



# CMSA

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

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**JOHANNESBURG OFFICE**

**EXAMINATIONS & CREDENTIALS**

## FC Path(SA) Oral Part I and Part II Blueprint

### PART I EXAMINATION

The Part I examination, both the written and practical components, will be identical to those set for the FC Path (SA) Anat Path Part I examination.

#### **1.0 PART I CURRICULUM (Candidates must pass both the written and practical components)**

- 1.1 Cellular responses to stress and toxic insult
- 1.2 Acute and chronic inflammation
- 1.3 Tissue renewal, repair and regeneration
- 1.4 Haemodynamic disorders, thrombo-embolic disease and shock;
- 1.5 Genetic disorders
- 1.6 Disease of the immune system
- 1.7 Neoplasia
- 1.8 Infectious diseases
- 1.9 Environmental and nutritional diseases
- 1.10 Diseases of infancy and childhood
- 1.11 The heart
- 1.12 Blood vessels
- 1.13 Diseases of white blood cells, lymph nodes, spleen and thymus
- 1.14 Red blood cells and bleeding disorders
- 1.15 The lung
- 1.16 Head and neck
- 1.17 The gastrointestinal tract
- 1.18 Liver and biliary tract
- 1.19 The pancreas
- 1.20 The kidney
- 1.21 The lower urinary tract and male genital system
- 1.22 The female genital tract
- 1.23 The breast
- 1.24 The endocrine system
- 1.25 The skin
- 1.26 Bones, joints and soft tissue tumours
- 1.27 Peripheral nerve and skeletal muscle
- 1.28 The central nervous system
- 1.29 The eye
- 1.30 Normal histology
- 1.31 The principles of the light microscope, including fluorescence microscopy and photomicroscopy, and of the electron microscope; histochemistry, immunohistochemistry and molecular pathology

**2.0 PART I WRITTEN EXAMINATION BLUEPRINT****(Weighting = 50%; Pass mark determined by standard setting procedure)**

A combination of short answer questions, ultra-short answer questions and multiple choice questions totalling 100 marks, in 3 hours, spread across the above areas (1.1-1.31).

**2.1 Recommended reading for the Part I examination includes:**

- Standard texts on Pathology (e.g., Robbins & Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease)
- Standard texts on normal histology (e.g., Stevens & Lowe's Human Histology)

### 3.0 PART I PRACTICAL EXAMINATION BLUEPRINT (Weighting = 50%, Pass mark determined by standard setting procedure)

|                                   | Congenital | Traumatic | Infective | Inflammatory | Vascular | Metabolic | Neoplastic | Mechanical | Degenerative |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|
| CNS                               | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Eye                               | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| ENT                               | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Lung                              | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Mediastinum, pleura               | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Heart, blood vessels              | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Endocrine                         | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Salivary gland, oral              | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| GIT                               | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Liver, biliary tract              | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Pancreas                          | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Spleen, thymus, bone marrow       | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Kidney, lower urinary tract       | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Male genital tract                | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Gynaecology                       | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Pregnancy-related                 | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Breast                            | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Skin                              | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Soft tissue                       | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Skeletal muscle, peripheral nerve | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Bone, joint                       | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |
| Lymph node                        | X          | X         | X         | X            | X        | X         | X          | X          | X            |

30 H&E-stained histopathology sections (including surgical and autopsy pathology) in 3-4 hours, to be spread across the above areas.

Each slide will be diagnosable at a morphological level.

No dual pathologies will be included.

Candidates may be required to type their answers for this practical examination onto a computer, which will then be uploaded electronically to the examiners at the end of the examination.

#### 4.0 PART II EXAMINATION

The two theory papers, a light microscopic practical examination, and an interactive examination will be conducted at higher cognitive levels, i.e., the understanding of acquired knowledge and the ability to apply information to solve problems. This will be based on the core curricula and recommended competencies:

In surgical Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, the candidate must demonstrate:

- An appropriate understanding of the type of specimen submitted for histopathological investigation, the indications and contraindications, as well as the possible limitations of specific biopsy techniques, is required prior to the gross macroscopic processing procedure. In addition, the candidate should demonstrate an understanding of the clinical relevance and significance of the clinical history or other information provided on the histopathology request form.
- The candidate must demonstrate a logical, methodical and standardised approach to the macroscopic description of specimens, coupled with the skills to appropriately dissect and adequately sample specimens to ensure representativeness.
- The candidate should demonstrate proficiency and in-depth knowledge for the accurate diagnosis of all pathological lesions encountered in head and neck pathology. The candidate must be self-sufficient in formulating the most appropriate differential diagnosis based on the examination of routine formalin-fixed tissue sections. Furthermore, insight into the request for additional histochemical, immunohistochemical, molecular, and other adjunctive tests, as needed for a definitive diagnosis, is essential. The candidate should actively communicate with clinicians regarding clinical findings, medical history, radiological investigations, and the patient's pharmaceutical history to render a diagnosis.
- Skills to determine the need for macroscopic and microscopic photography, tissue demineralisation, dental hard tissue examination, immunohistochemistry, immunofluorescence, flow cytometry and other relevant molecular techniques.
- The ability to interpret all information, together with the histological findings, should be performed in an integrative manner and professionally conveyed within an acceptable turnaround time.
- Candidates should demonstrate the ability to routinely make clinical recommendations to facilitate therapeutic interventions by including comments/addenda when reports are constructed and by verbal communication.
- The ability to prioritise cases based on the severity of pathology, with pathology findings communicated timeously to referring clinicians.
- The ability to prepare and evaluate frozen sections (both in the laboratory and in operating theatres), fine needle aspirates and exfoliative cytology whilst being mindful of the indications and limitations of such procedures.
- A style of reporting that includes accurate observations and conclusions, appropriate detail and an indication of the degree of confidence with which a diagnosis is made.
- An understanding of the use of information technology in diagnostic histopathology, the preparation of pathology reports and laboratory statistics.
- An understanding of the technical aspects of tissue fixation and processing, as well as cutting and staining techniques of histological sections and the discarding of chemical and other laboratory waste.
- The ability to interact professionally with laboratory personnel and colleagues regarding these technical aspects.
- Knowledge of health and safety regulations and quality control in the histopathology laboratory.
- The ability to advise on the principles of microscopic image analyses.
- Maintain the principles of good record-keeping, patient confidentiality, and human ethics.
- The ability to understand and interpret histopathological studies, research methodology and clinical significance.

## 5.0 FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATIONS

The written component of the Part II of the examination will consist of two theory papers.

### 5.1 Theory papers

- Each of the theory papers will be 3 hours long.
- The pass mark of each paper will be determined by standard setting.
- The papers will consist of a mixture of short-answer, ultra-short-answer, and multiple-choice questions to demonstrate integrative skills and factual recall, according to CMSA policy. Questions may require answers in different formats, including short notes, analysis and discussion, and will be based on clinical or histological information to illustrate relevant facts and facilitate interpretation.
- The papers will be based on the principles and practices of diagnostic surgical pathology with emphasis on Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. This will include the classification, pathogenesis, and epidemiology of diseases, as well as molecular pathology and specialised techniques (electron microscopy, immunohistochemistry, molecular techniques, morphometry, and radiographic studies) needed for diagnosis.
- Questions on laboratory management, accreditation, quality assurance, and the ethical and moral practice of pathology are included.
- A combined pass mark after standard setting for the two papers is required to proceed to the practical examination.

### 5.2 PART II CURRICULUM

- Laboratory management, including safety issues, accreditation and quality control
- Applied bioethics and legal issues pertinent to Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
- Gross techniques in surgical pathology
- Frozen sections and other intraoperative procedures
- Principles of special techniques
  - Special stains
  - Immunohistochemistry
  - Immunofluorescence
  - Electron microscopy
  - Morphometry
  - DNA flow cytometry
  - Cytogenetic analysis
- Molecular pathology
  - In-situ hybridisation
  - Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization (FISH)
  - Polymerase chain reaction
  - Next-generation sequencing and related technologies
- Surgical pathology and cytopathology, including epidemiology, aetio-pathogenesis, clinical features, basic imaging, definitions, classification, grading, staging, morphology, workup of differential diagnosis, complications and basic treatment modalities of diseases
  - Skin
    - Dermatoses
    - Tumours and tumour-like conditions
  - Oral cavity and oropharynx
  - Teeth
  - Mandible and maxilla
  - Respiratory tract
    - Nasal cavity, paranasal sinuses and nasopharynx
    - Larynx
  - Major and minor salivary glands
  - Lymph nodes
  - Bone and joints
  - Soft tissues

- Arteries
- Veins
- Lymph nodes and vessels

## 5.2 PART II WRITTEN EXAMINATION BLUEPRINT

- **Paper 1 and Paper 2 combined weighting is 70%;**
- **Combined pass mark is determined by standard setting procedure**

Paper 1 and Paper 2 will each be composed of a combination of short-answer, ultra-short-answer, and multiple-choice questions, totalling 100 marks, in 3 hours, spread across the areas as in 2.0 above.

## 5.4 Recommended reading for Part II will include:

- Standard texts of diagnostic surgical pathology (e.g., Sternberg's Diagnostic Surgical Pathology; Rosai and Ackerman's Surgical Pathology, etc).
- Standard text on cytology (e.g., Cibas & Ducatman's Cytology)
- Standard texts of specific organ systems and regions (eg. dermatopathology, soft-tissue tumours, head and neck pathology, WHO Blue Books, etc).
- The relevant recent literature on oral and maxillofacial pathology, including reviews and seminal articles in the following leading pathology journals, amongst others:
  - *Head and Neck Pathology*
  - *OOOO*
  - *Oral Diseases*
  - *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Medicine, and Pathology*
  - *Histopathology*
  - *Human Pathology*
  - *American Journal of Surgical Pathology*
  - *Seminars in Diagnostic Pathology*
  - *Diagnostic Histopathology*
  - *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*
  - *Mordern Pathology*

## 6.0 FORMAT OF THE PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

- A 3 to 4-hour histopathology slide examination.
- Standard setting protocols in line with CMSA policy will determine the pass mark.
- All questions must be answered.
- These will include H&E-stained sections of 30 different histopathological cases.
- Relevant clinical information and other results will be provided.
- A diagnosis must be provided for each case.
- The exam mark is scored separately from the written exam; thus, passing this part of the examination is mandatory.

**7.0 PART II SURGICAL PATHOLOGY SLIDES EXAMINATION BLUEPRINT (Weighting = 30%; Pass mark determined by standard setting procedure)**

|                           | <b>Congenital</b> | <b>Traumatic</b> | <b>Infective</b> | <b>Inflammatory</b> | <b>Vascular</b> | <b>Developmental</b> | <b>Neoplastic</b> | <b>Mechanical</b> | <b>Degenerative</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Salivary glands           | X                 | X                | X                | X                   | X               | X                    | X                 | X                 | X                   |
| Oral cavity               | X                 | X                | X                | X                   | X               | X                    | X                 | X                 | X                   |
| Odontogenic tissues       | X                 | X                | X                | X                   | X               | X                    | X                 | X                 | X                   |
| Bone                      | X                 | X                | X                | X                   | X               | X                    | X                 | X                 | X                   |
| Sinonasal tract           | X                 | X                | X                | X                   | X               | X                    | X                 | X                 | X                   |
| TM joint                  | X                 | X                | X                | X                   | X               | X                    | X                 | X                 | X                   |
| Lymphoid tissue           | X                 | X                | X                | X                   | X               | X                    | X                 | X                 | X                   |
| Soft tissue               | X                 | X                | X                | X                   | X               | X                    | X                 | X                 | X                   |
| Peripheral nervous system | X                 | X                | X                | X                   | X               | X                    | X                 | X                 | X                   |
| Blood                     | X                 | X                | X                | X                   | X               | X                    | X                 | X                 | X                   |
| Skin                      | X                 | X                | X                | X                   | X               | X                    | X                 | X                 | X                   |
|                           |                   |                  |                  |                     |                 |                      |                   |                   |                     |
|                           |                   |                  |                  |                     |                 |                      |                   |                   |                     |

Thirty H&E-stained histopathology sections (including surgical and autopsy pathology) in 3 to 4 hours, to be spread across the above areas.

Candidates may be required to type their answers for the practical examination using a computer, which will then be shared electronically with the examiners at the end of the examination.

**8.0 FORMAT OF THE INTERACTIVE EXAMINATION**

- The candidate's ability to practice safely as an Oral and Maxillofacial Pathologist in a remote/ solo practice setting will be assessed. This examination will be interactive and may include stations with histology sections, clinical photos, macroscopic specimens, radiographs or a combination of these.
- The pass mark will be determined by standard setting procedure.

**9.0 BLUEPRINT OF THE INTERACTIVE EXAMINATION**

The candidates will be evaluated on any aspect of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology including:

- 9.1 Differential diagnoses
- 9.2 Theoretical considerations
- 9.3 Ability to evaluate the applicability of published literature
- 9.4 Ability to deal with complex diagnostic problems
- 9.5 Use of special investigations (laboratory-based and/or clinical)
- 9.6 Laboratory management (including safety issues and troubleshooting)
- 9.7 Accreditation matters
- 9.8 Ethical, legal and moral issues pertaining to the practice of oral and maxillofacial pathology, including professionalism.

**JOHANNESBURG**  
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