

SAMPLE: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (SAQ)

The test will assess candidates' level of knowledge and competence as it applies to **all** fields of nursing, in keeping with the NMC (2015) 'Standards for competence for registered nurses', and the NMC (2018) 'Future nurse: Standards of proficiency for registered nurses'.

You are advised to download and read these NMC documents.

The short answer exam is a written paper.

- You are allowed 3 hours to complete all the questions.
- You should complete all elements of each question.
- There is no word count for the questions. Remember these are 'short answer questions'; they require concise answers, written in short essay format.

Candidates will be provided with answer booklets.

- Please label the answers in your answer booklet according to the part of the question you are answering e.g. 1a, 1b etc.

Information and advice about the SAQs.

- The test paper will present five scenarios.
- Each scenario asks five questions, which must be answered correctly in order to pass the paper.
- Allocate reading time before answering the questions – **read the instructions carefully.**
- Work out how much time you need to spend on each scenario.
- **Read each question carefully, highlight the key words.** This will help you to know what you are being asked.
- Try to avoid writing irrelevant information about the topic. Instead, look at what you have been asked, and provide a clear, concise answer to the question.

- Some questions are factual, requiring definitions and concise descriptions. Others are interpretive and will test your professional knowledge and level of competence.
- Attempt all the questions, and leave time at the end to check your answers.

Results.

- Your results will be available through the NILE site under the 'Feedback and Grades' button. You will be awarded either a 'pass' or a 'fail' as a grade.
- If you are awarded a fail in any of the questions, you will receive feedback to help you should you wish to attempt a future re-sit.

Here is an example of a scenario and five short answer practice questions:

Try to answer the following questions after reading the NMC documents (recommended above), then check the answer guide to see how you have done.

Spend about **35 mins** writing your answer.

This question examines: professional values, being an accountable practitioner, and safeguarding vulnerable people.

June is a 78-year-old patient with type 1 diabetes, who has been admitted to the medical ward in your care with a urinary tract infection and symptoms related to uncontrolled diabetes.

She lives alone in a warden-controlled flat and has infrequent contact with her only daughter and her two grandchildren.

On admission, you notice that June has a bruise on her face. Her explanation is that the bruise is due to a fall.

Later during your shift, she breaks down in tears and reveals to you in confidence that her grandson, who is a known drug addict, visited her and asked for money.

This was the fifth visit this month when he asked June for money. He did not believe that June had nothing this time and hit her.

June is frightened of what he will do to her when she is discharged from hospital and is unsure of what to do, she does not want to tell anybody.

- a) June sees this as a family issue and not something she wants you to get involved in. How will you (as a competent practitioner) respond to June? Give a rationale for your answer.
- b) Identify five forms of abuse.
- c) Explore the safeguarding issues associated with this patient's situation, and highlight the agencies that should be involved in June's care.
- d) In this situation, is it appropriate to involve the police? Give a rationale for your answer.
- e) When would it be acceptable to breach confidentiality if abuse is suspected? (Refer to NMC (2015) 'The Code' for nurses and midwives in your answer.)

ANSWER GUIDE

Your answer should include the following key points with explanations:

- a) As a nurse bound by NMC's 'The Code' for nurses and midwives, you have a duty of care and should get involved in this issue. To ignore a safeguarding incident would question your fitness to practise. This should be explained to June.
- b) Types of abuse include physical, financial, psychological, sexual and institutional. These should each be explained.
- c) Safeguarding vulnerable adults is a team approach and is usually led by social services. The team can include other healthcare providers and professionals, local housing, education department, volunteer organisations such as Age UK. Social services are responsible for the welfare of the patient, and their primary concern is to protect anyone vulnerable and to make enquires to determine whether they are at risk.
- d) The answer should state: Yes, June has been physically abused by her grandson and is at risk of further harm. It is appropriate to involve the police when a crime has been committed, when the patient and others are at risk of harm and extortion. You should explain why.
- e) The answer should include: It is appropriate to breach confidentiality if the person is at risk of significant harm or if others are at risk of significant harm. Refer to sections of 'The Code' in your answer, such as 'prioritise people', and 'preserve safety'. It also relates to 'promote professionalism and trust' – abiding by the laws of the land. Drug and substance misuse are illegal.