



FACULTY OF MEDICINE UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA GALLE

Third Examination for Medical Degrees (Part II) – October 2012

FORENSIC MEDICINE - PAPER 1

Answer ALL FIVE Questions.

9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon (3 hours)

Answer each PART in a SEPARATE BOOK.

Part A

1. A 55 year-old man was found dead at his home. There was a stab injury on the front left chest wall.
 - 1.1 List the medico-legal issues of this case. (20 marks)
 - 1.2 Describe how you would perform the crime scene examination of this case. (30 marks)
 - 1.3 Describe how you would determine during the autopsy the characteristic features of the weapon used to commit this crime. (35 marks)
 - 1.4 If there was a stab injury to the aorta detected at the autopsy, how would you write the medical cause of death? (15 marks)

2. A 19 year-old girl was sexually abused by an unknown man while she was walking home after work. She went to the police and was produced to a Judicial Medical Officer (JMO) within few hours.
 - 2.1 Describe the injuries that would expected to be present on this girl. (35 marks)
 - 2.2 List the samples that should be obtained in this case. (25 marks)
 - 2.3 Describe how you would collect, store and dispatch those samples for medico-legal investigations. (40 marks)

Part B

3. An 18 year-old student who came down in advanced level examination has been found by the parents after swallowing 35 tablets of paracetamol. He was admitted unconscious to a teaching hospital and died after five days.
 - 3.1 List two medico-legal issues of the above case. (10 marks)
 - 3.2 Describe the pathophysiology of paracetamol poisoning. (30 marks)
 - 3.3 Describe the clinical management of a patient suspected of paracetamol poisoning. (20 marks)
 - 3.4 Discuss the post-mortem findings of acute paracetamol poisoning. (40 marks)

Part C

4. A medical officer (medico-legal) attached to a peripheral hospital was reported to Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) for allegedly completing a Medico-Legal Examination Form (MLEF) without examining a suspect and submitting a conclusion of no injuries. According to the complaint, the police brought the suspect in a vehicle to the private clinic of the medical officer around 6.00 p.m. but he was not produced before the doctor. The medical officer has signed the MLEF after talking to police officers for a brief period. The suspect clinically deteriorated subsequently and was admitted to a tertiary care hospital. He was found to have multiple grievous and life threatening injuries.
- 4.1 How would you establish negligence of the medical officer involved in this case? (20 marks)
- 4.2 Describe briefly the law of negligence in Sri Lanka. (20 marks)
- 4.3 Describe the complete investigation procedure likely to be followed by the SLMC in this case. (35 marks)
- 4.4 Discuss the law related to torture in Sri Lanka and legal remedies available for a victim subjected to police torture. (25 marks)
5. A 35 year-old mother and her 8 year old daughter were admitted to a peripheral hospital following repeated assault by her husband and transferred to a tertiary care hospital for specialized management. Both victims with multiple injuries were referred for medico-legal examination. The child was found to be depressed and was unwilling to go back home.
- 5.1 Describe the range of injuries likely to be observed in wife battering and physical child abuse. (30 marks)
- 5.2 How would you plan and conduct an appropriate medico-legal examination of both victims? (30 marks)
- 5.3 Discuss the law related to domestic violence and physical child abuse in Sri Lanka. (20 marks)
- 5.4 Discuss how you would plan and manage the victims with a view to their future well-being. (20 marks)