



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 Forensic Pathologists of South Africa

23 July 2018



Paper 1

(3 hours)

All questions are to be answered. Each question to be answered in a separate book (or books if more than one is required for the one answer)

- 1 Write short notes on fatal hyperthermia with specific reference to the definition, aetiology, pathogenesis, macroscopic and microscopic features thereof. [15]
- 2 Write short notes on the following:
 - a) The common types of cervical spine fractures including mechanisms of injury and possible mechanisms of death. (10)
 - b) Findings at autopsy which may mimic skull fractures. (5)[15]
- 3 Define and write short notes on the medico-legal significance of the following:
 - a) Diatoms. (5)
 - b) Prion disease. (5)
 - c) Powder tattooing in firearm injuries. (5)[15]
- 4 A motor vehicle accident at around midnight on the freeway, resulted in 3 dead bodies lying on the road, including a pedestrian, the driver of the vehicle and his front-seat passenger, who were both ejected from the vehicle. Briefly describe the autopsy findings that would help to distinguish between the pedestrian, the driver of the vehicle and the front-seat passenger. [15]
- 5 Write short notes on the following:
 - a) 'Novus actus interveniens' and provide an example which may be encountered in the Forensic Pathology Service environment. (5)
 - b) The concept of medical negligence. (10)[15]
- 6 Provide a comprehensive description of your approach to a death allegedly resulting from an incident involving a hand-held 'Conducted Electrical Weapon' (CEW). [25]

TOTAL MARK: 100



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 Forensic Pathologists of South Africa

24 July 2018



Paper 2

(3 hours)

All questions are to be answered. Each question to be answered in a separate book (or books if more than one is required for the one answer)

- 1 Write short notes on the following:
 - a) The role of the forensic pathologist at scenes of death. (7)
 - b) The methodology and uses of entomology in forensic pathology settings. (8)[15]
- 2 Write short notes on the typical autopsy findings and possible mechanisms of death due to the following:
 - a) Chemical burns. (8)
 - b) Hypothermia. (7)[15]
- 3 Briefly discuss the ethico-legal considerations in whole-brain and whole-heart organ retention at a forensic autopsy. [15]
- 4 Write short notes on the following:
 - a) The possible causes of- and neuropathological findings in a person who died in a vegetative state. (10)
 - b) The selection of samples for DNA analyses in decomposed, mutilated or charred bodies. (5)[15]
- 5 Describe your considerations and approach to the so-called “vanished bullet” scenario in which there is one gunshot entrance wound to the body, but a bullet or projectile cannot be found within the body. [15]
- 6 You are asked to review the post mortem report and accompanying information pertaining to a death in custody which occurred in 1988. At the time, the cause of death was given as “*CONSISTENT WITH HANGING*” and the manner of death was ruled as “*SUICIDE*” at the Inquest.
New information has now been presented that the deceased was allegedly tortured and poisoned prior to his death. Describe your approach to the review of this case. [25]

TOTAL MARK: 100