



THE COLLEGES OF MEDICINE OF SOUTH AFRICA

Incorporated Association not for gain  
Reg No 1955/000003/08

Examination for the Diploma in Forensic Medicine of the  
College of Forensic Pathologists of South Africa – Clinical Pathology



19 March 2015

Paper 1

(3 hours)

*All questions are to be answered. Each question to be answered in a separate book (or books if more than one is required for the one answer)*

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- 1
  - a) Briefly explain what is assessed during the neurological examination of a person suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol. (10)
  - b) Briefly discuss the factors which affect the rate of alcohol absorption in the body. (8)
  - c) Briefly discuss the Widmark formula and its application. (7)[25]
  
- 2 You are asked to clinically examine a 6-month-old baby. The baby was allegedly injured when falling from his cot, while under the supervision of his stepfather. Answer the following questions relating to the case
  - a) Which injuries would you specifically look for to exclude possible child abuse? (6)
  - b) What is your legal obligation in this case when suspecting child abuse? (4)
  - c) Briefly describe the relevance of radiological examination in cases of possible child abuse. (5)[15]
  
- 3 Briefly describe Tanner staging for male and female individuals and the relevance to forensic medical examination. [15]
  
- 4 Define and briefly discuss the risk factors for elder abuse. [15]
  
- 5 A 35-year-old male patient is brought to casualty following an accidental gunshot wound to the chest during cleaning of his hand gun
  - a) Briefly describe the possible appearance of his wound. (10)
  - b) He was subsequently taken to theatre for treatment and retrieval of the bullet. How will you advise on the maintenance of the chain of custody after the bullet has been removed? (5)[15]

6 Write short notes on the following

- a) Paternity testing. (5)
- b) Reasons for keeping medical records. (5)
- c) Role of an expert witness. (5)



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Paper 2

(3 hours)

*All questions are to be answered. Each question to be answered in a separate book (or books if more than one is required for the one answer)*

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- 1 Discuss injuries under the following headings
  - a) Classification of injuries.
  - b) How to distinguish between sharp and blunt force injuries.
  - c) Factors that can influence the ease with which sharp objects penetrate the skin.
  - d) Amount of force used to cause the injury.
  - e) Survival time after injury. [25]
  
- 2
  - a) Write short notes on adipocere. (5)
  - b) Briefly discuss the correlation between hypostasis and the position of the body after death. (10)
  
- 3 Write short notes on the following
  - a) Shored exit gunshot wound. (5)
  - b) Primer residue. (5)
  - c) Intermediate range entry gunshot wound. (5)[15]
  
- 4 Briefly discuss the aetiology, characteristics and medico-legal significance of extradural haemorrhages. [15]
  
- 5 **Answer any three (3) of the following**
  - a) Write short notes on the cause and mechanism of death (giving examples) in relation to completing section G.1 of the Form DHA-1663. (5)
  - b) Define natural and unnatural deaths. (5)
  - c) A bereaved member of the public asks your advice on the steps of the process to cremate the remains of their next of kin on which you performed a medico-legal autopsy. Briefly describe or illustrate this process. Include reference to all paperwork required. (5)
  - d) List and briefly describe the statutes applicable in the South African system of medico-legal investigation of death. (5)[15]

- 6 You are requested to examine an 18-year-old female who was allegedly sexually assaulted. Briefly describe what samples/specimens are required and how you will collect the above specimens using the Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit(s). [15]