



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 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 The local surgery department refers a case to you of a 7-year-old child who underwent elective tonsillectomy. Approximately 15 minutes after the start of the surgery, the patient crashed inexplicably and could not be resuscitated. The surgeon suspects that the child may have been suffering from undiagnosed muscular dystrophy. Discuss the case in terms of the information you would want to see included in the hospital folder before autopsy, your differential diagnosis of the cause and mechanism of death, your approach to the autopsy, and retention of specimens. [25]
- 2 A 25-year-old male was detained by the police as a suspect in a criminal activity. He was arrested in full view of his friends at a local pub. He was reportedly found dead upon arrival at the police station in the back of the vehicle. Describe your approach in this case including possible post-mortem examination findings. [15]
- 3 Briefly discuss the following:
 - a) Commotio Medullaris. (4)
 - b) Medico legal significance of excited delirium syndrome. (6)
 - c) Post traumatic epilepsy. (5)[15]
- 4 Write short notes on:
 - a) Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP). (5)
 - b) Alcoholic Ketoacidosis. (5)
 - c) Traumatic vertebral artery dissection. (5)[15]
- 5 Discuss the challenges associated with interpretation of Post Mortem Toxicology results. [15]
- 6 Write short notes on:
 - a) Bone diseases that need to be excluded in cases of suspected child abuse. (5)
 - b) Gastric emptying as an indicator of time of death. (5)
 - c) The amount of force required to inflict injuries and its relevance in court proceedings. (5)[15]



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

25 February 2020



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 30-year-old male, known to be a chronic cocaine user, dies after suffering a massive intracranial haemorrhage. You, as the forensic pathologist on call, are contacted by the transplant team in hospital, after the family of the deceased offered to donate his heart and kidneys for transplant:
 - a) Discuss the legal framework allowing organ transplant in South Africa. (9)
 - b) Discuss the medical ethical issues regarding organ transplant as it pertains to this case. (8)
 - c) Would you consent to the donated organs being used for transplant and justify your answer. (8)

[25]
- 2 A body of a 77-year-old male who was a known psychiatric patient who was stable on treatment was found dead in a mountain during summer season. A case of missing person was opened by the family members 8 days prior to the discovery. Briefly describe:
 - a) The role of entomology during the medico-legal investigation of this case. (7)
 - b) The role of radiology during the medico-legal investigation of this case. (8)

[15]
- 3 Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Respiratory causes of sudden death. (5)
 - b) Post mortem diagnosis of diabetes mellitus. (10)

[15]
- 4 Write short notes on:
 - a) Atypical gunshot exit wounds. (5)
 - b) Differentiation between post-mortem changes and trauma. (5)
 - c) The findings in hanging versus strangulation. (5)

[15]
- 5 "The South African Medico-Legal Services are overwhelmed by the number of unnatural deaths. It is not feasible to perform full autopsies on all cases. The obvious solution is not to autopsy every case." Critically analyse and discuss this statement. [15]
- 6 Discuss the approach to the dissection of the carotid and vertebral arteries. [15]