



CMSA

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

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EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS

FC For Path(SA) Part I Blueprint

This document is to be read in conjunction with Sections, 1, 2, 3 and Appendix A of the Regulations for Admission to the Fellowship of the College of Forensic Pathologists of South Africa (cf: https://www.cmsa.co.za/view_exam.aspx?QualificationID=10).

GENERAL OVERALL LEARNING OUTCOMES: (as extracted from the aforementioned Regulations)

*“The candidate should have a knowledge in greater depth of the practical application of the subject of Anatomical Pathology in the **medico-legal field**, with particular emphasis on the aetiology, epidemiology, classification, pathogenesis and the macroscopic and microscopic appearances of pathology seen in deaths commonly due to **NATURAL CAUSES** in Man, with further emphasis on cases of sudden unexpected deaths and ‘natural’ secondary complications following ‘unnatural’ primary injuries.”*

FC For Path (SA) Part 1	
Component	Weighting
Written Paper 1	25%
Written Paper 2	25%
Paper 3 (Histopathology Slide Examination)	50%

NB: This document is to be considered as a guideline. The conduct of the examination is prescribed, but the nature and format of questions will not always be exact, as the range of topics overlap and the testing thereof requires integration and consolidation of the subject material.

PAPERS 1 & 2:...

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Domain: Anatomical Pathology

Demonstration of: Theoretical knowledge

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic principles of general pathology:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Cellular injury and cellular death○ Cellular adaptations of growth and differentiation○ Inflammation, healing and repair○ Haemodynamic disorders, thrombosis and shock○ Genetic disorders (a broad overview)○ Diseases of immunity○ Neoplasia (in general)○ Tissue response to ionizing radiation (in general)○ Infectious diseases (general principles)○ Selected human infectious diseases○ Environmental and nutritional diseases○ Diseases of infancy and childhood• The use of special stains, immunohistochemistry and electron microscopy in diagnostic anatomical pathology• Basic molecular biology	50%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pathology of general systemic and systematic diseases:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Vascular system○ Heart○ Haemopoietic system○ Lymphoreticular system○ Lungs○ Head and neck○ Gastrointestinal tract○ Liver and biliary tract○ Pancreas○ Kidneys○ Lower urinary tract and genital systems○ Breast○ Endocrine system○ Skin○ Skeletal system○ Peripheral nerve and skeletal muscle○ Central nervous system	50%

Weighting:

- Paper 1 (100 marks; 3 hours): 25% of the overall mark for the FC For Path (SA) Part 1
- Paper 2 (100 marks; 3 hours): 25% of the overall mark for the FC For Path (SA) Part 1

Subminima: Candidates must pass each Paper (i.e. Paper 1 and Paper 2 respectively) with a minimum of 50%.

PAPER 3: Histopathology Slide Examination

Domain: Surgical and autopsy histopathology

Demonstration of: Practical application of knowledge and histopathological diagnostic skills

Surgical & Autopsy Histopathology	Congenital	Traumatic	Infective	Inflammatory	Vascular	Metabolic	Neoplastic	Mechanical	Degenerative
Central and peripheral nervous system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Head and neck (incl. eye, salivary glands, oral cavity, ENT)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cardiovascular system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Respiratory system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gastrointestinal system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hepatobiliary system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Endocrine system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pancreas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lymphoreticular system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Urogenital system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pregnancy-related	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Breast	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Skin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Soft tissue	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Musculoskeletal system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Weighting: Paper 3 (150 marks; 3 hours): 50% of the overall mark for the FC For Path (SA) Part 1

Subminima:

- Candidates must pass Paper 3 with a minimum of 50%.
- Candidates must pass at least 8 out of the 15 slide cases with a minimum of 50%.
- Candidates must provide a correct diagnosis for a minimum of 8 out of the 15 slide cases.

JOHANNESBERG

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