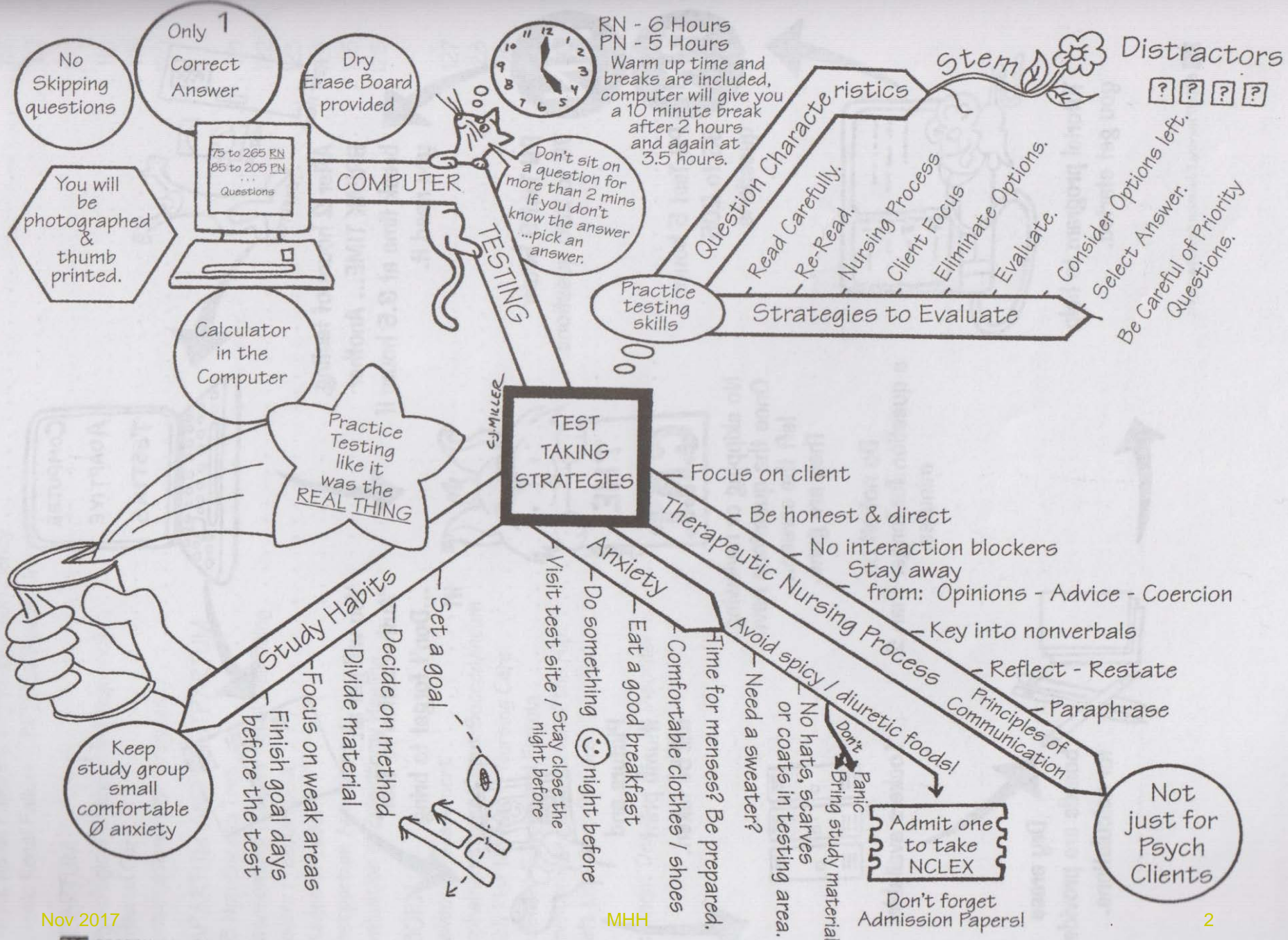


Pointers for Test-taking Success






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Pointer # 1 - Self-Responsibility


-  Accept **responsibility** for your own success in the program and on the NCLEX examination and become an **active participant** in the learning process.
-  Join a **study group** early in the program and ensure that the study group time is used effectively.
-  Seek out all available financial resources to ensure **minimum work hours** while enrolled in the nursing program.

Pointer # 1 - Self-Responsibility


Prepare for class and class exams



 Read the textbook and review notes **prior to** lecture

 This is essential to know what the instructor is going to talk about






 Go to every class. Do **NOT** skip class.

 Record lecture – listen and **note key concepts** and **points you don't understand** for further study

 Flag or tab your notes – stay organized

Pointer # 2 - Self-Care



-  Manage anxiety
-  Relaxation; controlled breathing; exercise
-  Get plenty of rest
-  Take breaks
-  Replace negative thoughts with positive ones



Pointer # 3 – Know and Use Supplemental Resources



Use the textbook's workbook for additional question practice







Watch reputable YouTube videos to review clinical skills



Find reputable online resources






Pointer # 4 – Study the simple before the complex



-  Connect the dots – Everything in the human body makes sense if you understand how it works.
-  Memorize the facts.
-  Practice using the facts to explain what you see and plan what you can do about it.
-  Pretend you are teaching this information to a client.







Pointer # 5 – Know thyself

-  Look for patterns in your performance and flaws in your thinking.
-  Analyze your test-taking behaviors, then establish strategies to correct these problem
-  Manage your time effectively during test-taking. Finding your optimal pace.
-  Do not spend more than 2 minutes on a question.
-  Do not change answers. Trust your gut.



Pointer # 6 – Don't be intimidated



-  Don't expect test content to only cover what you heard in class.
-  Do expect to have to **APPLY** what you are learning.
-  Knowledge is cumulative and builds on what has gone before. If you miss a day, be sure to study the missed material.
-  Be willing to **risk being wrong** so you can catch errors early.

Pointer # 7 – Differentiate different levels of questions



Bloom's Taxonomy:



Knowledge



Comprehension



Application



Analysis



Evaluation

Combining parts to make a new whole

Create

Judging the value of information or ideas

Evaluate

Breaking down information into component parts

Analyze

Applying the facts, rules, concepts, and ideas

Apply

Understanding what the facts mean

Understand

Recognizing and recalling facts

Remember



KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS

- Require you to recall and/or remember



What is the average normal range of a radial pulse in an adult?



- a. 50 to 70
- b. 60 to 100
- c. 90 to 105
- d. 110 to 125

What is the average normal range of a radial pulse in an adult?



- a. 50 to 70
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- d. 110 to 125

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS



Require you to understand information





A client is **diagnosed** with tachycardia. The nurse knows that this means the client may be experiencing which of the following?

- a. Deep sleep
- b. An exciting sports event
- c. A cardiac dysrhythmia
- d. Pain



A client is **diagnosed** with tachycardia. The nurse knows that this means the client may be experiencing which of the following?

- a. Deep sleep
- b. An exciting sports event
- c. A cardiac dysrhythmia – heart rates that go up when you are excited are normal and do not need to be “diagnosed”
- d. Pain

APPLICATION QUESTIONS



Require you to apply knowledge in a specific situation





The nurse is assessing a client 24 hours following a cholecystectomy. The nurse notes the T-tube has drained 750 mL of green-brown drainage since the surgery. Which nursing intervention is appropriate?

- a. Clamp the t-tube
- b. Irrigate the t-tube
- c. Notify the healthcare provider
- d. Document the findings

For these kinds of questions, you **MUST** know the expected outcomes.

The nurse is assessing a client 24 hours following a cholecystectomy. The nurse notes the T-tube has drained 750 mL of green-brown drainage since the surgery. Which nursing intervention is appropriate?

- a. Clamp the t-tube
- b. Irrigate the t-tube
- c. Notify the healthcare provider
- d. Document the findings – this is an acceptable amount – 31 mLs/hr





ANALYSIS QUESTIONS



Require you to interpret a variety of data and recognize the commonalties, differences and interrelationships among presented ideas





A patient has dependent edema of the ankles and feet and is overweight. Which diet should the nurse expect the doctor to order?

- a. low salt and high in fat
- b. low in salt and low in calories
- c. high in salt and high in protein
- d. high in salt and low in carbohydrates



A patient has dependent edema of the ankles and feet and is overweight. Which diet should the nurse expect the doctor to order?

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- d. high in salt and low in carbohydrates

Eliminate the two “high salt” options. Compare low calorie and high fat options.



EVALUATION QUESTIONS



Require you to evaluate a nursing action, patient outcome, or expected outcome





A nurse is evaluating a client's response to cardioversion. Which of the following observations would be of highest priority to the nurse?

- a. Blood pressure
- b. Status of airway
- c. Oxygen flow rate
- d. Level of consciousness



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- d. Level of consciousness

ABCs Rule – It doesn't help to correct the blood pressure if the airway isn't open.



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 **Have confidence, you made it into nursing school**

 **Go to EVERY class and do ALL the assignments**



 **Believe in yourself**

 **Work hard**

 **Ask for assistance when you need it**