



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

11 July 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 booklet is required for the one answer).

- 1 A procedure-related death is referred to you for medico-legal autopsy.
- a) Discuss the laws pertaining to procedure-related deaths in South Africa and briefly outline your approach to the management of such cases. (22)
 - b) The attending clinician subsequently contacts you to discuss the autopsy findings. How would you respond to this request? (3)
- [25]
- 2 Write short notes on the following:
- a) Lividity/Hypostasis. (5)
 - b) Rigor mortis. (5)
 - c) Adipocere. (5)
- [15]
- 3 Write short notes on the following:
- a) 'Dicing' injuries. (5)
 - b) Resuscitation injuries. (5)
 - c) Malignant hyperthermia. (5)
- [15]
- 4 You are requested to assist the police at a scene of death. Briefly discuss your approach to this request, with specific reference to
- a) Safety and security at the scene of death. (5)
 - b) Your authority at the scene of death. (2)
 - c) Your purpose and function at the scene of death. (6)
 - d) Locard's exchange principle. (2)
- [15]
- 5 Write short notes on the following:
- a) The characteristics of self-inflicted knife wounds. (5)
 - b) Colour changes in a bruise. (5)
 - c) Atypical gunshot entrance wounds. (5)
- [15]
- 6 Write short notes on the following:
- a) Scientific and non-scientific methods of human identification. (5)
 - b) Contre-coup contusions of the brain. (5)
 - c) The role of radiology in forensic pathology. (5)
- [15]

TOTAL MARKS: 100



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12 July 2019



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 Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Seatbelt injuries. (8)
 - b) Determination of foetal maturity and viability. (10)
 - c) Post-mortem heat-induced artefacts. (7)[25]

- 2 Write short notes on the following:
 - a) 'Classical' signs of asphyxia. (5)
 - b) Extra-cranial autopsy findings commonly associated with head injuries. (5)
 - c) Different wounding mechanisms of projectiles in firearm injuries. (5)[15]

- 3 List and briefly describe the possible mechanisms of death in a 30-year-old male with a single stab wound to the chest. [15]

- 4 Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Patterned blunt force injuries. (5)
 - b) Descriptive factors for the medico-legal documentation of wounds. (5)
 - c) Classification of burn wounds according to depth. (5)[15]

- 5 Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Specialised dissection techniques in autopsy practice. (5)
 - b) Gross autopsy findings in a death by drowning. (5)
 - c) Possible mechanisms of death in acute cocaine toxicity. (5)[15]

- 6 Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Chain of custody of evidence. (5)
 - b) Photo-documentation in medico-legal examinations. (5)
 - c) The role of DNA in forensic pathology. (5)[15]

TOTAL MARKS: 100