



FCPHM(SA)

THE COLLEGES OF MEDICINE OF SOUTH AFRICA

Incorporated Association not for gain
Reg No 1955/000003/08

Examination for the Fellowship of the
College of Public Health Medicine of South Africa

27 February 2017



Paper 1

Long Questions

(3 hours)

*Each question to be answered in a separate book (or books if more than one is required for the one answer). Candidates must answer **three** of the following four questions.*

All the questions carry equal marks. The use of personal hand-held calculators is permitted.

THREE OF THE FOUR QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED

- 1 Alternative tobacco products have been gaining popularity mainly because these products are marketed, and thus perceived by many, as being relatively safe. You are the newly appointed Public Health Specialist at the Department of Health in the Western Cape. You have been tasked with taking strong and effective actions to protect the public from use of alternative tobacco products. Write a policy brief for the Western Cape MEC of Health, establishing the extent of risk as well as strategies to address the risk from the emerging epidemic of alternative tobacco product. [33 ⅓]
- 2 The rising burden of disease and weak health systems are being compounded by the persistent economic downturn, re-emerging diseases and violent conflicts. There is a growing recognition that the global health agenda needs to shift from an emphasis on disease-specific approaches to strengthening of health systems, including dealing with social, environmental and economic determinants through multi-sectoral response. The Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union has asked you as a Public Health Medicine specialist to identify THREE major challenges or problems facing health systems in Africa and to advise them on how they should be addressed. Name and discuss the major challenges or problems outlining: background, context together with the nature of and reasons behind the challenges, and interventions to address the challenges. [33 ⅓]
- 3 As the Public Health Medicine Specialist at the district office you have been tasked with establishing the prevalence of diabetes in the district of 100 000 inhabitants. Outline the approach you would follow to determine the prevalence and discuss the challenges you anticipate during this process. [33 ⅓]
- 4 The National Department of Health has issued new guidelines for the provision of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PreP) for HIV, in which HIV-negative women or girls aged 15-24 who are sexually active will be offered daily antiretrovirals. The intervention will initially be delivered through formal health services. You have been asked by your province to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation plan to accompany the new intervention. Discuss how you would approach this task assuming it will be introduced into the current health system without major changes to resources available. Provide an outline of a possible plan, detailing subsequently your reasoning for what you have included. [33 ⅓]



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1 March 2017



Paper 3

Short Questions

(3 hours)

Each question to be answered in a separate book (or books if more than one is required for the one answer). The use of personal hand-held calculators is permitted.

- 1 Three ways of analysing mortality include crude death rates, age standardised mortality rates and person years of life lost. Explain each and give an opinion with a motivation as to which method provides the method best suited to describe public health need. [10]
- 2 You are at an international meeting of NCD experts and are asked to comment on
 - a) At least four of the most prevalent non-communicable diseases in South Africa, including their risk factors.
 - b) The national department of health's key policy approach(es) to address these. [10]
- 3 You have been asked to develop a plan to increase uptake of influenza immunisation for a local population. Discuss how you would organise an effective local influenza immunisation programme to ensure high uptake in all relevant groups. [10]
- 4 Prepare a short report for the Mayor of the City of Johannesburg on the potential public health hazards for communities during an on-going strike by refuse collection employees. [10]
- 5 Discuss the role of port health services in the prevention of the importation of viral haemorrhagic fevers into South Africa. [10]
- 6 Obesity remains a major driver of chronic diseases of lifestyle in South Africa. You are the head of health for Ethekewini. What interventions would you consider important to reduce obesity rates in the metropole? [10]
- 7 The modern day office is typically an ergonomic failure, putting workers at risk of musculo-skeletal and other health disorders. If you were the occupational health physician for such an office, what actions would you take to overcome these health challenges? [10]
- 8 Informal settlement dwellers face particular environmental health hazards
 - a) List the five most important of these environmental health hazards.
 - b) Do you think these hazards justify the introduction of an environmental health worker in ward based outreach teams in informal settlements, or would you expand the scope of community health workers to include this? Motivate your answer. [10]

- 9 You have been tasked by the South African Medical Association (SAMA) to investigate the concerns raised by the rural doctors in Limpopo Province on the quality of health services offered to patients in the Province. List and discuss the elements of total quality assurance within a district hospital that you would consider in order to improve service delivery. [10]
- 10 Briefly discuss the importance of risk management and the advantages of implementing an appropriate risk management system. [10]