TEST OF COMPETENCE PART 1 - NURSING TEST

Please do NOT book your online Test of Competence until you have studied and reviewed the following modules.

This Guide is to be used in conjunction with the NMC blue Print:
NMC Blue Print Link: http://www.nmc-uk.org/Documents/Registration/Test%20of%20competence%20-%20Part%20one%20-%20nursing%20test%20blueprint.pdf

We have put some information together as a guide to help you with your revision for the Test of Competence Part 1. The test covers 4 Domains and 1 field specific competency relating to your specialism – in this case 'Adult Nursing’. The Study Plan provided is only a guide, individuals should review the modules and adjust study time according to the individual’s personal circumstances.

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Generic Nursing Domains:
- Domain 1: Professional values (Page 3)
- Domain 2: Communication and interpersonal skills (Page 4)
- Domain 3: Nursing practice and decision making (Page 5)
- Domain 4: Leadership, management and team working (Page 6)

Field Specific competencies:
- Adult Nursing (Pages 7 – 10)
### Generic Nursing Domains: 1 – 4

**Summary of Headings:**

(\(E^*\) = Critical item related to patient and public safety and if tested must be passed)

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**Column 1: Competency**

This section highlights key areas to revise and study.

**Column 2: Point of Entry**

This section highlights key areas for essential knowledge, understanding and skill application required, essential skills cluster number and point.

**Column 3: Generic Multi-choice Exam (50 Questions)**

This section highlights suitable study items for the Generic Multi-Choice Exam (\(E^*\) = Critical item related to patient and public safety and if tested in MCQ must be passed)

**Column 4: Suitable study items for Multi-choice Exam**

Generic topics applied to nursing field specifically (\(E^*\) = Critical item when related to patient and public safety and if tested in MCQ must be passed) (50Qs).

**Column 5: OSCE Testing**

This section highlights suitable items for testing within OSCE's, and if tested in scenario/skill must be passed (\(E^*\) = Critical item related to patient or public safety)

**Column 6: Helpful Website Links**

This column has some useful on-line links which can be used to support preparation for the NMC's Test of Competence. These on-line links are not exhaustive, and many other useful sources will exist, the links are designed to help candidates identify gaps as they explore each domain and competence.
Domain 1: Professional values

You must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following competencies, please refer to the NMC blueprint for further reading.

Week 1-2 Study Plan
(Please refer to pages 2 – 9 in NMC blueprint)

Competency 1.
All nurses must practise with confidence according to The code: Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for nurses and midwives (NMC, 2008), and within other recognised ethical and legal frameworks. They must be able to recognise and address ethical challenges relating to people’s choices and decision-making about their care, and act within the law to help them and their families and carers find acceptable solutions.

Competency 2.
All nurses must practice in a holistic, non-judgemental, caring and sensitive manner that avoids assumptions, supports social inclusion; recognises and respects individual choice; and acknowledges diversity. Where necessary, they must challenge inequality, discrimination and exclusion from access to care.

Competency 3.
All nurses must support and promote the health, wellbeing, rights and dignity of people, groups, communities and populations. These include people whose lives are affected by ill health, disability, ageing, death and dying. Nurses must understand how these activities influence public health.

Competency 4.
All nurses must work in partnership with service users, carers, families, groups, communities and organisations. They must manage risk, and promote health and wellbeing while aiming to empower choices that promote self-care and safety.

Competency 5.
All nurses must fully understand the nurse’s various role, responsibilities and functions, and adapt their practice to meet the changing needs of people, group’s communities and populations.

Competency 6.
All nurses must understand the roles and responsibilities of other health and social care professionals, and seek to work with them collaboratively for the benefit of all who need care.

Competency 7.
All nurses must be responsible and accountable for keeping their knowledge and skills up to date through continuing professional development. They must aim to improve their performance and enhance the safety and quality of care through evaluation, supervision and appraisal.

Competency 8.
All nurses must practice independently, recognising the limits of their competence and knowledge. They must reflect on these limits and seek advice from, or refer to other professionals where necessary.

Competency 9.
All nurses must appreciate the value of evidence in practice, be able to understand and appraise research findings to their work, and identify areas for further investigation.
Domain 2: Communication and interpersonal skills

You must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following competencies, please refer to the NMC blueprint for further reading.

Week 3-4 Study Plan

(Please refer to pages 10 – 15 in NMC blueprint)

**Competency 1.**
All nurses must build partnerships and therapeutic relationships through safe, effective and non-discriminatory communication. They must take account of individual differences, capabilities and needs.

**Competency 2.**
All nurses must use a range of communication skills and technologies to support person-centred care and enhance quality and safety. They must ensure people receive all the information they need in a language and manner that allows them to make informed choices and share decision making. They must recognise when language interpretation or other communication support is needed and know how to obtain it.

**Competency 3.**
All nurses must use the full range of communication methods, including verbal, non-verbal and written, to acquire, interpret and record their knowledge and understanding of people’s needs. They must be aware of their own values and beliefs and the impact this may have on their communication with others. They must take account of the many different ways in which people communicate and how they may be influenced by ill health, disability and other factors, and be able to recognise and respond effectively when a person finds it hard to communicate.

**Competency 4.**
All nurses must recognise when people are anxious or in distress and respond effectively, using therapeutic principles, to promote wellbeing, manage personal safety and resolve conflict. They must use effective communication strategies and negotiation techniques to achieve best outcomes, respecting the dignity and human right of all concerned. They must know when to consult a third party and how to make referrals for advocacy, mediation or arbitration.

**Competency 5.**
All nurses must use therapeutic principles to engage maintain and, where appropriate, disengage from professional caring relationships, and must always respect professional boundaries.

**Competency 6.**
All nurses must take every opportunity to encourage health promoting behaviour through education, role modelling and effective communication.

**Competency 7.**
All nurses must maintain accurate, clear and complete records, including the use of electronic formats, using appropriate and plain language.

**Competency 8.**
All nurses must respect individual rights to confidentiality and keep information secure and confidential in accordance with the law and relevant regulatory frameworks, taking account of local protocols. They must actively share personal information with others when the interests of safety and protection override the need for confidentiality.
Competency 1. - All nurses must use up-to-date knowledge and evidence to assess, plan, deliver and evaluate care, communicate findings, influence change and promote health and best practice. They must make person-centred, evidence based judgements and decisions in partnership with others involved in the care process, to ensure high quality care. They must be able to recognise when the complexity of clinical decisions requires specialist knowledge and expertise and, consult or refer accordingly.

Competency 2.- All nurses must possess a broad knowledge of the structure and functions of the human body, and other relevant knowledge from the life, behavioural and social sciences as applied to health, ill health, disability, aging and death. They must have an in-depth knowledge of common physical and mental health problems and treatments, including co-morbidity and physiological and psychological vulnerability.

Competency 3. - All nurses must carry out comprehensive, systematic nursing assessments that take account of relevant physical, social, cultural, psychological, spiritual, genetic and environmental factors, in partnership with service users and others through interaction, observation and measurement.

Competency 4.- All nurses must ascertain and respond to the physical, social and psychological needs of people, groups and communities. They must then plan, deliver and evaluate safe, competent, person centred care in partnership with them, paying special attention to changing health needs during different life stages, including progressive illness and death, loss and bereavement.

Competency 5.- All nurses must understand public health principles, prioritise in order to recognise and respond to the major causes and determinants, of health, illness and health inequalities. They must use a range of information and data to assess the needs of people, groups, communities and populations, and work to improve health, wellbeing and experience of healthcare; secure equal access to health screening, health promotion and healthcare; and promote social inclusion.

Competency 6.- All nurses must practise safely by being aware of the correct use, limitations and hazards of common interventions, including nursing activities, treatments, and the use of medical devices and equipment. The nurse must be able to evaluate their use, report any concerns promptly through appropriate channels and modify care where necessary to maintain safety. They must contribute to the collection of local and national data and formulation of policy on risks, hazards and adverse outcomes.

Competency 7.- All nurses must be able to recognise and interpret signs of normal and deteriorating mental and physical health and respond promptly to maintain or improve the health and comfort of the service user, acting to keep them and others safe.

Competency 8.- All nurses must provide educational support, facilitation skills and therapeutic nursing interventions to optimise health and wellbeing. They must promote self- care and management whenever possible, helping people to make choices about their needs involving families and carers where appropriate, to maximise their ability to care for themselves.

Competency 9. - All nurses must be able to recognise when a person is at risk and in need of extra support and protection and take reasonable steps to protect them from abuse.

Competency 10. - All nurses must evaluate their care to improve clinical decision-making, quality and outcomes, using a range of methods, amending the plan of care, where necessary, and communicating change to others.
Week 7-8 Study Plan
(Please refer to pages 30–34 in NMC blue print)

You must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following competencies, please refer to the NMC blue print for further reading.

**Competency 1.**
All nurses must act as change agents and provide leadership through quality improvement and service development to enhance people’s wellbeing and experience of healthcare.

**Competency 2.**
All nurses must systematically evaluate care and ensure that they and others use the findings to help improve peoples’ experience and care outcomes and to shape future services.

**Competency 3.**
All nurses must be able to identify priorities and manage time and resources effectively to ensure the quality of care is maintained.

**Competency 4.**
All nurses must be self-aware and recognise how their own values, principles and assumptions may affect their practice. They must maintain their own personal and professional development, learning from experience, through supervision, feedback and reflection.

**Competency 5.**
All nurses must facilitate nursing students and others to develop their competence, using a range of professional and personal development.

**Competency 6.**
All nurses must work independently as well as in teams. They must be able to take the lead in coordinating, delegating and supervising care safely, managing risk and remaining accountable for the care.

**Competency 7.**
All nurses must work effectively across professional and agency boundaries, actively involving and respecting others’ contributions to integrated person-centred care. They must know when and how to communicate with and refer to other professionals and agencies in order to respect the choices of service users and others, promoting shared decision making, to deliver positive outcomes and to coordinate smooth, effective transition within and between services and agencies.
This section is specific to Adult Nursing and has a similar layout to the 4 Domains, but links provided our limited.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Domain and ESC – This explains the Domain topic covered such as (Domain1 Professional Values Competency) and ESC which are sub-categories that comes under that heading.</td>
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Week 9-10 Study Plan
Please refer to the NMC Blue Print pdf at all times for further reading (Pages 35-61).

Section 1:

1.1 Adult nurses must understand and apply current legislation to all service users, paying special attention to the protection of vulnerable people, including those with complex needs arising from ageing, cognitive impairment, long-term conditions and those approaching the end of life.

You must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following:

- Apply current legal, ethical and professional requirements to older people with complex needs.
- Apply current legal, ethical and professional requirements to people with complex needs and cognitive impairment.
- Apply current legal, ethical and professional requirements to people with complex needs and Long term conditions.
- Apply current legal, ethical and professional requirements to people with complex needs as they near end of life.

Section 2:

3.1 Adult nurses must promote the concept, knowledge and practice of self-care with people with acute and long-term conditions, using a range of communication skills and strategies.

Refer to NMC blue print for further reading on:

- Acute medical and surgical conditions
- Long term conditions
Section 3:

1.1 Adult nurses must be able to recognise and respond to the needs of all people who come into their care including babies, children and young people, pregnant and postnatal women, people with mental health problems, people with physical disabilities, people with learning disabilities, older people, and people with long term problems such as cognitive impairment.

You must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following:

- Responding to the needs of babies and children
- Responding to the needs of young people
- Responding to the needs of pregnant women
- Responding to the needs of postnatal
- Responding to the needs of people with mental health problem
- Responding to the needs of people with physical disability
- Responding to the needs of people with learning disabilities
- Responding to the needs of older people
- Responding to people with long term problems

Section 4:

3.1 Adult nurses must safely use a range of diagnostic skills, employing appropriate technology, to assess the needs of service users.

Refer to NMC blueprint for further reading on:

- A range of diagnostic skills using technology

Section 5:

4.1 Adult nurses must safely use invasive and non-invasive procedures, medical devices, and current technological and pharmacological interventions, where relevant, in medical and surgical nursing practice, providing information and taking account of individual needs and preferences.

You must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following:

- Invasive and non-invasive procedures
- Safe use of medical devices
- Safe use of current technology
- Pharmacological interventions
- Medical nursing context
- Surgical nursing context
Section 6:

4.2 Adult nurses must recognise and respond to the changing needs of adults, families and carers during terminal illness. They must be aware of how treatment goals and service users’ choices may change at different stages of progressive illness, loss and bereavement.

Refer to NMC blue print for further reading on how to:

- Understand changing needs of adults, families and carers during terminal illness

Section 7:

7.1 Adult nurses must recognise the early signs of illness in people of all ages. They must make accurate assessments and start appropriate and timely management of those who are acutely ill, at risk of clinical deterioration, or require emergency care.

You must be able to demonstrate knowledge on how to:

- Recognise early signs of illness in people of all ages
- Make accurate initial assessment
- Manage acute illness
- Manage clinical deterioration
- Emergency care

Section 8:

7.2 Adult nurses must understand the normal physiological and psychological processes of pregnancy and childbirth. They must work with the midwife and other professionals and agencies to provide basic nursing care to pregnant women and families during pregnancy and after childbirth. They must be able to respond safely and effectively in an emergency to safeguard the health of mother and baby.

Refer to NMC blue print for further reading on how to:

- Recognise specific risks to health and wellbeing of pregnant women and babies and respond effectively in an emergency to safeguard the health of mother and baby.

Section 9:

8.1 Adult nurses must work in partnership with people who have long-term conditions that require medical or surgical nursing, and their families and carers, to provide therapeutic nursing interventions, optimise health and wellbeing, facilitate choice and maximise self-care and self-management.

You must be able to demonstrate knowledge of:

- Partnership working with people, families and carers with long term conditions requiring medical or surgical intervention.