



**JOHANNESBURG OFFICE**  
**EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS**

# CMSA

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

Nonprofit Company (Reg No.1955/000003/08)  
Nonprofit Organisation (Reg. No. 009-874 NPO)  
Vat No. 4210273191

27 Rhodes Avenue, PARKTOWN WEST, 2193

Tel: +27 11 726 7037; Fax: +27 11 726 4036

**Website:** [www.cmsa.co.za](http://www.cmsa.co.za)

**General:** [Academic.Registrar@cmsa.co.za](mailto:Academic.Registrar@cmsa.co.za)

## Dip For Med(SA) Path Blueprint

This document is to be read in conjunction with the Regulations for Admission to the Diploma in Forensic Medicine of the College of Forensic Pathologists of South Africa (cf: [https://www.cmsa.co.za/view\\_exam.aspx?QualificationID=52](https://www.cmsa.co.za/view_exam.aspx?QualificationID=52)) with specific reference to Sections 4, 5 and Appendix B.

Dip For Med (SA) Path		
Component		Weighting
Written	Written Paper 1	25%
	Written Paper 2	25%
Practical	Autopsy Examination	25%
	Oral Examination	25%

**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:...**

**PAPERS 1 & 2:**

**Domain:** Forensic medicine & pathology and the law in relation to the practise of medicine in South Africa

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

<b>LAWS AND ETHICS (±25%)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The South African legal system</li> <li>• Medical records</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical evidence</li> <li>• Inquests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical law</li> <li>• Ethics</li> </ul>
<b>FORENSIC MEDICINE (±25%)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual offences</li> <li>• Abuse of the elderly and spouse abuse</li> <li>• Non-accidental injury in children</li> <li>• Alcohol</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drugs of dependence and abuse</li> <li>• Forensic toxicology and poisoning</li> <li>• Torture, treatment of detainees and deaths in custody</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medico-legal aspects of mental disease as contemplated in the Mental Health Act 18 of 1973</li> <li>• Identification and ageing of the dead</li> </ul>
<b>TRAUMATOLOGY (±25%)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describing and documenting of injuries</li> <li>• Types and complications of injuries</li> <li>• Regional injuries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Head injuries</li> <li>○ Neck injuries</li> <li>○ Spinal injuries</li> <li>○ Chest injuries</li> <li>○ Pelvi-abdominal injuries</li> <li>○ Limb injuries</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firearm and explosion injuries</li> <li>• Transportation injuries</li> <li>• Asphyxial deaths</li> <li>• Gaseous poisons and irritants</li> <li>• Immersion and drowning</li> <li>• Death and injury due to burns, hypothermia &amp; hyperthermia, electricity and lightning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnancy, abortion and sterilization</li> <li>• Death and injury in the perinatal period and infancy</li> <li>• Anaesthetic-associated and procedure-related deaths</li> </ul>
<b>FORENSIC PATHOLOGY (±25%)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The crime scene</li> <li>• The medico-legal autopsy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Death and changes in the body after death</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steps in the performance of the medico-legal autopsy</li> </ul>

Weighting:

- Paper 1 (100 marks; 3 hours): 25% of the overall mark for the Dip For Med (SA) Path
- Paper 2 (100 marks; 3 hours): 25% of the overall mark for the Dip For Med (SA) Path

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

**PRACTICAL EXAMINATION.../**

## **PRACTICAL EXAMINATION: Autopsy Examination**

**NB:** Candidates will only be 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 and 2).

**Domain:** Forensic medicine & pathology and the law in relation to the practise of medicine in South Africa

**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

<b>Autopsy Examination</b>	
External examination	15%
Technique	35%
Internal examination	20%
Autopsy specimen and exhibit collection	10%
Case presentation and response to questions	20%

**Weighting:** 25% of the overall mark for the Dip For Med (SA) Path

**Subminima:** Candidates must pass the practical 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 medicine & pathology and the law in relation to the practise of medicine in South Africa

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

The oral examination will be approximately 30-45 minutes for each candidate and may include:

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

**Weighting:** 25% of the overall mark for the Dip For Med (SA) Path

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

**JOHANNESBERG**  
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