

## CPEN Sample Questions

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

1. In addition to work of breathing, which of the following are components of the Pediatric Assessment Triangle (PAT)?

- A. general appearance and circulation to the skin**
- B. patency of airway and circulation to the skin
- C. general appearance and developmental level
- D. patency of airway and developmental level

2. A 12-year-old arrives in the emergency department with a history of infrequent but unusual activity consisting of facial grimacing, picking at her clothes, and not responding to her teacher's questions. This behavior is most suggestive of

- A. absence seizure
- B. pseudo seizure
- C. complex partial seizure**
- D. simple partial seizure.

3. An 8-year-old presents to triage with nausea, left shoulder pain of 8/10, and diffuse abdominal pain of 2/10. The history is unremarkable except for fall from tree one day prior to arrival. Vital signs are as follows:

Blood pressure: 90/50 mm Hg Heart rate: 120 beats per minute Respirations: 28 breaths per minute Temperature: 98.6° F (37° C) Which of the following injuries should the nurse suspect?

- A. clavicle fracture
- B. humerus fracture
- C. liver laceration
- D. splenic laceration**

4. The Pediatric Assessment Triangle (PAT) reveals that a 6-month-old has decreased muscle tone, head bobbing with respirations, and pale skin color. The PRIORITY intervention is to

- A. start an IV and administer 20 mL/kg of warmed crystalloid solution.
- B. proceed with rapid assessment of airway, breathing, and circulation.**
- C. place the infant on a stretcher and manually open the airway.
- D. Administer oxygen via non-rebreather at 6L/min.

5. A school-age child presents with a 4-day history of abdominal pain, vomiting, fever, and constipation. There are no beds currently available. Which of the following is a PRIORITY intervention?

- A. Administer an enema to relieve constipation.
- B. Obtain an order for an abdominal X-ray.
- C. Instruct the parents to keep the child NPO.**
- D. Obtain a clean catch urine specimen.

6. Which of the following assessment findings can indicate breathing effectiveness?

- A. symmetrical chest rise and fall**
- B. presence of diaphragmatic breathing
- C. absence of secretions and vomitus
- D. ability to vocalize

7. Which of the following sequences is the BEST method to suction a term newborn's airway without meconium?

- A. nose first, then mouth
- B. mouth first, then nose**
- C. tracheal after intubation
- D. mouth only

8. In planning for the care of a febrile child in the emergency department, a critical element of safe, effective care that should be accomplished at triage is verification of the patient's

- A. allergies from the past medical history
- B. name and birthdate as listed on the patient identification band
- C. weight using a scale locked to display only in kilograms**
- D. heart rate and blood pressure using manual measurement

9. A mother reports her child may have been sexually assaulted a week ago. The nurse knows that the exam can be scheduled as a specialty assessment in a non-ED setting because

- A. the patient has no visible injuries.
- B. the alleged incident occurred more than 72 hours ago**
- C. there is no sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) available.
- D. law enforcement must be present to collect evidence.

10. Which of the following events is MOST likely to cause post-traumatic stress disorder in the pediatric population?

- A. watching someone be seriously hurt on TV**
- B. being punished for cheating on a test
- C. participating in team athletics
- D. moving to a new home