand on the patient's abdomen over an area with moderate pressure. The nurse then abruptly withdraws his/her hand. This assessment technique is indicated when assessing for:

- A. abdominal rigidity
- B. guarding
- C. borborygmus
- D. rebound tenderness

Question 9

CLINICAL SKILLS

"Are you having any issues with seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, or feeling things?" would fall into what category of functional health assessment?

- A. Self-Perception and Self-Concept
- B. Health Perception - Health Management
- C. Cognitive and Perceptual
- D. Roles and Relationships

Question 10

DOSAGE CALCULATIONS

A nurse is preparing to administer 1 g of cefazolin in 150 mL of normal saline over 45 minutes to a preoperative patient. At what rate in mL/h should the nurse program the infusion pump?

- A. 200 mL/h
- B. 113 mL/h
- C. 150 mL/h
- D. 300 mL/h

Question 11

DOSAGE CALCULATIONS

A pediatric patient weighing 22 lb is prescribed amoxicillin 45 mg/kg/day divided into two equal doses. The oral suspension is available as 250 mg/5 mL. How many milliliters should the nurse administer per dose?

- A. 4.5 mL
- B. 5.0 mL
- C. 9.0 mL
- D. 2.3 mL

Question 12

DOSAGE CALCULATIONS

A client with deep vein thrombosis is receiving a heparin infusion. The bag contains 25,000 units in 250 mL of 0.9% sodium chloride. The infusion pump is set to 14 mL/h. How many units per hour is the client receiving?

- A. 1,200 units/h
- B. 1,000 units/h
- C. 1,400 units/h
- D. 850 units/h

Question 13

ENDOCRINE

A client with diabetes is shaky, sweaty, and confused. Blood glucose is 52 mg/dL, and the client can swallow. What should the nurse do first?

- A. Give 15 g of fast-acting carbohydrate
- B. Give regular insulin
- C. Recheck the glucose in one hour
- D. Serve a full meal

Question 14

FUNDAMENTALS

What is the ideal position for a patient when completing a bladder scan?

- A. High fowlers
- B. Semi-fowlers
- C. Supine
- D. Prone

Question 15

FUNDAMENTALS

The mission of which of the following organizations is to "improve health care for the public by inspiring organizations to excel in providing safe, effective, and high quality health care".

- A. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS)
- B. National Institute of Health (NIH)
- C. Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- D. Joint Commission

Question 16

FUNDAMENTALS

Mrs. Johnson is an 84-year-old woman whose husband just passed away from complications of congestive heart failure. She is brought to the clinic by her daughter because of increasing fatigue, malaise, weakness, and loss of appetite. You begin to take her vital signs and she starts weeping saying she misses her husband. Which of the following responses is the best therapeutic response?

- A. Tell me what your relationship with your husband was like.
- B. Your husband would not want you to be sad.
- C. At least you had many years together.
- D. I know how you feel. I recently lost my good friend.

Question 17

FUNDAMENTALS

This vitamin helps prevent fetal neural tube defects in utero.

- A. B9 (Folic Acid)
- B. B3 (Niacin)
- C. B6 (Pyridoxine)
- D. B2 (Riboflavin)

Question 18

GUIDELINES

According to the 2026 Brazilian perioperative ventilation guideline, which setting best reduces postoperative pulmonary complications?

- A. Tidal volume 10 mL/kg predicted body weight
- B. Tidal volume 6-8 mL/kg predicted body weight
- C. FiO₂ 100% for the entire case
- D. PEEP 0 cm H₂O throughout surgery

Question 19

GUIDELINES

A nurse cares for a patient diagnosed with a peptic ulcer who has no history of NSAID use and tests negative for *Helicobacter pylori*. Which emerging etiology should the nurse recognize as an increasing cause of this condition?

- A. Non-H. pylori *Helicobacter* infection
- B. Chronic psychological stress
- C. Gastroesophageal reflux disease
- D. Excessive dietary spicy food intake

Question 20

A nurse is teaching a client who received botulinum toxin type A injections for cervical dystonia. Which symptom should the nurse instruct the client to report immediately?

- A. Localized flu-like symptoms
- B. Moderate neck stiffness
- C. Difficulty swallowing or breathing
- D. Mild soreness at the injection site

Question 21

A female client with severe plaque psoriasis is prescribed oral acitretin. Which instruction is most important for the nurse to include in the teaching plan?

- A. Donate blood monthly to monitor blood counts.
- B. Take the medication on an empty stomach.
- C. Expect your skin to be resistant to sunburn.
- D. Avoid pregnancy during and for 3 years after therapy.

Question 22

A patient with suspected active pulmonary tuberculosis requires emergency intubation in the emergency department. Which action should the nurse prioritize to ensure safety?

- A. Position a portable fan to blow air toward the door.
- B. Move the patient to a negative-pressure room.
- C. Limit personal protective equipment to sterile gloves.
- D. Wear a standard surgical mask during the procedure.

Question 23

During the emergency insertion of a central venous catheter for a patient in septic shock, the nurse observes the physician's sterile glove touch the non-sterile bedside table. Which action should the nurse take first?

- A. Document the breach and monitor the site for infection.
- B. Assist with completing the insertion to avoid delay.
- C. Clean the contaminated glove with chlorhexidine wipes.
- D. Immediately inform the physician and provide a new glove.

Question 24

A nurse is caring for a mechanically ventilated patient receiving continuous enteral feedings. Which action should the nurse prioritize to prevent ventilator-associated pneumonia?

- A. Elevate the head of the bed to 30 to 45 degrees
- B. Perform deep tracheal suctioning every two hours
- C. Change the ventilator circuit tubing every 24 hours
- D. Instill sterile saline before endotracheal suctioning

Question 25

HEALTH ALTERATIONS

A multi-trauma patient in the resuscitation bay requires emergency urinary catheterization. Which action by the nurse best maintains infection control and sterile technique during this urgent procedure?

- A. Obtain a new sterile kit if contamination occurs.
- B. Cleanse the perineal area using a back-to-front motion.
- C. Use clean utility gloves to expedite the insertion.
- D. Pre-test the balloon by inflating it prior to insertion.

Question 26

HEALTH PROMOTION

Which of the following is a risk factor for developing febrile seizures?

- A. High levels of zinc and iron in the blood
- B. Family history of seizures
- C. Maternal diet of fruits and vegetables
- D. Delayed vaccination schedule

Question 27

HEALTH PROMOTION

You are working with a patient whose family expects all members to conform to the same religious practices and discourages any deviation. The patient expresses a desire to explore different beliefs but fears rejection from their family. What term best describes the unhealthy aspect of this family dynamic?

- A. Rigid family expectations
- B. Poor communication patterns
- C. Lack of privacy and autonomy
- D. Role inadequacy

Question 28

HEALTH PROMOTION

A nurse is educating a client newly diagnosed with primary dysmenorrhea about pain management strategies. Which statement by the client indicates a need for further teaching?

- A. "I will take ibuprofen before my period starts to help prevent pain."
- B. "A heating pad on my abdomen can help relieve discomfort."
- C. "If NSAIDs don't work, I can try hormonal therapy like birth control pills."
- D. "I should avoid exercise during my period because movement worsens the pain."

Question 29

HEALTH PROMOTION

Which stage of Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle involves looking back on a concrete experience and analyzing it in the context of existing knowledge?

- A. Concrete Experience
- B. Reflective Observation
- C. Abstract Conceptualization
- D. Active Experimentation

Question 30

INFECTION CONTROL

A client is admitted with active pulmonary tuberculosis. Which precautions should the nurse use?

- A. Droplet precautions and a surgical mask
- B. Airborne precautions and an N95 respirator
- C. Contact precautions and a gown
- D. Standard precautions only

Question 31

LAB VALUES

A client with acute kidney injury has a serum potassium level of 6.8 mEq/L. Which electrocardiogram change should the nurse expect to observe?

- A. Flattened T waves
- B. Shortened PR interval
- C. Tall, peaked T waves
- D. Prominent U waves

Question 32

LAB VALUES

A client with acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is lethargic and has shallow respirations. Which arterial blood gas (ABG) result should the nurse expect?

- A. pH 7.32, PaCO₂ 38 mmHg, HCO₃ 18 mEq/L
- B. pH 7.49, PaCO₂ 40 mmHg, HCO₃ 30 mEq/L
- C. pH 7.48, PaCO₂ 30 mmHg, HCO₃ 22 mEq/L
- D. pH 7.31, PaCO₂ 52 mmHg, HCO₃ 24 mEq/L

Question 33

LAB VALUES

A nurse is teaching a client with type 2 diabetes about a scheduled hemoglobin A1c test. Which statement by the client indicates a correct understanding of this laboratory test?

- A. It determines if my kidneys are filtering sugar properly.
- B. It detects the amount of sugar in my urine over a week.
- C. It measures my blood sugar levels right at this moment.
- D. It shows my average blood sugar over the past three months.

Question 34

MANAGEMENT

An unlicensed assistive personnel performs vital signs collection on a group of patients and reports the findings to the nurse providing care. Based upon the information provided, which patient should the nurse see first?

- A. RR 16
- B. O₂ sat 90%
- C. BP 91/53
- D. HR 87

Question 35

MANAGEMENT

As the RN, you review and assess the immediate needs of the clients you are assigned. Based on the client's needs, which of the following interventions should the RN delegate to the LPN?

- A. Teach the elderly client about home care of the indwelling Foley catheter.
- B. Interpret the morning labs on the client with end stage renal disease.
- C. Administer antineoplastic medications to the client diagnosed with bladder cancer.
- D. Administer an oral opioid to the client diagnosed with pyelonephritis.

Question 36

MANAGEMENT

Shared governance models reflect which type of management style?

- A. Autocratic
- B. Bureaucratic
- C. Transformative
- D. Laissez-faire

Question 37

MANAGEMENT

A nurse is caring for a post-operative coronary artery bypass graft patient who has been transferred to the ICU and is one hour post-op. Which of the following findings requires immediate intervention?

- A. Urinary output of 15 ml/hr
- B. Hgb 10.4 gm/dL
- C. BP 96/54
- D. Potassium 3.2 mmol/L

Question 38

MENTAL HEALTH

Namita is a 12 year old student who was recently removed from her home by Child Protective Services because of neglect from her mother who suffers from alcoholism. She has no relationship with her father. At school, she has been having angry outbursts in class yelling at her teachers and bullying her friends. This behavior is characteristic of which category of PTSD symptoms?

- A. Re-experiencing
- B. Avoidance
- C. Arousal and Reactivity
- D. Cognition and Mood

Question 39

MENTAL HEALTH

Which of the following medication orders does the nurse anticipate from the provider?

- A. Sertraline 50mg orally once daily in the morning
- B. Olanzapine 5mg orally once daily in the morning
- C. Benztropine 2mg orally prn extrapyramidal symptoms
- D. Gabapentin 100mg orally daily at bedtime

Question 40

MENTAL HEALTH

Which of the following actions should a nurse undertake to promote respect and dignity when working with mental health clients?

- A. Make decisions on behalf of the individual
- B. Use technical language to explain treatment
- C. Encourage decision making in alignment with clinical preferences
- D. Provide access to decision making options

Question 41

MENTAL HEALTH

Which of the following actions should nurses take to ensure their individual safety when providing care to mental health clients?

- A. Wear visible identification on a lanyard
- B. Ignore individual feelings and sensitivities
- C. Avoid wearing necklaces and earrings
- D. Wear long hair down

Question 42

PHARMACOLOGY

A client taking digoxin reports nausea and seeing yellow-green halos around lights. What should the nurse do first?

- A. Give the dose with a snack
- B. Hold the dose and notify the provider
- C. Explain that these are expected side effects
- D. Give an antiemetic, then the digoxin

Question 43

PHARMACOLOGY

A 68-year-old man receives IV unfractionated heparin for DVT. After 6 hours, his aPTT is 85 seconds (reference 25-35 s). Which action is most appropriate?

- A. Hold infusion and administer protamine sulfate.
- B. Decrease the heparin infusion rate.
- C. Continue the current infusion rate.
- D. Increase the heparin infusion rate.

Question 44

PHARMACOLOGY

A 55-year-old with type 2 diabetes is started on a basal insulin that has no pronounced peak and lasts about 24 hours. Which insulin is most appropriate?

- A. Insulin lispro
- B. Insulin glargine
- C. NPH insulin
- D. Insulin aspart

Question 45

PHARMACOLOGY

A client taking lithium carbonate for bipolar disorder reports persistent bilateral coarse hand tremors and diarrhea. Which action should the nurse take first?

- A. Request a prescription for an antiparkinsonian agent.
- B. Hold the medication and prepare for a serum lithium draw.
- C. Administer the dose and encourage increased fluid intake.
- D. Instruct the client to restrict dietary sodium intake.

Question 46

PRIORITIZATION

Which client should the nurse assess first?

- A. Day 2 after appendectomy, pain 4 out of 10
- B. COPD, oxygen saturation 90%
- C. After hip surgery, new restlessness, saturation 86%
- D. Diabetes, asking for a breakfast tray

Question 47

PUBLIC HEALTH

A public health nurse is implementing a new syphilis screening protocol at a correctional facility intake center. Which action by the nurse best demonstrates the correct application of an opt-out screening strategy?

- A. Informing the client that the test is routine unless refused
- B. Screening only clients who present with active genital lesions
- C. Testing only clients who report high-risk sexual behaviors
- D. Requiring a signed written consent form before drawing blood

Question 48

PUBLIC HEALTH

A public health nurse is responding to a suspected Ebola outbreak. Which intervention is the highest priority to interrupt the chain of transmission in the community?

- A. Implementing immediate community-wide quarantine
- B. Rapid identification and isolation of symptomatic contacts
- C. Administering prophylactic antivirals to all close contacts
- D. Distributing broad-spectrum antibiotics to the community

Question 49

PUBLIC HEALTH

A public health nurse is planning child survival interventions in a region with high under-5 mortality, guided by CHAMPS surveillance data. To address the leading infectious cause of death in this age group, which intervention is most critical?

- A. Implementing mass deworming campaigns
- B. Distributing insecticide-treated bed nets
- C. Administering prophylactic zinc supplements
- D. Expanding pneumococcal conjugate vaccination

Question 50

PUBLIC HEALTH

A nurse in a travel clinic is counseling an unvaccinated client planning a trip to Cuba. Which vaccine should the nurse recommend to prevent a common foodborne and waterborne viral infection associated with travel to this region?

- A. Hepatitis B vaccine
- B. Yellow fever vaccine
- C. Hepatitis A vaccine
- D. Meningococcal vaccine

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