



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

7 February 2019



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 is required for the one answer).

- 1 a) Tabulate the differences between ligature marks found in hanging and strangulation. (10)
b) Write short notes on the mechanisms of death in hanging. (5)
[15]
- 2 A charred body is found in an abandoned building. Briefly discuss:
 - a) The typical autopsy findings, including possible artefacts. (9)
 - b) Possible causes and mechanisms of death. (6)
 - c) How you would determine whether the deceased was dead or alive when the fire started. (5)
 - d) How you would determine the identity of the charred body. (5)[25]
- 3 Write short notes on:
 - a) Explosion-associated injuries. (8)
 - b) The determination of the direction of a firearm-related wound. (7)[15]
- 4 Briefly discuss the injury patterns in children that would raise the suspicion of abuse. [15]
- 5 Write short notes on:
 - a) Provisions in the National Health Act 61 of 2003 pertaining to the performance of autopsies. (8)
 - b) The objectives of a medico-legal autopsy. (7)[15]
- 6 Write short notes on the patho-physiological effects of the following substances:
 - a) Methamphetamine. (5)
 - b) Arsenic. (5)
 - c) Cocaine. (5)[15]

TOTAL MARKS: 100



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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 is required for the one answer).

- 1 Discuss firearm wounds with specific reference to:
 - a) Wound pathology of an entry gunshot wound (caused by a handgun), including the features used to determine the range of fire. (10)
 - b) Atypical entry gunshot wounds. (7)
 - c) Shored exit gunshot wounds. (3)
 - d) Special investigations in victims of firearm injuries. (5)[25]

- 2 Write short notes on:
 - a) The patho-physiology of carbon monoxide poisoning. (8)
 - b) Possible sources of carbon monoxide in cases of poisoning. (4)
 - c) The post-mortem diagnosis of carbon monoxide poisoning. (3)[15]

- 3
 - a) Tabulate four (4) differences between ante-mortem and post-mortem wounds. (8)
 - b) Write short notes on the ageing of an abrasion. (7)[15]

- 4 Write short notes on the differences between:
 - a) Ante-mortem and post-mortem blood clots. (5)
 - b) Lividity and bruises. (5)
 - c) Lacerations and incised wounds. (5)[15]

- 5
 - a) Write short notes on subdural haematomas, including the classification, causes, autopsy findings and complications thereof. (10)
 - b) Define 'contre-coup' head injuries and briefly explain the causative mechanism thereof. (5)[15]

6 Write short notes on:

- a) The role of a forensic medical practitioner at a scene of death. (9)
- b) The dangers, hazards and risks that a forensic medical practitioner may encounter at a scene of death. (6)

[15]

TOTAL MARKS: 100