



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

15 February 2021



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 The following questions relate to Non-Accidental Injury Syndrome (NAIS):
 - a) Define this syndrome and describe the role of the doctor in this Syndrome. (5)
 - b) What are the guidelines to the diagnosis of this Syndrome? (10)
 - c) Summarise some of the Legislation protecting children from abuse. (10)[25]

- 2
 - a) When may a medical practitioner disclose confidential information about his/her patients? (5)
 - b) What is meant by "informed consent"? (5)
 - c) List the different types of skull fractures. (5)[15]

- 3
 - a) Tabulate the differences between lacerated and incised wounds. (10)
 - b) List the general characteristics of self-inflicted injuries. (5)[15]

- 4 Write short notes on:
 - a) The possible reasons for not finding spermatozoa in vaginal swabs taken from a victim who has allegedly been raped. (10)
 - b) Briefly describe the value of the examination of clothing in a medico-legal case. (5)[15]

- 5
 - a) State some instances where forensic age estimation may be required. (5)
 - b) Describe features on radiology that may assist in age estimation. (5)
 - c) State other methods used in age estimation. (5)[15]

- 6
 - a) Briefly describe the differential diagnosis for a person who is brought to hospital for examination on suspicion of being intoxicated with alcohol. (10)
 - b) Write short notes on the causes of death associated with acute alcohol intoxication. (5)[15]



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16 February 2021



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 Discuss the types of injuries, together with their possible mechanisms of causation, which may be found during a medicolegal post-mortem examination of a fatal vehicular pedestrian accident. [25]
- 2 Write short notes on the following.
 - a) Fallacies of the hydrostatic test. (5)
 - b) "Necklacing" fatalities. (5)
 - c) The role of forensic dentistry. (5)
 [15]
- 3 Write short notes on.
 - a) The definition of unnatural deaths in current South African legislation. (7)
 - b) The differences between the cause, mechanism, manner and circumstances of death. (8)
 [15]
- 4
 - a) What elements at a scene of death would lead you to believe that you may be dealing with a scenario of auto-erotic asphyxia? (10)
 - b) What is meant with the term "defence wounds" and where are those usually located on the body? (5)
 [15]
- 5
 - a) For what reasons could you be called upon by the SAPS to attend a scene of death? (3)
 - b) Who should be in attendance at a crime scene where someone has died? (3)
 - c) Briefly describe attending a death scene of a suspected murder-suicide and what tests or investigations you would perform. (9)
 [15]
- 6
 - a) Briefly describe the expected appearance of a hard contact gunshot wound of the head caused by a handgun. (5)
 - b) Write short notes on the causes and pathology of hypoxic/ischaemic brain damage. (10)
 [15]