

UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA, SRI LANKA
SECOND EXAMINATION FOR MEDICAL DEGREES PART II — AUGUST 2014
FORENSIC MEDICINE

Date: 04.08.2014

Time: 3 hours

ANSWER ALL THE FIVE QUESTIONS

Answer each question in separate answer book

1. A house officer was alleged of sexually abusing a pregnant mother while performing a cardiotocography (CTG) during the night in the maternity ward of a tertiary care hospital. However there were no eye witnesses to the incident. Subsequently he was reported to the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) regarding serious professional misconduct by the family members of the victim. A ministerial inquiry was also initiated.

- 1.1 Describe the sequence of disciplinary proceedings the SLMC would adopt against the doctor. (20 marks)**
- 1.2 Define and discuss the components of serious professional misconduct. (15 marks)**
- 1.3 Discuss the essential steps of the medico-legal examination of the victim. (20 marks)**

The house officer was charged in courts for medical negligence and for committing a sexual offence.

- 1.4 Briefly describe how you would establish medical negligence in this case. (15 marks)**
- 1.5 Identify and discuss the ethical principles he would have breached during the clinical procedure. (15 marks)**
- 1.6 Briefly discuss the content of the sexual offences he could be charged in Sri Lankan courts. (15 marks)**

2. A suspect of an alleged incident of theft was arrested by a team of police officers when he was sleeping at home in the night. He was said to be blindfolded and beaten repeatedly by blunt weapons during the transportation and inside the police station. The accused was produced before a Judicial Medical Officer (JMO) on the subsequent day and was admitted to the hospital for further observations. The victim was clinically deteriorated and had to be dialyzed on the 3rd day after admission.

- 2.1 Explain how the victim develops the above clinical stage. (15 marks)**

- 2.2 Describe the other physical torture methods and their sequelae. (20 marks)
- 2.3 Discuss how you would examine a victim in custody for medico-legal purposes and document findings for courts. (25 marks)
- 2.4 Describe the category of hurt applied in this case with reasons. (20 marks)
- 2.5 Briefly discuss the legal provisions against torture in Sri Lanka. (20 marks)
- 3 A 30 year old man alleges that a neighbor assaulted him with a wooden pole few days ago. He states that two other friends of the neighbor also held him and he struggled with them and scratched one of them. On examination there is a right peri-orbital contusion, a deep laceration across the right cheek bone, laceration of right forehead with an underlying fracture over the right frontal bone and a 200 ml acute subdural haemorrhage which had been evacuated. There are crescentic abrasions over the back of elbows and front of neck.
- 3.1 Name giving reasons the category of hurt for the above injuries described. (40 marks)
- 3.2 Explain the possible manner of causation of the peri orbital contusion and the abrasions. (30 marks)
- 3.3 Name the two forms that are used to record the above injuries for medico-legal purposes (10 marks)
- 3.4 List giving reasons two samples that you would collect from his and the accused in order to link them together. (20 marks)
4. A middle aged man was admitted to accident unit in unconscious state with the history of found fallen in a foot path and there are contusions and lacerations on the back of the head and he was smelling of alcohol, he died in spite of medical care, you as Medical officer medico legal (MOML) asked to conduct the postmortem examination in this case.
- 4.1 Relatives of the deceased alleged that he was assaulted and killed, how the postmortem findings in this case will assist you to decide as to whether the injuries are due to an assault or due to a fall backwards. (40 marks)

- 4.2. To decide whether he was under the influence of alcohol explain, what are the specimens you will collect, explain the best sample, how will you collect and procedure of dispatching for analysis. (30 marks)
- 4.3. CT scan report states that there is extradural haematoma on the left parietal area and evidence of herniation of brain. What are the features you will expect in postmortem examination of the brain? (30 marks)
5. A farmer was admitted to emergency care unit in a state of dehydration following severe diarrhea after eating white sweet potato from her garden, where with the sweet potato there are some other plants also found to be growing. She is pregnant for 34 weeks and she delivered a dead foetus while in the hospital.
- 5.1. What could be the Poisonous plant which could have been mixed with the sweet potato in her garden? (10 marks)
- 5.2. What are the poisonous content in this plant you mention in 5.1? (20 marks)
- 5.3. What are the other symptoms and sign you could expect in this case? (30 marks)
- 5.4. Explain the procedure of disposing or releasing the body of this baby. (20 marks)
- 5.5. What is criminal abortion? (20 marks)