

CPEN Sample Questions

The following 10 sample questions are presented to demonstrate the format used on the CPEN exam and how questions reflect the nursing process. These sample questions are not intended to reflect the difficulty of the actual questions on the CPEN exam. The preferred response is indicated in boldface type.

1. Which of the following patients should receive the HIGHEST priority?
 - A. **8-month-old who is vomiting and has a sunken fontanel**
 - B. 16-month-old who has a cough and a RR of 48 breaths/min
 - C. 3-year-old who has a swollen wrist with numbness and tingling
 - D. 4-year-old who has a barking cough and stridor when crying

2. Which of the following is an effective example of active participation in disaster or emergency preparedness activities?
 - A. activating the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - B. **conducting a pediatric mass casualty exercise every two years**
 - C. organizing long term rehabilitation for disaster survivors
 - D. rewriting local protocols based on evidence and research

3. A 9-year-old trauma patient arrives intubated and manually ventilated. Vital signs are as follows:

BP 60/40 mm Hg
HR 180 beats/min
O₂ sat 94%

Which of the following actions should the nurse take FIRST?
 - A. Administer cross-matched blood at 20 mL/kg.
 - B. Administer IV fluids at 20 mL/kg.
 - C. Confirm position of the endotracheal tube.
 - D. **Stop obvious bleeding with direct pressure.**

4. Which of the following pain scales would be MOST appropriate to use for a 5-year-old?

A. **FACES**

B. FLACC

C. numeric

D. visual analog

5. A patient with a history of bronchopulmonary dysplasia who is intubated is at high risk for developing

A. pneumonia.

B. **pneumothorax.**

C. laryngospasms.

D. tracheitis.

6. A toddler presents with extreme fussiness and cool toes after cast placement for a closed tibia/fibula fracture. The PRIORITY nursing intervention is to

A. apply ice to the cast.

B. elevate the leg above 45 degrees.

C. **assist with removal of the cast.**

D. obtain urine for myoglobin.

7. A family of 4 children presents to the emergency department with an itchy rash that spreads wherever the youth scratch. The nurse should suspect that the children have

A. **scabies.**

B. atopic dermatitis.

C. candidiasis.

D. pediculosis.

8. A definitive symptom of mumps is
- A. swollen lymph nodes.
 - B. a temperature of 103°F (39.4°C).
 - C. **swollen salivary glands.**
 - D. body aches.
9. A child presents with sudden onset of abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and syncope after eating at a restaurant. Vital signs are as follows:

BP	62/38 mm Hg
HR	148 beats/min
RR	20 breaths/min
T (rectal)	99.2°F (37.3°C)
O ₂ sat	91% on room air

Which of the following would be a PRIORITY for the nurse to administer?

- A. **epinephrine**
 - B. ondansetron (Zofran)
 - C. 0.9% normal saline solution
 - D. morphine sulfate
10. A 12-year-old child accompanied by the parents is brought in by law enforcement for a forensic exam. The nurse understands that authority for consent is given by
- A. **the patient.**
 - B. the patient's parents.
 - C. law enforcement.
 - D. a physician.