



FCPHM(SA)

## THE COLLEGES OF MEDICINE OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

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



18 February 2019

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

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**Please answer three of the following four questions.**

1 Most government departments do very few programme evaluations. Explain why it is important for Health Departments to undertake such evaluations. Outline your recommendations to a Provincial Head of Department of Health to improve the capacity of the Department to do such evaluations? [33 ⅓]

2 At the closing ceremony of the 17th World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH), held in Cape Town in March 2018 for the first time on African soil, the delegates declared that:

“We, the participants of the WCTOH, meeting on the African continent for the first time, and delighted that for the first time the WCTOH has a woman as President emphasize that: The tobacco epidemic represents one of the biggest public health threats that the world has ever faced. Tobacco use kills more than 7 million people each year, and the vast majority of these deaths take place in low- and middle-income countries.

The global economic cost of smoking amounts to nearly 2 trillion dollars and 2 percent of the world’s GDP in 2016. Ending the scourge of tobacco and achieving the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) will require urgent action.”

You have been recently appointed as the public health medicine advisor to the National Minister of Health. Draft a speech for the South African Minister of Health and highlight the strategy that South Africa has put in place to address the fact that tobacco use undermines sustainable development, imposing a huge burden on the global economy, exacerbating poverty, contributing to food insecurity, and harming the environment. [33 ⅓]

- 3 Subsequent to the Alma Ata Declaration of 1978, a major debate ensued between those promoting comprehensive primary health care and those advocating selective primary health care. Briefly explain the differences in these two approaches and describe how implementation would differ using either approach for an intervention such as immunisation. Critically analyse the advantages and disadvantages of each approach. [33 ⅓]
- 4 The burden of breast cancer is increasing in South Africa. You are a Public Health Medicine Specialist employed by the National Department of Health. Discuss the levels of intervention of breast cancer in South Africa. You are requested to provide support and advice to the National Tertiary Services Grant Manager at the National Department of Health to distribute 10 mammography units to public health sector hospitals in South Africa. Explain how you will support the Grant manager and what advice you will offer in achieving this within 3 months. What needs to be considered in achieving this goal? [33 ⅓]



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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.*

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- 1 Briefly define Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and its related objectives. [10]
- 2 With the continued rise in the burden of non-communicable diseases, what are the different aspects one would have to consider when planning to establish a surveillance system for non-communicable diseases in South Africa? [10]
- 3 The recent listeria outbreak highlights food safety control as an increasingly important public health issue in South Africa. District and Metro municipalities are responsible to render municipal health services which include food safety control. Describe the key legislation that guide food safety control in South Africa. List the key functions of environmental health practitioners at municipalities in terms of food safety and control. [10]
- 4 You are requested as a public health medicine specialist to write short notes on the factors to be considered in deciding whether a new population based vaccination programme for a specific communicable disease should be introduced nationally in South Africa. [10]
- 5 You are requested to write a memo to the Clinical Manager of a regional hospital in your province in which you need to explain (by making use of practical examples) the two categories of functions to be performed by the appointed health and safety representatives as stipulated in Section 18 (subsection 1 and 2) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (No85, 1993) of South Africa. [10]
- 6 As a Public Health Medicine Specialist, you are tasked by the Clinical Manager to develop guidelines for the implementation of clinical audits at a central hospital. This is required for compliance purposes by the Office of Health Standards & Compliance. How would you achieve this goal? [10]

- 7 Demography may be defined as the study of human populations. It makes special reference to the size, growth, composition, distribution, density, vital statistics as well as the interaction of all these factors with social and economic factors. In 2016, the South African Department of Health, the South African Medical Research Council, numerous global health partners and Statistics SA produced the South African Demographic Health Survey Report. Usually, what are the main objectives of Demographic Health Surveys worldwide? List at least five of the South African Demographic Health Survey focus areas. [10]
- 8 Empowerment interventions are important in behavioural sciences.
- a) What are empowerment interventions and (4)
  - b) Why are they important interventions for young women and girls HIV prevention programmes? (6)
- [10]
- 9 The Minister of Finance announced a decision in the February 2016 Budget speech to introduce a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) with effect from 1 April 2017 (later termed the “Health promotion levy”) to help reduce excessive sugar intake. You have been appointed to be part of a team that has been delegated to conduct an in-depth investigation into this problem of excessive sugar intake by South Africans. Applying epidemiological principles, what advice would you give the Minister of Health on a comprehensive approach to reducing sugar intake amongst the population of South Africa? [10]
- 10 South African National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (SANHNES) was conducted in 2012 to map the problem of Non-Communicable Disease in South Africa. A nationally representative sample is required to conduct a survey of this magnitude. Describe the sampling strategy you would recommend for this type of study. How would you apply this sampling strategy? What are the disadvantages of this sampling strategy? [10]