**Suggested Answers to Assignments, Chapter 36, The Digestive System**

| Written Assignment | Learning Objectives |
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| Assignment #1. Students to complete Chapter 36 of *Lippincott Workbook for Nursing Assistants.* | 1–5 |

| Group Assignments | Learning Objective(s) |
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| Assignment #1. Provide each group of students with a copy of Figure 36-1 from the textbook minus the labels. Students will identify the organs and list the function(s) of each.   * Mouth and teeth   + Chew food into smaller pieces   + Start the digestive process * Salivary glands   + Produce chemical substances that work on smaller pieces of food breaking molecular bonds   + Moisten chewed food making it easier to swallow * Pharynx   + Passageway for food from the mouth to the esophagus   + Epiglottis prevents the food from entering the trachea * Esophagus   + Passageway from pharynx to stomach * Stomach   + Muscular, hollow holding pouch for food   + Continues the digestive process by secreting hydrochloric acid and turning the food into chyme * Small intestine—duodenum, jejunum, ileum   + Continues to absorb the nutrients into the bloodstream * Large intestine—cecum; appendix; ascending, transverse, and descending colons; rectum; and anus   + Continues to absorb nutrients and water   + Produces vitamin K and some B vitamins   + Excretes waste * Liver   + Produces and secretes bile into the duodenum to digest fats * Gallbladder   + Stores bile when not needed * Pancreas   + Secretes enzymes into the duodenum that break down molecular bonds | 1, 2 |
| Assignment #2. Students should list the following changes in the digestive system that occur with aging:   * Decreased production of saliva * Missing or painful teeth * Poorly fitting dentures * Slowed production of saliva, stomach acid, and digestive enzymes * Slowed movement results in more water absorption   Students should identify the effects of these changes on the functioning of the digestive system:   * Less efficient chewing and swallowing * Less efficient digestion of food * Increased risk for constipation | 3 |

| Clinical Assignment | Learning Objectives |
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| Assignment #1. Students should review the effects of aging on the digestive system and the signs and symptoms of digestive disorders. Students will observe for these effects, signs, and symptoms and report them immediately to the nurse and to you. | 3, 4 |

| Web Assignment | Learning Objectives |
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| Assignment #1. Students can enter “digestive disorders” to find such websites as:  <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/digestive-diseases>  <https://www.webmd.com/digestive-disorders/default.htm> | 4, 5 |