Specimen Questions
for the
PSB-Aptitude for Practical Nursing Examination

Why specimen questions?
Specimen questions are provided to familiarize you with the format of the examination; the directions for completing each examination part; the types of questions contained in the examination; and the content areas measured by the test questions. These specimen questions will not be found in the examination. Your important reaction is to be concerned enough to do some review study using various resources such as a dictionary, 8th grade arithmetic textbook, high school science textbooks, a GED study guide, SAT study guide or the ARCO Nursing School and Allied Health Entrance Exams study guide.

Academic Aptitude - Part I

Directions: Part I measures how well you think and learn. The following sample exercises demonstrate the types of questions you will be expected to answer in this part of the examination.

In the above set of words, which word is most different in meaning from the other words? Good is the correct answer. The letter d. should be chosen in the answer row for sample question A.

Sample B. You have $10 and give $3 to your mother. How much money do you have remaining?
   a. $1  b. $2  c. $4  d. $5  e. $7
Ten dollars minus three dollars is seven dollars, so the letter e. should be chosen in the answer row for sample question B.

Sample C. is to as is to? a. b. c. d. e. f.
b. is the correct answer. A large circle is to a smaller circle as a large square is to a smaller square. You should choose the letter b. in the answer row for sample question C.

This is the way you mark all of your answers for the questions that follow.

**Remember that in the sets of words that follow in Part I always select the word that is most different in meaning.**

1. a. augment b. decrease c. diminish d. lessen e. reduce

2. What is the remainder when 0.063 is subtracted from 3?
   a. 2.637 b. 2.739 c. 2.379 d. 0.2739 e. 0.0297

3. is to as is to? a. b. c. d. e. f.

4. a. extract b. instill c. deduce d. elicit e. extort

5. What is the cost of a $30 item after successive discounts of 10 cents and 20%?
   a. $27.00 b. $25.50 c. $24.75 d. $23.92 e. $21.60

6. is to as is to? a. b. c. d. e. f.

7. a. turmoil b. tranquil c. serene d. quiet e. peaceful

8. The first minute of a telephone call costs 37 cents and each additional minute 22 cents. What is the cost of a six minute call?
   a. $1.10 b. $1.32 c. $1.47 d. $1.62 e. $1.84

9. is to as is to? a. b. c. d. e. f.
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Spelling - Part II

Directions: Part II measures how well you can spell and what you know about the various rules of grammar as they are reflected in the spelling of certain words. Each line below contains a word with three different spellings. Select the word from each line that is spelled correctly.

Sample A. a. acheive b. achieve c. achive
The answer with the correct spelling is b. achieve. In the answer row to the right the letter b. should be marked.

1. a. tharapeutic b. tharaputic c. therapeutic
2. a. inmunity b. immunity c. immumity
3. a. paysiologic b. physiologic c. phsiologyc
4. a. molecules b. molcules c. mollecules
5. a. hemorrhage b. hemorrhage c. hemmorhage
6. a. disinfectant b. disenfectant c. disenfectent
7. a. enzymes b. enzimes c. enzymines
8. a. antispsesis b. antisepsis c. antisepses
9. a. poisioneus b. poiseneus c. poisonous
10. a. circulatory b. circuetyl c. circulatory

Information in the Natural Sciences - Part III

Directions: Part III is concerned with measuring your accumulated knowledge or information in the area of the natural sciences. Below is a sample exercise to show you how to do this part of the examination.

Sample A. Discoveries in the operation of the force of gravity were made by a. Lamarck b. Fields c. Wells d. Newton e. Bonet
The answer is d. Newton. In the answer row to the right, the d. should be marked.

1. The supporting structural substance of plants is provided by a. fructose b. comatose c. lactose d. cellulose e. foliose
2. One 1.0567 U. S. liquid quarts is equivalent to one a. milliliter b. kilometer c. millimeter d. liter e. meter
3. An acidic solution will turn blue litmus paper a. rusty b. white c. blackish d. yellow e. red
4. Water boils at how many degrees on the Celsius temperature scale? a. 212 b. 100 c. 64 d. 32 e. 16
5. A Nobel Prize winning scientist was a. Darwin b. DeVries c. McClintock d. Muller e. Bacon
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6. The gland producing the hormone insulin to control the blood sugar is the
a. pancreas  b. liver  c. pituitary  d. thyroid  e. adrenal

7. Alcohol solutions are called
a. acetics  b. tinctures  c. glycols  d. coagulates  e. thios

8. The study of the heart is called
a. cardiology  b. proctology  c. oncology  d. neurology  e. cytology

9. The nutrient that yields the most energy per ounce is
a. fat  b. protein  c. starch  d. sugar  e. milk

10. An organism in its early stage of development is called an
a. enzyme  b. embryo  c. endoderm  d. estrogen  e. element

Judgment and Comprehension in Practical Nursing Situations-Part IV

Directions: In Part IV there are a number of questions about the working relationships of the practical and vocational nurse. Be sure you read carefully, to comprehend and understand, the description of the work situation and the questions that follow. Each work situation is followed by four possible answers to the problem presented. Select the one answer that, in your judgment, is the best of the four. You may not agree completely with any of the answers, or you may find more than one answer to be correct. However, select the one best answer.

Sample A. Practical nurses, in selling their services to a hospital, will serve best their interests by emphasizing the saving of which of the following?
 a. waste  b. money  c. time  d. skilled  e. services

The best answer is probably skilled services. The practical nurse can work jointly with registered nurses and physicians in providing skilled services to hospital patients. In the answer row, the letter d. should be marked. Do the following items in the same manner.

1. A very sick patient is allowed only one visitor in the room at any one time. An entire family of five crowds into the room. When the practical nurse requests that they obey hospital rules, they refuse to leave the room. The practical nurse should:
   a. demand that four of the five leave.
   b. call for a security officer.
   c. tell the patient to ask them to leave.
   d. ask the supervisor for instructions.

2. A recently graduated practical nurse, newly employed by the hospital, is assigned to your unit. This practical nurse seems, to you, too quick to tell you what to do and how to do it. You might best handle this situation by:
   a. exercising patience and tolerance.
   b. asking for a transfer.
   c. threatening to resign.
   d. complaining to your supervisor

3. The visitor of a patient behaves very improperly toward you. The best thing to do is:
   a. tell the visitor off.
   b. call your supervisor.
   c. ignore the visitor.
   d. "play along" with the visitor.
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4. The oxygen tube has just been removed from the patient's nostrils. The patient asks you for a cigarette. The best response to the patient is to:
a. ignore the patient.
b. explain the fire hazard.
c. say you don't smoke.
d. say "I will get you a cigarette."  
4. A B C D E

5. The practical nurse’s HIV positive patient expresses concern about possible staff hostility. The practical nurse might best ease the patient's anxiety by:
a. mildly scolding the patient.
b. saying "You don't belong here."
c. saying "Don't worry, I will avoid close contact with you."
d. stating "We are all here to help."  
5. A B C D E

Vocational Adjustment Index - Part V

Directions: In Part V there are statements that concern how you feel about yourself and certain situations in relation to a potential work environment. Part V is not really a test, it is an inventory of feelings, attitudes, and opinions designed to assist in placing you in a work situation where you will find satisfaction and happiness. There are no right or wrong answers-some feel one way; others feel another way. Agreement or disagreement with the statements that follow simply indicates what you usually think, how you usually feel, or what you usually do about things. If you agree with the statement, select the ☒ in the correct row. If you disagree, select the ☐. Choose the answer that is really true for you, and answer immediately. WORK RAPIDLY.

1. A definite choice of a vocation is important.  
1. A ☒ D

2. Unemployment after graduation is a source of anxiety.  
2. A ☒ D

3. Working with sick people should be very rewarding.  
3. A ☒ D

4. It is difficult to relate to people in authority.  
4. A ☒ D

5. Most employers care little about their employees.  
5. A ☒ D

6. It is easy to talk with one's teachers.  
6. A ☒ D

7. Friends are an important part of happiness.  
7. A ☒ D

8. Most people enjoy good health.  
8. A ☒ D

9. To help the less fortunate is a worthwhile goal.  
9. A ☒ D

10. To speak up in class discussions is quite easy.  
10. A ☒ D

11. High stress vocations are often the most satisfying.  
11. A ☒ D

12. It is worthwhile to plan ahead for the future.  
12. A ☒ D