



FC For Path (SA) Part II

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

18 February 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 is required for the one answer).

- 1 A reportedly previously healthy 5-month-old baby is found dead next to his mother in bed. Write short notes on:
 - a) The role of ancillary investigations for the detection of different pathogens in the medico-legal investigation of such a case. (10)
 - b) The value of a 'molecular autopsy' in the investigation of sudden death in infancy. (15)[25]
- 2 Write short notes on the ageing of a myocardial infarct based on the macroscopic and microscopic post-mortem findings. [15]
- 3 Write short notes on:
 - a) The histopathological features of electro-thermal injuries. (5)
 - b) The macroscopic and microscopic post-mortem findings which may be associated with chronic cocaine abuse. (5)
 - c) The mechanism of death and possible autopsy findings in a case of acute cyanide poisoning. (5)[15]
- 4 Write short notes on your approach to the examination of the cardiac conduction system. [15]
- 5 A charred body is found in a wheelbarrow in a residential area. The body is suspected to be that of a foreign national who was conducting business in the area. Write short notes on your approach to the medico-legal investigation of this case including diagnostic considerations and challenges. [15]
- 6 Write short notes on:
 - a) The regulations applicable to the procurement and use of tissue for the purposes of research and transplantation from the body of a deceased person who is to be (or has been) admitted to a forensic mortuary for medico-legal examination. (10)
 - b) The ethical challenges which may be encountered by a forensic pathologist who is the sole state-employed forensic medical practitioner in a particular area. (5)[15]

TOTAL MARKS: 100



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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 is required for the one answer)

- 1 The dead body of an adult male is found in his home. He has allegedly been shot several times. Write short notes on your approach to the following:
 - a) A request from the police for you to attend the scene of death. (10)
 - b) The autopsy examination. (10)
 - c) Possible ancillary investigations that may be relevant in this case. (5)[25]

- 2 Write short notes on:
 - a) The medico-legal examination of a foetus with specific reference to the estimation of gestational age. (10)
 - b) The problems and limitations of the 'lung floatation test' in the medico-legal autopsy of a foetus. (5)[15]

- 3 Write short notes on cerebral air embolism following barotrauma and neurologic decompression sickness that may be encountered in SCUBA diving fatalities. [15]

- 4 Write short notes on the biosafety biohazards and appropriate precautions to be undertaken in the post-mortem examination of bodies with the following infections:
 - a) *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. (10)
 - b) *Neisseria meningitidis*. (5)[15]

- 5 An explosion occurs at an indoor arena and there are multiple fatalities. Write short notes on:
 - a) Your approach to the management of the scene of the explosion from a forensic pathology perspective. (5)
 - b) The injuries likely to be found on/within the bodies of the deceased. (5)
 - c) The possible mechanism(s) of death in the decedents. (5)[15]

- 6 A 24-year-old male was pronounced dead on arrival at 20h00 at a local hospital. The body was referred to Forensic Pathology Services because the death was regarded as being sudden, unexpected and unexplained. As the forensic pathologist on call, you are requested by the next-of-kin to perform the medico-legal post-mortem examination immediately (i.e. during the night) for religious reasons. Write short notes on how you would respond to this request and provide reasons for your answer. (15)

TOTAL MARKS: 100