



FC Path(SA) Clin

THE COLLEGES OF MEDICINE OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

Examination for the Fellowship of the College of Pathologists of South Africa - Clinical

27 February 2017



Paper 1

Chemical Pathology

(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 Critically discuss the use of cardiac troponins in the diagnosis and management of a patient with chest pain. [25]
- 2 Critically discuss primary adrenal insufficiency. Your discussion should include pathophysiology, clinical presentation, diagnostic work up and basic principles of management and monitoring. [25]
- 3 A 70-year-old man complains of dizziness and is found to have a serum sodium concentration of 110mmol/L. Discuss the possible causes and suggest a logical scheme for any further investigations required. [10]
- 4 Discuss the use of glycated albumin in the management of diabetes mellitus. [10]
- 5 Write short notes on index of individuality and reference change values. [10]
- 6 Discuss what you would include in a protocol for communication of critical biochemistry results, including the different methods of communication and their advantages and disadvantages. [10]
- 7 Critically discuss the different methods of bilirubin measurement. [10]



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Paper 2

Haematology

(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 Explain how you would verify a new point of care device for measuring the haemoglobin on fingerprick blood samples before introducing it for routine use in an antenatal clinic. [25]
- 2 Discuss lymphomas associated with HIV infection. [25]
- 3 Briefly discuss the haematological complications of chronic hepatitis C infection. [10]
- 4 A physician phones for advice because she is seeing a new patient with thrombocytopenia. Explain the investigations she should consider during the first consultation. [10]
- 5 Write notes on monoclonal gammopathy of uncertain significance. [10]
- 6 Discuss DIC scoring systems. [10]
- 7 Discuss the current diagnostic role of the erythrocyte sedimentation rate. [10]



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1 March 2017



Paper 3

Medical Microbiology

(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 Discuss your approach to the investigation and empirical antimicrobial management of a patient presenting with sepsis syndrome. [20]
- 2 Write an essay on the aetiology, pathophysiological mechanisms, diagnosis and management of a patient presenting with fever, abdominal pain and bloody diarrhoea. [20]
- 3
 - a) Describe how the Clinical Microbiologist and the Microbiology Laboratory play a crucial part in antimicrobial stewardship. (10)
 - b) You are asked to investigate high rates (in this instance as high as 20%) of probable contamination of blood cultures with coagulase-positive cocci. How would you approach your investigation? (10)[20]
- 4 Write short notes on
 - a) Aetiological causes of the infectious mononucleosis syndrome. (10)
 - b) Collection and transport of specimens from a patient with a suspected viral haemorrhagic fever. (10)
 - c) Culture-negative endocarditis. (7.5)[27.5]
- 5 Discuss infection prevention and/or post-exposure prophylaxis of a healthcare worker exposed to
 - a) A patient with Varicella Zoster infection.
 - b) A bite from an animal with suspected rabies. [12.5]