



JOHANNESBURG OFFICE
EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS

C M S A

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

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REGULATIONS

FOR ADMISSION TO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS OF SOUTH AFRICA IN ANATOMICAL PATHOLOGY

FC Path(SA) Anat

1.0 COMPONENTS

At present the examination is a two-part examination. The examination comprises FC Path(SA) Anat Part I and FC Path(SA) Anat Part II: Part II must be passed within six years of passing the Part I.

2.0 PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT

The aim of this assessment is to evaluate if the candidate who has completed the minimum training period, has acquired the appropriate professional knowledge, skills and attitude stipulated by the HPCSA training requirements and standards in order to be licensed by the HPCSA as an anatomical pathologist. This assessment is one of two components of the HPCSA requirement for registration as an anatomical pathologist. The other component of the registration requirement is the assessment of a research assignment by the host University

3.0 ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION

(to be read in conjunction with the Instructions)

3.1 PART I (Basic Sciences):

3.1.1 *A candidate may be admitted to Part I of the examination having:*

- A post-internship qualification to practise medicine and meeting all criteria required for registration as a Medical Practitioner with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)
- Completed 15 months fulltime post-internship training as a Registrar in an accredited Anatomical Pathology teaching laboratory at the time of applying to enter for the Part I examination.
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3.2 PART II (Systemic Pathology):

3.2.1 *A candidate may be admitted to Part II of the examination having*

- A post-internship qualification to practise medicine and meeting all criteria required for registration as a Medical Practitioner with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)
- Completed three and a half years fulltime post-internship training as an Anatomical Pathology Registrar in an accredited anatomical pathology teaching laboratory by the time of the written examination
- Successfully completed Part I of the FC Path(SA) Anat examination
- At least six months to have been spent fulltime in an approved Cytology laboratory; this may form part of the minimum 3½ year training in Anatomical Pathology
- The candidate will be.../

- The candidate will be required to submit a certificate from the head of the department(s) where he/she has been working showing that he/she has properly completed a minimum of 50 autopsies satisfactorily under supervision and has achieved competency in the performance of an autopsy examination. The candidate should also be declared competent in the cutting and staining of frozen sections.

It is proposed that the following be a guideline for trainees regarding the composition of the 50 autopsies. Trainees are encouraged not to limit their experience to 50 autopsies.

The minimum number of 50 autopsies should comprise at least 35 adult autopsies (> 16 years of age) and a maximum of 15 paediatric autopsies made up as follows: 10 cases (1 month to 16 years of age) and a maximum of 5 neonatal/fetal/perinatal autopsies.

All of these cases must be fully reported and authorised at the time of registration for the Part II examination.

Information on these cases must be recorded as required in the Portfolio and these may be requested by the CMSA for assessment at the time of registration for the Part II examination.

- A portfolio of training must be submitted for assessment to confirm the above have been adequately and satisfactorily completed.

3.3 The CMSA may accept part-time training from registrars who have completed 4½ years in a teaching hospital including 1½ years fulltime training, provided the candidate submits evidence of prior approval by the Health Professions Council of South Africa of a part-time training programme acceptable for specialist registration.

3.4 The CMSA Senate, through its Examinations and Credentials Committee, will review every application for admission to the examination, and may also consider the professional and ethical standing of the candidate.

4.0 FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION

4.1 Conduct of the Part I examination, with candidates needing to pass both components, comprises:

4.1.1 One 3-hour closed-book written examination paper, with the pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in line with CMSA policy.

- *The format of the examination will include the following:*

- Answer all questions
- A mixture of short answer questions, ultra-short answer questions and multiple choice questions to demonstrate integrative skills and factual recall, according to CMSA policy.

4.1.2 A three-hour closed book practical examination, with the pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in line with CMSA policy.

- *The format of the examination will include the following:*

- Answer all questions
- An H&E-stained section from each of 30 different histopathological cases (including surgical or autopsy cases). Relevant clinical information and other results will be provided. Candidates will be asked to provide the diagnosis only.

- These slides will...
-

- These slides will comprise basic medical and surgical pathology and each slide will be diagnosable at a morphological level. No dual pathologies will be included.
- Cytopathology will not be included.

4.2 The weighting of the final mark will be as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Written paper | 50% |
| Histopathology slides | 50% |

The candidate must achieve the pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in both components. Failure in either of the two components will result in overall failure of the Part I examination.

4.3 Conduct of the Part II examination, with candidates needing to pass all 4 components, comprises:

- 4.3.1 Two 3-hour closed-book written examination papers, with their combined pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in line with CMSA policy.
- ***The format of the examination will include the following:***
 - Answer all questions.
 - A mixture of short answer questions, ultra-short answer questions and multiple choice questions to demonstrate integrative skills and factual recall, according to CMSA policy.
 - Both papers could include the following components and others, using a blueprinting process:
 - Molecular pathology, principles of pathology and special techniques including electron microscopy, immunohistochemistry and special investigations and laboratory management as well as ethical considerations.
 - The practice of surgical pathology, autopsy pathology and cytopathology.
- 4.3.2 A 3 – 4 hour closed book Histopathology practical examination, with the pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in line with CMSA policy.
- ***The format of the examination will include the following:***
 - Answer all questions
 - An H&E-stained section from each of 30 different histopathological cases (including surgical or autopsy cases). Relevant clinical information and other results will be provided. Candidates will be asked to provide the diagnosis.
- 4.3.3 A 3 – 4 hour closed book Cytopathology practical examination, with the pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in line with CMSA policy.
- ***The format of the examination will include the following:***
 - Answer all questions.
 - The second practical consists of appropriately stained exfoliative or aspiration “smears” from each of 30 different cytopathological cases. There will be a maximum of 2 slides per case, and slides will be dotted where appropriate. Relevant clinical information and other results will be provided. Candidates will be asked to provide the diagnosis and diagnostic category according to the terminology of the relevant international classification system, where appropriate.

4.2.4.../

4.3.4 Two closed-book objective structured practical examinations (OSPE's) of 3 – 4 hours duration each, with their combined pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in line with CMSA policy.

• ***The format of the examination will include the following:***

- Answer all questions
- Each OSPE will consist of multiple stations which may include any combination of the following
 - gross specimens (fixed specimens, photographs or digital images)
 - frozen section slides
 - surgical or autopsy histopathology including special investigations (ANY organ system)
 - immunohistochemistry panel selection and interpretation
 - electron photomicrographs
 - molecular diagnostics (PCR, ISH etc)
 - skeletal muscle and peripheral nerve biopsies including special investigations
 - renal biopsies including special stains and electron micrographs
 - liver biopsies including special investigations
 - brain smears
 - bone pathology including radiology
 - any other system based pathology eg dermatopathology, cardiac pathology
 - inter-active components

4.4 The weighting of the final mark will be as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Written papers combined | 25% |
| Histopathology slides | 25% |
| Cytopathology slides | 25% |
| OSPE 1 and 2 combined | 25% |

The candidate must achieve the pass mark determined by standard setting protocols in each of the 4 components. Failure in any of the 4 components will result in overall failure of the Part II examination.

5.0 ADMISSION AS A FELLOW

5.1 Only candidates who have completed training in a CMSA recognised registrar post may be awarded a fellowship if successful in the examination.

5.2 Candidates who have written the examination as a prerequisite from the HPCSA for inclusion on the specialist register are not eligible to be awarded a Fellowship but will be sent a letter confirming their success in the examinations

All other candidates will be asked to sign a declaration as below:

I, the undersigned, do solemnly and sincerely declare

that while a member of the CMSA I will at all times do all within my power to promote the objects of the CMSA and uphold the dignity of the CMSA and its members

that I will observe the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, By-laws, Regulations and Code of Ethics of the CMSA as in force from time to time

that I will obey every lawful summons issued by order of the Senate of the said CMSA, having no reasonable excuse to the contrary

and I make this solemn declaration faithfully promising to adhere to its terms

Signed at thisday

of 20

Signature

Witness

(who must be a Founder, Associate Founder, Fellow, Member, Diplomat or Commissioner of Oaths)

5.3 A two-thirds majority of members of the CMSA Senate present at the relevant meeting shall be necessary for the award to any candidate of a Fellowship

5.4 A Fellow shall be entitled to the appropriate form of certificate under the seal of the CMSA

5.5 In the event of a candidate not being awarded the Fellowship (after having passed the examination) the examination fee shall be refunded in full excluding HPCSA candidates who are not entitled to a Fellowship.

5.6 The first annual subscription is due one year after registration (statements are rendered annually)