

External Examiner's ReportB.Sc. Examination 1985

This report concerns itself with two papers:

1. S 481 NURSING MANAGEMENT
2. S 482 PRINCIPLES IN GERIATRIC NURSING

1. NURSING MANAGEMENT

This was not an easy paper to answer, as students do not normally manage the nursing care at ward level. Therefore, their knowledge tends to be drawn from their theoretical course work rather than from clinical practice. This set of students seemed to be able to relate theory to practice better than expected. They had read widely around the topic and demonstrated a good understanding of the relevant theoretical issues.

The weaker student had difficulty in providing direct answers to their chosen questions and the literature quoted was not always relevant.

On the whole, Section A yielded better answers than Section B. However, the reason for this may, again, lie in the lack of experience of ward based research in nursing.

2. PRINCIPLES in GERIATRIC NURSING

There were remarkable differences in the quality of answers to the various questions. For example, answers to question (1) were consistently good and answers to question (4) were rather poor on the whole.

Question (3) was attempted by only one candidate, who did very well.

Question (7) was avoided by all candidates.

Most candidates were better able to discuss geriatric care in general than to identify the nursing contribution to this care.

As in Paper (1), the main weakness lay in some candidates' inability to answer the questions as stated; in their defence, it is fair to state that the questions were far from easy.

OVERALL COMMENTS

It was gratifying to read the five sets of answers; they showed a remarkable maturity and sensitivity, based on good scientific knowledge. As an examiner, I felt that these new graduates in nursing were competent to give thoughtful care to their patients.