



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 January 2021



Paper 1

(3 hours)

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

- 1 Discuss the pathology, mechanisms of injury, differential diagnosis and sampling techniques of ocular injuries seen in fatal abusive head injury in children. [25]

- 2 As a recently appointed regional forensic pathologist, you are approached by the police for assistance in a case whereby a post-mortem examination was performed by a medical officer on an apparent pedestrian “hit-and-run” case, at a small FPS facility. The family and the community have sparked a series of protests because they are dissatisfied with the autopsy findings made by the medical officer. They are convinced this was a “ritual or muti-related killing” and that there are missing body parts.

Briefly describe your approach to the second post-mortem examination of the body, to address some of the concerns raised by the family and include the associated challenges or limitations. [15]

- 3 You are the regional forensic pathologist and you are consulted by one of the surgeons from a private hospital: A patient who received palliative surgery in theatre and died during the surgery, was subsequently discovered to be Covid-19 positive. The surgeon is not clear on the processes to be followed in this situation.
 - a) Briefly describe your advice to the surgeon on the medico-legal approach in dealing with this conundrum and provide the relevant legal statutes that will inform such advice. (5)
 - b) Write short notes on your approach to this medico-legal autopsy. (10)[15]

- 4 Explain the importance of the medico-legal investigation with regard to further possible legal proceedings, in the case of a mine worker found dead underground near a welding apparatus. The fatal incident was not witnessed. [15]

- 5 Write short notes on the concept of wound ballistics, with specific emphasis on the wounding capability of a firearm projectile. [15]

- 6 The Forensic Pathologist is expected to submit autopsy reports as sworn statements and testify as an expert witness in court on an almost daily basis. It goes without saying that the testimony of the pathologist needs to conform to certain minimum standards.
- a) Write short notes on the requirements for a written statement to be submitted to the court as a sworn affidavit. (5)
 - b) Write short notes on the principles of quality assurance in expert medical testimony. (10)
- [15]

TOTAL MARKS: 100