

Introduction

Welcome to the *NCLEX-RN® Practice Questions Exam Cram*

This book helps you get ready to take and pass the Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses. This portion of the book discusses the NCLEX-RN® exam in general and how this Exam Cram can help you prepare for the test. It doesn't matter whether this is the first time you're going to take the exam or whether you have taken it previously; this book gives you the necessary information and techniques to obtain licensure.

The *NCLEX-RN® Practice Questions Exam Cram* helps you practice taking questions that are written in the NCLEX® format. Used with the *NCLEX-RN® Exam Cram*, it will help you understand and appreciate the subjects and materials you need to pass. Both books are aimed at test preparation and review. They do not teach you everything you need to know about the subject of nursing. Instead, they present you with materials that you are likely to encounter on the exam. Using a simple approach, we help you understand the “need to know” information.

To be able to pass the NCLEX®, you must understand how the exam is developed. The NCLEX-RN® consists of questions from the cognitive levels of knowledge, comprehension, application, and analysis. The majority of questions are written at the application and analysis level. Questions incorporate the five stages of the Nursing Process (assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation) and the four categories of Client Needs. Client Needs are divided into subcategories that define the content within each of the four major categories. These categories and subcategories are:

- A. Safe effective care: 8%–14%
- Management of care: 13%–19%
- Safety and infection control: 8%–14%

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- B.** Health promotion and maintenance: 6%–12%
- C.** Psychosocial integrity: 6%–12%
- D.** Physiological integrity
 - Basic care and comfort: 6%–12%
 - Pharmacological and parenteral therapy: 13%–19%
 - Reduction of risk: 13%–19%
 - Physiological adaptation: 11%–17%

Taking the Computerized Adaptive Test

Computer-adaptive testing, commonly known as CAT, offers the candidate several advantages. The graduate can schedule the exam at a time that is convenient for him or her. It's also possible that you will not be tested on the entire 265-question range; if you answer the beginning questions correctly, the CAT might stop early in the session, with far fewer than the 265 questions you were expecting. The first questions will be difficult and should get easier. When the engine has determined your ability level and is satisfied that you are qualified to be a registered nurse, it will stop. The disadvantage of a CAT is that you cannot go back and change answers. When you make a decision and move on, that's it—no second guessing like on a paper exam.

The Pearson Vue testing group is responsible for administering the exam. You can locate a center nearest you by visiting www.pearsonvue.com. Because you might not be familiar with the Pearson Vue testing centers, we recommend that you arrive at least 30 minutes early. If you are late, you will not be allowed to take the test. Bring two forms of identification with you, one of which must be a picture ID. Be sure that your form of identification matches your application. You will be photographed and fingerprinted upon entering the testing site, so don't let this increase your stress. The allotted time is 6 hours, and the candidate can receive results within approximately 7 days (in some states, even sooner). Remember, the exam is written at approximately the tenth-grade reading level, so keep a good dictionary handy during your studies.

The Cost of the Exam

A candidate wanting to write the licensure exam must fill out two applications, one to the National Council and one to the state where he or she wants to be licensed. A separate fee must accompany each application. The fee required by the National Council is \$200. State licensing fees vary. Licensure applications can be obtained at www.ncsbn.org. Several states are members of the multistate licensure compact. This means that if you are issued a multistate license, you pay only one fee. This information also can be obtained by visiting the National Council's website.

How to Prepare for the Exam

Judicious use of this book and its sister book, the *NCLEX-RN® Exam Cram*, either alone or with a review seminar such as that provided by Rinehart and Associates, will help you achieve your goal of becoming a registered nurse. As you review for the NCLEX® exam, we suggest that you find a location where you can concentrate on the material each day. A minimum of 2 hours per day for at least 2 weeks is suggested. In the *NCLEX-RN® Exam Cram*, we provide you with exam alerts, tips, notes, and sample questions, both multiple choice and alternate items. Using both books allows you to practice taking hundreds of questions much like those on the actual licensure exam. We have also formulated a “mock” exam with those difficult management and delegation questions that you can score to determine your readiness to test. Pay particular attention to the helpful hints and the Cram Sheet. Using these will help you gain and retain knowledge, and will help reduce your stress as you prepare to test.

What You Will Find in This Book

As seems obvious from the title, this book is all about practice questions! There are five full exams in this book, totaling 1,250 questions. Each chapter is set up with the questions and their possible answers first; the correct answers and rationales appear at the end of each chapter. In the margins next to each question, you will see a quick key to finding the location of its answer and rationales. Here's exactly what you will find in the chapters:

- ▶ *Practice Questions*—These are the numerous questions that will help you learn, drill, and review.
- ▶ *Quick Check Answers*—When you have finished answering the questions, you can quickly grade your exam from this section. Only correct answers are given here—no rationales are offered yet.
- ▶ *Answers and Rationales*—This section offers you the correct answers, as well as further explanation about the content posed in that question. Use this information to learn why an answer is correct and to reinforce the content in your mind for exam day.

You will also find a Cram Sheet at the beginning of this book specifically written for this exam. This is a very popular element that is also found in *NCLEX_RN® Exam Cram* (Que Publishing, ISBN 0-7897-3269-6). This item condenses all the necessary facts found in this exam into one easy-to-handle tearcard. The Cram Sheet is something you can carry with you to the exam location and use as a last-second study aid. Be aware that you can't take it into the exam room, though.

Hints for Using This Book

We suggest that you score your exam by subtracting the missed items from the total and then dividing the total answered correctly by the total number of questions. This gives you the percentage answered correctly. We also suggest that you achieve a score of at least 77% before you schedule your exam.

If you do not, take the exam again until you do. The higher the score, the better your chance to do well on the NCLEX® exam!

You should also take advantage of the CD exam engine; it provides you with a computer-adaptive test, or CAT, very similar to the one you will experience during the NCLEX® exam. Every question in this book is on the CD, including the answer rationales.

Aside from being a test-preparation book, this book is useful if you are brushing up on your nursing knowledge. It is an excellent quick reference for the licensed nurse.

Need Further Study?

If you are having a hard time correctly answering questions, be sure to see the sister book to this one, the *NCLEX-RN® Exam Cram* (Que Publishing, ISBN 0-7897-3269-6). If you still need further study, you might want to take an NCLEX® review seminar or look at one of the many other books available at your local bookstore.

Contact the Author

The authors of this text are interested in you and want you to pass on the first attempt. If after reviewing with this text you would like to contact the authors, you may do so at Rinehart and Associates, PO Box 124, Booneville, MS, 38829, or by visiting www.nclexreview.net. You may also contact them by phone at 662-728-4622.