



## 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

12 July 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 A dead newborn baby, with the umbilical cord and placenta still attached, was found wrapped in newspapers inside a plastic bag in a municipal dustbin. Describe your approach to the medico-legal investigation of this case, including the autopsy, possible post-mortem examination findings and the medico-legal implications thereof. [15]
  
- 2 Write short notes on:
  - a) Saponification. (5)
  - b) Livor mortis. (5)
  - c) Post mortem wounds produced by animal scavengers. (5)[15]
  
- 3 A 30-year-old female was detained for questioning by the police and later found hanging in a holding cell.
  - a) Describe your approach to the scene of death. (7)
  - b) Briefly define and classify the types of asphyxia. (8)[15]
  
- 4 A 30-year-old male was shot dead with a 5.56mm calibre rifle. He sustained a single gunshot entrance wound to the right sub-areolar area, with the corresponding gunshot exit wound noted in the same horizontal plane on the left side of the back. Describe the possible autopsy findings as well as the possible causes and mechanisms of death in this case. [15]
  
- 5 The dead body of a 26-year-old male was found on his bed, without any obvious signs of injury to his body. Paraphernalia associated with the use of illicit drugs were found lying around the body. Describe your approach to the medico-legal investigation and autopsy of a case of this nature and in particular, describe the possible autopsy findings which may specifically be found in such a case. [15]

6 Define and briefly describe each of the following entities:

- a) Clinical death. (5)
  - b) Somatic death. (5)
  - c) Cellular death. (5)
  - d) Brain death. (5)
  - e) Persistent vegetative state. (5)
- [25]

TOTAL MARK: 100



Dip For Med(SA) 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 - Pathology

13 July 2018



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 Write short notes on procedure-related deaths including the definition, the relevant legislation and your approach to such cases. [15]
- 2 Briefly describe how you would differentiate between alleged homicidal versus self-inflicted sharp force wounds on a body. [15]
- 3 Write short notes on the following:
  - a) What is meant by the calibre of a firearm? (2)
  - b) What is meant by the calibre of a projectile? (2)
  - c) Briefly describe the features which may be encountered with a typical distant range low-velocity gunshot entrance wound. (3)
  - d) Briefly describe how you can assist an investigating officer in estimating the range at which a shot was fired, based on the features of a gunshot entrance wound (including contact gunshot wounds). (8)

[15]
- 4 Write short notes on the following:
  - a) The legal definition and implications of "driving under the influence" (DUI). (5)
  - b) The pathological effects of chronic ethanol abuse on the different organs and systems in the body. (10)

[15]
- 5 The dead body of a young male was found in an open veld early in the morning after a severe thunderstorm had been reported the previous night. At the scene, consideration was given to lightning strike as the probable or possible cause of death. Describe your approach to the post-mortem examination in this case as well as the possible findings which could support the suspected cause of death. [15]

- 6 A 25-year-old male died on the scene after the car he was driving collided with a stationary truck on the freeway.
- a) List the possible external autopsy findings if the driver of the car was unrestrained. (5)
  - b) List the possible internal autopsy findings associated with acceleration/deceleration forces if the driver of the car was unrestrained. (5)
  - c) Briefly describe the possible injuries that could be caused by airbags and seatbelts. (8)
  - d) Briefly describe the typical hyperflexion neck injuries which may be encountered in motor vehicle collisions. (5)
  - e) Define 'dicing' injuries. (2)
- [25]

TOTAL MARK: 100