**Suggested Answers to Discussion Topics, Chapter 43, Caring for Surgical Patients**

| Suggested Answers for Topics for Discussion | Learning Objective(s) |
| --- | --- |
| 1a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * These activities are done to reduce the risk of complications related to breathing and circulation. * Frequent repositioning helps prevent fluid and mucus from collecting in the lungs. * Coughing and deep breathing exercises help prevent pneumonia and atelectasis. * Immobility can decrease the rate of circulation and blood clots could form in the lower legs. * Blood clots can break loose, travel through the bloodstream, and cause a stroke or pulmonary embolism.   1b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Use a lift sheet to help reposition Marlene, and move them gently and slowly. * Check with the nurse to find out when Marlene last received pain medication, and schedule your care for when it is most effective. * To help minimize their pain while coughing and deep breathing, assist them to a comfortable position and support the incision site with a small pillow or folded towel while they cough. * Make sure their TED stockings are on at all times. * Report to the nurse immediately Marlene’s unwillingness to comply with these recommended activities and their complaints of increased pain. * Observe them carefully for signs and symptoms of postoperative complications, and report these immediately to the nurse. | 5, 6 |
| 2a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * They might be afraid of undergoing anesthesia and not waking up. * They might fear that they could die. * They might fear pain during or after surgery. * They might fear a surgical error or mistake. * They might fear and be anxious about what will be found during the exploratory surgery. * They might be anxious about how long it will take to recover. * They might be anxious about missing work. * They might be anxious about finances or loss of income. * They might be anxious about how their wife will be cared for during this recovery.   2b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Reinforce the preoperative teaching they received from the nurse. * Tell the nurse if they have any questions about the procedure or the expected recovery. * Answer any questions about care you will directly be involved in preoperatively and postoperatively. * Use good listening skills and take action to get questions or concerns addressed. | 3 |
| 3a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Administering a bowel prep, if ordered.   + An enema is given before a procedure which involves the intestines. * You may need to help the person to:   + Bathe and wash their hair prior to the surgery.   + Remove makeup, including nail polish.   + Prosthetic devices, glasses, contact lenses, hearing aids, dentures, wigs, jewelry, and hair ornaments may also be removed prior to the surgery. * Helping the patient into a hospital gown. * Encouraging the patient to void. * Be sure call bell is within reach.   + Be sure side rails are up once presurgical medications are administered. | 4 |