

PAEDIATRICS - PAPER 1
Final Examination for Medical Degrees – February 2023
Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna

Part A - Question No 1

Index No: -

The natural power of breastfeeding is one of the greatest wonders of the world.

While breastfeeding may not seem the right choice for every parent, it is the best choice for every baby. -Amy Spangler

1.1 The ‘Letdown reflex’ is an essential component of successful breastfeeding. Describe briefly the ‘Letdown reflex’.

(15 marks)

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1.2. Failure to maintain ‘good attachment’ leads to lactation failure. List **five (5)** components of ‘good attachment’.

(20 marks)

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1.3 Describe briefly **five (5)** advantages of breastfeeding. (20 marks)

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1.4 List **two (2)** conditions of the baby in which breastfeeding is absolutely contraindicated. (10 marks)

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1.5 'Fore milk' and 'hind milk' has a different composition. Explain. (10 marks)

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1.6 List **five (5)** differences between breast milk and unmodified cow's milk with regard to their nutritional properties. (25 marks)

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Part B - Question No 2

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A 2 -year- old boy is admitted to the pediatric casualty ward with tachypnea of 3 days. On examination, his weight is 7.1 kg (<-3SD) and his length is 78 cm (<-3SD). He is pale and his respiratory system is unremarkable except for tachypnea.

He had prenatally diagnosed posterior urethral valves and ablation was done on day 3 of life.

2.1 What is the most likely diagnosis? (20 marks)

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2.2 List **five (5)** other clinical features you would look for to support the diagnosis mentioned in 2.1. (20 marks)

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2.3 List **five (5)** most relevant investigations with expected findings that are useful in managing this child on admission. (20 marks)

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Part C - Question No 3

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A three-year-old previously healthy child presented with a fever and maculopapular rash of 3 days duration.

3.1 List **five (5)** possible causes for this presentation. (20 marks)

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3.2 List **five (5)** important information in history that would help to arrive at a diagnosis. (15 marks)

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3.3 List **five (5)** physical signs that will help to make a diagnosis. (20 marks)

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3.4 On the 3rd day of the illness, the rash was more confluent on the cheeks and progressed to the neck. There was circumoral pallor and inflamed tonsils.

3.4.1. What is the most likely diagnosis? (10 marks)

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3.4.2. Name the etiological agent. (10 marks)

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3.4.3. Mention **two (2)** investigations to support your diagnosis. (10 marks)

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3.4.4. Name a therapeutic agent you would select to treat this child. (10 marks)

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3.4.5. List **two (2)** complications of this illness. (10 marks)

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Part D - Question No 4

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4.1. A 3-week-old neonate, who had a birth weight of 3.0 kg, is admitted with projectile non-bilious vomiting of 72 hours. On examination, the weight on admission is 2.6 kg and he is moderately dehydrated.

4.1.1. What is the most likely diagnosis? (10 marks)

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4.1.2. Mention **two (2)** bedside observations to support the diagnosis. (10 marks)

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4.1.3. Name **two (2)** important investigations with the expected results that would help in managing the acute stage of the illness. (20 marks)

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4.1.4. Briefly outline the management of this child. (20 marks)

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4.2 A previously well nine-month-old infant is admitted with the complaint of intermittent episodes of excessive crying. During the episodes, he becomes pale and draws up his legs. He is well in between the episodes and afebrile. His abdomen is mildly distended.

4.2.1. What is the most likely diagnosis? (10 marks)

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4.2.2. List **two (2)** other clinical features which would support the diagnosis mentioned in (4.2.1).

(05 marks)

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4.2.3. Mention the investigation with the expected finding that would confirm the diagnosis.

(10 marks)

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4.2.4. Briefly outline the management of this child.

(15 marks)

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Part E - Question No 5

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A 3-year-old boy was referred by the general practitioner for further evaluation of his bow legs. He is otherwise well and has no long-term medical problems. His growth and development are age appropriate. Examination of the cardiovascular, respiratory, abdominal and neurological systems are normal.

The investigation results are as follows.

Serum calcium	- 2.1 mmol/L	(2.2 – 2.6 mmol/l)
Serum Phosphate	- 0.7 mmol/L	(0.8 – 1.5 mmol/l)
Alkaline phosphatase	- 1650 U/L	(142 – 335 U/l)

5.1 State the most likely complete diagnosis. (10 marks)

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5.2 Mention **five (5)** other examination findings you would expect in this child (20 marks)

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5.3 Mention **five (5)** predisposing factors for the above diagnosis mentioned in 5.1 (20 marks)

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Part F - Question No 6

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List **five (5)** features that are experienced by the patient / witnessed by the observer in an event of

6.1.1. Childhood epilepsy with Centro-temporal spikes (25 marks)

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6.1.2. Typical Childhood absence epilepsy (25 marks)

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6.2. Name an anti-epileptic drug that is indicated for the treatment of

6.2.1. Childhood epilepsy with Centro-temporal spikes (5 marks)

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6.2.2. Childhood absence epilepsy

(5 marks)

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6.3 Briefly mention how a routine EEG would help in the management of the epileptic disorder.

(15 marks)

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6.4 Enumerate **five (5)** procedures adopted to make an EEG study more yielding than a routine EEG.

(25 marks)

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