



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

6 February 2020



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 Write short notes on
 - a) The value of weights of the viscera (organs) at the autopsy. (5)
 - b) Photography at the autopsy. (5)
 - c) The method of removal and handling of bullets from a cadaver. (5)
 - d) The taking of a blood sample for alcohol testing at the autopsy. (5)
 - e) The procedure to be adopted to obtain a "bloodless" field for neck dissection at the autopsy. (5)[25]
- 2 Discuss the post mortem changes that may be used to estimate the time since death. [15]
- 3 Write short notes
 - a) An extradural burn haematoma versus a traumatic extradural haematoma. (5)
 - b) Homicidal versus suicidal gunshot wounds. (5)
 - c) Hypostasis versus bruising. (5)[15]
- 4 Answer the following short questions
 - a) Briefly discuss 'tramline' bruises. (4)
 - b) Tabulate the differences between civil and criminal law. (3)
 - c) What are the categories of burn wounds in relation to the causative agents? (3)
 - d) Briefly discuss the pillars of modern medical ethics. (5)[15]
- 5 The charred body of an unknown adult male is found after a shack fire. Briefly discuss your approach to this case, chief post mortem findings and relevant post mortem sample collections. [15]
- 6 List and briefly describe
 - a) Five (5) resuscitation injuries that may be seen at an autopsy examination. (5)
 - b) Cases in which the manner of death may be *unnatural* where pulmonary thrombo-embolism may be the terminal event leading to death. (5)
 - c) How the patterns of injuries at autopsy may suggest that the deceased was a pedestrian rather than a vehicle occupant. (5)[15]



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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 booklet is required for the one answer).

- 1 A 25-year-old female is found dead in an open field, with what appears to be abrasions and contusions on her neck. Her clothing is pulled down to her ankles and there is dry fluid on her abdomen and clothing
 - a) What is the legal definition of rape in South Africa? (4)
 - b) Your approach to the management of the case, with reference to the scene examination. (5)
 - c) Your approach to the management of the case, with reference to the medico-legal post mortem examination. (6)
 - d) Which specimens would you collect? (10)[25]

- 2 With regard to head injuries
 - a) Tabulate the difference between an extradural and subdural haematoma. (8)
 - b) Define *Puppe's rule* with regard to fractures of the skull. (2)
 - c) Name factors that could influence the degree of injury sustained by a blunt force applied to the head. (5)[15]

- 3 Write short notes on the following
 - a) Mummification. (5)
 - b) The role of post-mortem chemistry. (5)
 - c) Rigor mortis. (5)[15]

- 4
 - a) Discuss the management of a death due to suspected overdose (not hospitalised). (7)
 - b) The toxicology results show high levels of cocaine. Write short notes on cocaine and the mechanisms of death in acute cocaine toxicity. (8)[15]

- 5 Answer the following short questions
 - a) What is an Inquest and what is the purpose thereof? (3)
 - b) Briefly discuss the mechanisms of injury in rifled gunshot wounds. (5)
 - c) Write short notes on the ability of the deceased to have acted in a case of multiple, apparently suicidal, gunshot wounds. (7)[15]

6 Answer the following short questions

- a) Briefly discuss your approach to “high-profile deaths”. (5)
- b) Briefly discuss the two factors that can influence the survivability of an injury. (4)
- c) What are the authorised medical practitioner’s responsibilities and authority in terms of an inquest? (4)
- d) Name two chemical asphyxiants. (2)

[15]