



JOHANNESBURG OFFICE
EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS

CMSA

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

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FC For Path(SA) Part II Blueprint

This document is to be read in conjunction with Sections 4, 5, 6 and Appendix B 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)

- *“An understanding of the legal and operational requirements and ethical underpinnings for their practise of Forensic Pathology*
- *An understanding of death scene investigation processes and techniques as well as competence in the Forensic Pathological aspects of such investigations*
- *Proficiency with standard autopsy techniques and interpretation of autopsy findings*
- *Familiarity with specialised autopsy and human identification techniques*
- *Proficiency with documentation of autopsies and clear communication of findings to the Justice System*
- *Familiarity with basic Clinical Forensic Medicine including examination techniques.”*

FC For Path (SA) Part 2		
Component		Weighting
Written	Written Paper 1	20%
	Written Paper 2	20%
	Paper 3 (Histopathology Slide Examination)	20%
Practical	Autopsy Examination	20%
	Oral Examination	20%

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: Forensic pathology and forensic sciences

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

Forensic Pathology (80%)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The scene of death & manners of death• Causes & mechanisms of death• Sudden natural death• The autopsy• The second autopsy & summary of the role of the expert witness• Legal systems & the courts• Torture, treatment of detainees & deaths in custody• Medical & surgical mishaps• Industrial & environmental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brainstem death & organ transplantation• Post-mortem interval & post-mortem changes• Road traffic deaths• Alcohol• Pregnancy• Abortion, concealment of birth & child murder• Legal aspects of child care• Physical abuse of children• Post-mortem microbiology & biosafety considerations in the mortuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post mortem chemistry• Common injuries• Firearms & firearm injuries• Head & neck injury• Fire deaths• Carbon monoxide poisoning• Electrical injury• Cold & heat injury• Starvation & neglect• Radiation injury• Drowning & immersion• Asphyxia & related deaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual abuse of children• Sudden infant death• Sexual offences against adults• Suicide• Consent to treatment & medical confidentiality• Poisoning• Controlled drugs• Mass disasters• Deaths in explosions• Mass burials
Forensic Sciences (20%)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DNA profiling• Forensic entomology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of human remains• Anthropological identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forensic odontology• Forensic radiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forensic toxicology

Weighting:

- Paper 1 (100 marks; 3 hours): 20% of the overall mark for the FC For Path (SA) Part 2
- Paper 2 (100 marks; 3 hours): 20% of the overall mark for the FC For Path (SA) Part 2

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

PAPER 3.../

PAPER 3: Histopathology Slide Examination

Domain: Medico-legal autopsy histopathology

Demonstration of: Practical application of knowledge and forensic histopathological diagnostic skills

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 (100 marks; 2 hours): 20% of the overall mark for the FC For Path (SA) Part 2

Subminima:

- Candidates must pass Paper 3 with a minimum of 50%.
- Candidates must pass a minimum of 5 out of the 10 slide cases with a minimum of 50%.
- Candidates must provide a correct diagnosis for a minimum of 5 out of the 10 slide cases.

PRACTICAL EXAMINATION: Autopsy Examination

NB: Candidates will be only 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, 2 and 3).

Domain: Forensic pathology and forensic sciences

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	
External examination	20%
Technique	25%
Internal examination	15%
Autopsy specimen and exhibit collection	10%
Case presentation and response to questions	30%

Weighting: 20% of the overall mark for the FC For Path (SA) Part 2

Subminima: Candidates must pass the autopsy 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: Forensic pathology and forensic sciences

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

The oral examination will be approximately 30-60 minutes for each candidate and may include:

- any aspect of forensic pathology and medico-legal practice (as per the prescribed learning outcomes and syllabi/curricula outlined in the Regulations for Admission to the Fellowship of the College of Forensic Pathologists of South Africa)
- case files/dockets
- macroscopic specimens, images or photographs

Weighting: 20% of the overall mark for the FC For Path (SA) Part 2

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

JOHANNESBERG
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