**Suggested Answers to Discussion Topics, Chapter 33, The Nervous System**

| Suggested Answers for Topics for Discussion | Learning Objective(s) |
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| 1a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * John may have a resting tremor of both upper extremities. * Their muscles might be stiff, and they will walk with a shuffling, forward-leaning gait. * They will have impaired balance. * Their movements will be slow. * They may have difficulty stopping once they have begun walking. * Their speech may be slow and lack tonal variation. * They may have a masklike appearance due to the inability to move the small muscles of their face. * They may not be able to chew and swallow, and they may drool. * They might have problems with bowel and bladder.   1b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * You will perform range-of-motion exercises if ordered in the care plan. * You will transfer them using the proper device according to the care plan. * Make sure they are wearing nonskid footwear when getting them up. * Establish an effective means of communication if they have speech problems. * Keep their call light within reach and remind them often to use it. * Keep the floor clear of clutter. * Assist them with the use of the walker. * Ambulate them with a gait belt on for safety. * Assist with feeding if necessary and observe them for signs of dysphagia. * If they drool, keep a clothing protector in place. * Assist them to reposition themself frequently during your shift. * Observe their skin for signs of skin breakdown. * Monitor their bowel movements and report constipation. * Report problems with urination.   1c. Students’ responses should include the following:   * The test is painless. * Sensors are placed on the skull that show the electrical activity of the brain. | 4, 5, |
| 2a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Slowed nerve conduction time can cause:   + Increased risk for falls and other accidents.   + It will be harder for them to regain their balance if they start to fall.   + It would be harder for them to avoid a sudden obstacle in their path. * Memory and thought process may be slowed.   + They may not be able to recall things as quickly as they used to.   + They may have a mild loss of memory for recent events.   2b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Make sure they are wearing glasses if she has them. * When helping them to walk, make sure the pathway is clear. * Make sure there is adequate light when assisting them to ambulate. * Make sure their clothing and shoes fit properly. * Be sure they are wearing nonskid footwear. * Observe them for signs of unsteadiness and offer assistance as needed. * Wipe up any spills immediately. * When giving assistance, use clear and simple language. * Keep directions short and simple. | 3, 4 |