Nursing numeracy and literacy test: 20 practice questions with answers

Try each question without a calculator and time yourself. Questions 1 to 15 are numeracy and 16 to 20 are literacy. The answers, with working, are at the end.

The formula for drug doses: dose = what you want ÷ what you've got × what it's in. Put both doses in the same unit first.

Numeracy questions

Question 1: (1 mark) Work out 15% of 240.

Question 2: (1 mark) Write 3/8 as a decimal.

Question 3: (1 mark) Work out 0.6 × 0.7.

Question 4: (2 marks) Write 18/24 in its simplest form, then as a percentage.

Question 5: (1 mark) Convert 0.075 g to milligrams.

Question 6: (1 mark) Convert 1,250 micrograms to milligrams.

Question 7: (1 mark) A ward plans its staffing in the ratio of 1 nurse to 6 patients. How many nurses are needed for 42 patients?

Question 8: (2 marks) A patient drinks 250 mL at 08:00, 175 mL at 11:00, 300 mL at 14:00 and 125 mL at 17:00. What is their total intake in litres?

Question 9: (2 marks) A patient's weight falls from 80 kg to 76 kg. What is the percentage decrease?

Question 10: (2 marks) A patient's heart rate rises from 70 to 84 beats a minute. What is the percentage increase?

Question 11: (2 marks) A patient is prescribed 1 g of a medicine. Each tablet contains 500 mg. How many tablets should you give?

Question 12: (2 marks) A patient is prescribed 200 mg of a medicine. The stock liquid contains 125 mg in 5 mL. What volume should you give?

Question 13: (2 marks) A patient is prescribed 62.5 micrograms of a medicine. Each tablet contains 125 micrograms. How many tablets should you give?

Question 14: (2 marks) A medicine is given every 8 hours. The first dose is at 06:00. Give the times of the next three doses, using the 24-hour clock.

Question 15: (2 marks) A bag of 1,000 mL of fluid is to run over 8 hours. How many millilitres per hour is that?

Literacy questions

Question 16: (1 mark) Which spelling is correct?

A. Neccessary

B. Necessary

C. Necesary

D. Nesessary

Question 17: (1 mark) Which word completes the sentence? "The nurses checked ___ patients' charts before handover."

A. there

B. their

C. they're

D. thier

Question 18: (1 mark) Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

A. The patient's family arrived at 3pm, they asked to see the doctor.

B. The patients family arrived at 3pm. They asked to see the doctor.

C. The patient's family arrived at 3pm. They asked to see the doctor.

D. The patient's family arrived at 3pm they asked to see the doctor.

Question 19: (2 marks) Find and correct the two spelling errors in this sentence: "The nurse recieved the referal and wrote it in the patient's notes."

Question 20: (2 marks) Read the passage, then answer both parts.

Hand hygiene is one of the simplest ways to stop infections spreading in hospital. Staff clean their hands before touching a patient and after touching them, before a clean procedure, after contact with body fluids, and after touching anything around the patient's bed. Alcohol hand rub is quick and works well on hands that look clean. Hands that are visibly dirty should be washed with soap and water.

(a) According to the passage, when should a nurse wash with soap and water instead of using hand rub? (1 mark)

(b) Give two moments when staff should clean their hands. (1 mark)

Answers

Question	Answer	Working
1	36	10% = 24, 5% = 12, 24 + 12 = 36
2	0.375	1/8 = 0.125, × 3 = 0.375
3	0.42	6 × 7 = 42, 2 decimal places
4	3/4 = 75%	Divide both by 6
5	75 mg	0.075 × 1,000
6	1.25 mg	1,250 ÷ 1,000
7	7 nurses	42 ÷ 6
8	0.85 litres	250 + 175 + 300 + 125 = 850 mL
9	5%	4 ÷ 80 = 1/20
10	20%	14 ÷ 70 = 1/5

Question	Answer	Working
11	2 tablets	1,000 mg ÷ 500 mg
12	8 mL	200 ÷ 125 = 1.6, × 5 mL
13	Half a tablet	62.5 ÷ 125 = 0.5
14	14:00, 22:00, 06:00	Add 8 hours each time
15	125 mL per hour	1,000 ÷ 8
16	B	One c, double s
17	B	Belonging to them
18	C	A is a comma splice, B lacks an apostrophe, D has no full stop
19	received, referral	One mark each
20	See below	One mark each part

Question 20 (a): when their hands are visibly dirty.

Question 20 (b): any two of before touching a patient, after touching a patient, before a clean procedure, after contact with body fluids, and after touching anything around the patient's bed.

For more questions like these, with each step explained, try Medly for free at app.medlyai.com.