



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

6 February 2020



Paper 1

(3 hours)

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

- 1 A prisoner in the custody of correctional services claims that he had been raped by other prisoners. Discuss your approach to the management of this patient under the following headings
 - a) Medico-legal considerations. (5)
 - b) Doctor-patient relationship. (5)
 - c) Examination approach. (8)
 - d) Appropriate special investigations. (7)[25]

- 2 Discuss the value of the examination of clothing in the medico-legal case, whether living assault victim or a post-mortem examination. [15]

- 3 Write short notes on the following
 - a) Circumstances in which you would expect persons to bruise more easily from injury. (5)
 - b) Oestrogen and its effects on the female genitalia and its relevance to forensic diagnosis of sexual injury. (5)
 - c) Explain if vaginal discharge, redness and bleeding in a pre-pubertal child may or may not have other causes besides sexual abuse. (5)[15]

- 4 Answer the following short questions
 - a) What are the features of a laceration wound? (3)
 - b) Which deaths should be investigated by means of an Inquest? (5)
 - c) What are the possible mechanisms of death associated with electrocution? (4)
 - d) What are the categories of burn wounds according to the causative agents? (3)[15]

- 5 Write short notes on the following
 - a) Differentiate between an "expert witness" and an "ordinary witness". (5)
 - b) The importance of record keeping in clinical forensic medicine practice. (5)
 - c) The "Locard Principle". (5)[15]

- 6 Write short notes on the following
 - a) The legal age of consent for medical (non-invasive) procedures in South Africa. (5)
 - b) List five (5) types of elder abuse. (5)
 - c) List the possible causes of a negative semen analysis in a rape survivor. (5)[15]



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Paper 2

(3 hours)

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

- 1 A survivor of alleged torture is brought to you for a medico-legal examination. Write short notes on the following
 - a) The definition of torture. (3)
 - b) The typical injuries and / or injury patterns to look for in such cases. (12)
 - c) Your approach to the clinical examination and special investigations in this case. (10)[25]
- 2 Write short notes on the following with reference to the possible causes, macroscopic appearance and medico-legal significance
 - a) Ligature abrasions. (5)
 - b) Tramline bruises. (5)
 - c) Bite marks. (5)[15]
- 3 Briefly discuss the neurological examination of a suspected drunk driver and the taking of the blood alcohol sample. [15]
- 4 Discuss the identification and analysis of suspected semen fluid for clinical forensic medicine purposes. [15]
- 5 A male child is brought off the streets after being assaulted to the hospital casualty department
 - a) Describe your management with regards to age determination. (5)
 - b) Describe your management in terms of the assault. (3)
 - c) It is later determined during the history taking that the child was raped, discuss your management thereof. (7)[15]
- 6 You are asked to examine a 7-month-old infant. It is alleged that the infant had injured herself after falling off a couch, whilst under supervision of the mother's boyfriend. Answer the following questions relating to this case
 - a) Which injuries would you specifically look for to exclude possible child abuse? (6)
 - b) Briefly discuss the relevance of radiological examination in cases of possible child abuse. (5)
 - c) What is your legal obligation in a case of suspected child abuse? Mention and refer to the appropriate Act(s)? (4)[15]