



Dip For Med(SA) Clin/Path

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

14 July 2016



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)

- 1 A 25-year-old long distance truck driver was arrested at a road block on New Year's Eve on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol
 - a) Write short notes on the Laws in South Africa relating to alcohol and driving. (10)
 - b) Describe your approach to the medico-legal examination and assessment of this truck driver including the precautions that must be observed when taking a blood alcohol sample. (15)[25]
- 2 A 15-year-old male presents to your clinic during the late afternoon and alleges that he was raped by his uncle the previous night. Discuss your approach to the management of this male rape survivor with specific reference to history taking, clinical examination, specimen collection, special investigations, pharmacological treatment and follow-up. [25]
- 3 Write short notes on the following
 - a) The circumstances under which a medical practitioner in South Africa is allowed to breach doctor-patient confidentiality. (5)
 - b) The concept of medical negligence. (5)
 - c) Preservation of "chain of custody." (5)[15]
- 4 Write short notes on the following
 - a) Common "date rape" drugs. (7)
 - b) The physical risks and complications of intravenous and subcutaneous injections in recreational drug users. (8)[15]
- 5 A pregnant 11-year-old girl presents to a health care facility requesting a termination of pregnancy
 - a) Write short notes on your role and legal obligations (with reference to relevant South African legislation) in the management of this case. (10)
 - b) Would your management of the case be different if this female child was 14-years-old and impregnated by her 16-year-old boyfriend? Briefly explain why. (5)
 - c) What is the legal age of consent for access to contraception in South Africa? (2)
 - d) What is the legal age of consent for surgical procedures in South Africa? (3)[20]



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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)

- 1 Discuss fatal non-accidental injury syndrome (NAIS) under the following headings
 - c) Definition and demographics. (5)
 - d) Injury patterns. (12)
 - e) Post-mortem examination and special investigations. (8)[25]

- 2 A police officer is alleged to have been shot multiple times whilst attempting to arrest a suspect. Write short notes on the post-mortem examination with specific reference to
 - a) Your approach to the external examination. (6)
 - b) Specimen collection. (4)
 - c) The features that would be compatible with a hard contact gunshot entry wound of the temporal region of the head. (5)[15]

- 3 Write short notes on the absorption, distribution, metabolism and elimination of ethyl alcohol from the human body. [15]

- 4
 - a) Describe the features of an electrical burn wound. (5)
 - b) Tabulate five differences between post-mortem hypostasis (lividity) and bruises. (5)
 - c) Write short notes on the causes of death from methamphetamine use. (5)[15]

- 5 Write short notes on the following
 - a) Algor Mortis. (5)
 - b) Cadaveric spasm. (5)
 - c) Tangential abrasions. (5)[15]

- 6 An apparent newborn is found dead in a public waste-bin
 - a) Define livebirth. (1)
 - b) Define stillbirth. (1)
 - c) Define viability from a legal perspective. (2)
 - d) Write short notes on the function(s) of the forensic medical practitioner in the investigation and notification of this death. (6)
 - e) Tabulate the differences between the macroscopic appearance of aerated and non-aerated lungs at autopsy. (5)[15]