



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 - Pathology

8 February 2018



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 You have to perform a post mortem examination on a 3-year-old girl, who allegedly suffered long term physical abuse from her father. Discuss your approach to the post mortem examination, including the possible injuries that may be expected and the responsibilities of the forensic medical practitioner, should your findings confirm child abuse. [25]
- 2 A newborn baby, still with umbilical cord and placenta attached, was found in a municipal dustbin wrapped in newspapers. Describe your approach to the medico-legal investigation of this case and the medico-legal implications. [15]
- 3 List common macroscopic post-mortem artefacts, which could be confused with ante-mortem injuries. [15]
- 4 Briefly describe the roles of the following in forensic practice
 - a) Histopathology. (7)
 - b) Radiology. (8)[15]
- 5 Write short notes on the following topics
 - a) Mechanisms of death in cases of fatal electrocution. (5)
 - b) Who may have access to your autopsy report. (7)
 - c) How seatbelts and airbags prevent injury. (3)[15]
- 6 Write short notes on the following topics
 - a) Subconjunctival haemorrhages in medicolegal examinations. (6)
 - b) Reasons for a negative semen analysis in a rape survivor. (5)
 - c) You must take the official oath in court, but you have religious and moral objections to it. What is the alternative? (4)[15]



Dip For Med(SA) Path

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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 the universal precautions for health and safety in the forensic pathology mortuary. [25]
- 2 A 28-year-old male dies suddenly and unexpectedly. Performance of a complete autopsy does not yield any pathological finding. Briefly discuss the possible natural causes of death that you will consider. [15]
- 3 Write short notes on the following
 - a) Contre-coup brain trauma. (5)
 - b) Factors affecting appearance of bruises. (5)
 - c) Preservation of "chain of custody". (5)[15]
- 4
 - a) Discuss "resuscitation artefacts" and their medico legal significance. (8)
 - b) You receive a demand from a family for a private forensic investigator to attend a medico legal post-mortem you are due to perform. Describe how you would approach this situation, citing the relevant legislation. (7)[15]
- 5 External examination is a critical aspect of post-mortem examination. Discuss how careful examination of the skin may inform your approach to the post-mortem and death investigation, in a case of an alleged sudden unexpected death in an adult (SUDA). [15]
- 6 Classify emboli and write short notes on the techniques for demonstrating each at autopsy. [15]