



JOHANNESBURG OFFICE
EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS

CMSA

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

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Dip For Med(SA) Clin Path Blueprint

This document is to be read in conjunction with the Regulations for Admission to the Diploma in Forensic Medicine of the College of Forensic Pathologists of South Africa (cf: https://www.cmsa.co.za/view_exam.aspx?QualificationID=51) with specific reference to Sections 4, 5 and Appendix B.

Dip For Med (SA) Clin-Path		
Component		Weighting
Written	Written Paper 1: <i>Clinical Forensic Medicine</i>	25%
	Written Paper 2: <i>Forensic Pathology</i>	25%
Practical	Autopsy Examination	25%
	Oral Examination	25%

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.

PAPER 1.../

PAPER 1: Clinical Forensic Medicine

Domain: Clinical forensic medicine and the law in relation to the practise of medicine in South Africa

Demonstration of: Theoretical knowledge including application thereof to practical/case-based scenarios

LAWS AND ETHICS (25-35%)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The South African legal system• Medical records• Inquests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical evidence• Medical law• Ethics
FORENSIC MEDICINE (35-45%)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual offences• Abuse of the elderly and spouse abuse• Non-accidental injury in children• Alcohol• Drugs of dependence and abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forensic toxicology and poisoning• Torture and treatment of detainees & prisoners• Medico-legal aspects of mental disease as contemplated in the Mental Health Act 18 of 1973• Identification and ageing of the living
TRAUMATOLOGY (25-35%)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describing and documenting of injuries• Types and complications of injuries• Regional injuries<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Head injuries○ Neck injuries○ Spinal injuries○ Chest injuries○ Pelvi-abdominal injuries○ Limb injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Firearm and explosion injuries• Transportation injuries• Asphyxia• Gaseous poisons and irritants• Immersion-related injuries• Injury due to burns, hypothermia & hyperthermia, electricity and lightning• Pregnancy, abortion and sterilization• Injury in the perinatal period and infancy

Weighting: Paper 1 (100 marks; 3 hours): 25% of the overall mark for the Dip For Med(SA) Clin Path

Subminima: Candidates must pass Paper 1 with a minimum of 50%.

PAPER 2: Forensic Pathology

Domain: Forensic medicine & pathology and the law in relation to the practise of medicine in South Africa

Demonstration of: Theoretical knowledge including application thereof to practical/case-based scenarios

LAWS AND ETHICS (±25%)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The South African legal system• Medical records	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical evidence• Inquests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical law• Ethics
FORENSIC MEDICINE (±25%)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual offences• Abuse of the elderly and spouse abuse• Non-accidental injury in children• Alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drugs of dependence and abuse• Forensic toxicology and poisoning• Torture, treatment of detainees and deaths in custody	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medico-legal aspects of mental disease as contemplated in the Mental Health Act 18 of 1973• Identification and ageing of the living and dead
TRAUMATOLOGY (±25%)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describing and documenting of injuries• Types and complications of injuries• Regional injuries<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Head injuries○ Neck injuries○ Spinal injuries○ Chest injuries○ Pelvi-abdominal injuries○ Limb injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Firearm and explosion injuries• Transportation injuries• Asphyxial deaths• Gaseous poisons and irritants• Immersion and drowning• Death and injury due to burns, hypothermia & hyperthermia, electricity and lightning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pregnancy, abortion and sterilization• Death and injury in the perinatal period and infancy• Anaesthetic-associated and procedure-related deaths
FORENSIC PATHOLOGY (±25%)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The crime scene• The medico-legal autopsy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Death and changes in the body after death	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steps in the performance of the medico-legal autopsy

Weighting: Paper 2 (100 marks; 3 hours): 25% of the overall mark for the Dip For Med(SA) Clin Path

Subminima: Candidates must pass Paper 2 with a minimum of 50%.

PRACTICAL EXAMINATION: Autopsy Examination

NB: Candidates will only be invited to the autopsy component of the practical examination upon successful completion (i.e. achieving the prescribed subminima) of the written examination (i.e. Papers 1 and 2).

Domain: Forensic medicine & pathology and the law in relation to the practise of medicine in South Africa

Demonstration of: Practical application of theoretical knowledge, autopsy approach/technique, diagnostic skills, specimen and exhibit collection as well as the presentation of relevant post-mortem findings in a structured, prescribed format with appropriate interpretation of the medico-legal significance thereof

Autopsy Examination.../

Autopsy Examination

External examination	15%
Technique	35%
Internal examination	20%
Autopsy specimen and exhibit collection	10%
Case presentation and response to questions	20%

Weighting: 25% of the overall mark for the Dip For Med(SA) Clin Path

Subminima: Candidates must pass the practical examination with a minimum of 50%

PRACTICAL EXAMINATION: Oral Examination

NB: Candidates will only be invited to the oral component of the practical examination upon successful completion of the preceding autopsy examination (i.e. achieving the prescribed subminimum of 50%).

Domain: Clinical forensic medicine, forensic pathology and the law in relation to the practise of medicine in South Africa

Demonstration of: Practical application, consolidation and articulation of theoretical knowledge including critical analysis and problem-solving skills as well as appropriate insight into relevant service-related (i.e. operational and management) issues

The oral examination will be approximately 30-45 minutes for each candidate and may include:

- any aspect of clinical forensic medicine, forensic pathology and medico-legal practice (as per the prescribed learning outcomes and syllabi/curricula outlined in the Regulations for Admission to the Diploma in Forensic Medicine of the College of Forensic Pathologists of South Africa)
- a simulated (full or partial) clinical forensic medical examination
- case files/dockets
- macroscopic specimens, images or photographs
- crime kit analysis

Weighting: 25% of the overall mark for the Dip For Med(SA) Clin Path

Subminima: Candidates must pass the oral examination with a minimum of 50%

JOHANNESBERG
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