

Assignment 2:

Trauma in the Offshore Environment

Name:

Date:

It is 2am and you are wakened by a call to attend the drill floor where there has been an accident. They think someone may have been hit by the load during crane lifting operations but there is a great deal of confusion, and this is by no means certain.

You arrive at the drill floor with your grab bag to find all the crew surrounding the patient who is lying on the deck with his hard hat about 3 metres away. He is making snoring noises and breathing is obviously laboured but is otherwise not moving. There is no obvious blood.

- 1. Describe briefly your immediate actions (3 points)
- 2. The noisy breathing is suggestive of airway obstruction. What are the common causes of this and what methods are available to you to secure the airway? (**10 points**)





You secure the airway using only a Guedel airway, and next you turn to assess breathing.

3. Describe what examination you need to make of the chest and what injuries you are looking to exclude. (8 points)



Examination of the chest reveals a deviated trachea with limited chest expansion. The percussion note is hyperresonant and the patient has a fast respiratory and pulse rate.

 What diagnosis does this suggest and what should your immediate actions be? Describe what further intervention may be necessary after the immediate life saving actions. (**10 points**)





Your patient now has a secure airway and adequate breathing. You now turn to addressing his circulation. His pulse has remained rapid, even after the respiratory problems have been addressed and his blood pressure is unrecordable. No obvious bleeding site can be found but it is obvious he is significantly hypovolaemic.

Where are the likely areas of blood loss? Where should you direct your examination and how should you treat the hypovolaemic shock? (10 points)