



**UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA, SRI LANKA**  
**SECOND EXAMINATION FOR MEDICAL DEGREES**

**PART- I - May - 2026**  
**Academic Year - 2021/2022**

**Forensic Medicine-Paper II**

**Date: 04.05.2026**  
**Answer all Five questions**

**Time: 9.00 am. to 12.00noon. (3 hours)**

**Answer each part in a separate answer book.**

**PART - A**

1. A 54-year-old woman was reported missing from her home. She lived with her daughter, who was also initially missing. After three days, the daughter was located with her boyfriend and disclosed that her mother had been killed and the body disposed of in a bush area. The body was subsequently discovered on the fourth day after the woman was reported missing, in an abandoned bush.

1.1. List the medico-legal issues arising in this case. (10 marks)

1.2. Briefly describe the expected postmortem changes in a body found approximately four days after death in an outdoor environment. (20 marks)

1.3. Discuss the methods of identification that can be used to establish the identity of the deceased. (20 marks)

1.4. The boyfriend stated that the victim was killed by strangulation.  
List the expected autopsy findings of asphyxia due to strangulation. (20 marks)

1.5. Briefly differentiate ligature strangulation from suicidal hanging based on autopsy findings. (30 marks)

2. A 15-year-old schoolgirl was admitted to the hospital with per vaginal bleeding. She had not been attending school for the past 10 months. Her urine hCG test was positive, indicating pregnancy. On vaginal examination (P/V), the cervical os was found to be open, and retained products of conception were present at the cervical os, suggestive of an incomplete abortion and raising suspicion of a criminal abortion. The police were informed of the case.

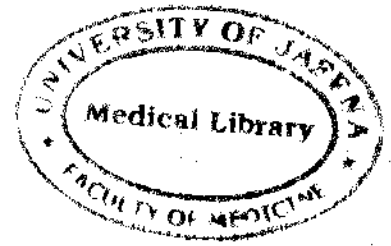
2.1. List the circumstances under which a male is considered to have committed the offence of "rape" according to the Sri Lankan Penal Code. (25 marks)

2.2. Discuss in detail the circumstances under which termination of pregnancy is considered therapeutic in the Sri Lankan context. (20 marks)

2.3. List the methods used in criminal abortions. (10 marks)

2.4. Briefly discuss the complications of criminal abortions. (20 marks)

2.5. The child reveals that she may continue to engage in sexual activity with her boyfriend in the future and requests contraception. Discuss how you would manage this situation from a medico-legal and ethical perspective. (25 marks)



PART B

3. An unidentified body of a young female was found by the side of a highway with multiple grazed abrasions, de-gloved lacerations and tire imprints.
- 3.1 List ten (10) medico-legal issues pertaining to this scenario. (30 marks)
- 3.2 Discuss the medico-legal investigation into this case. (70 marks)
4. Highway traffic police have brought a jeep driver related to a fatal road traffic collision. Police stated that the breathalyzer test was attempted, but the driver refused to do that and insisted on a clinical examination by a medical officer
- 4.1. List Five (5) effects of alcohol on driving a motor vehicle. (20 marks)
- 4.2. List five (5) other causes for impairment of driving. (10 marks)
- 4.3. Describe the medico-legal management of this alleged drunken driver. (50 marks)
- 4.4. Briefly describe what you understand from the term 'Breathalyzer test' (20 marks)

## PART C

5. A 50-year-old woman had been almost totally blind in her right eye for nearly 40 years since suffering a penetrating injury to the eye at the age of nine. Despite the injury she has lived a substantially normal life. She consulted an ophthalmologist, who advised her that an operation on the injured eye would not only improve its appearance but would probably restore sight to it. However, the ophthalmologist has not mentioned about rare complications of the surgical procedure when obtaining consent.

Following the surgery, which was conducted with the required skill and care, the patient developed a condition known as 'sympathetic ophthalmia' in her left eye. In the end, she lost all sight in her left eye, and as there had been no restoration of sight in her right eye, she was almost totally blind.

She had not specifically asked prior to the surgical process whether the operation to her right eye could affect her left eye but she had persistently questioned the ophthalmologist as to possible complications. The surgeon said in evidence, "sympathetic ophthalmia was not something that came to my mind to mention to her".

Evidence at the clinical trial was that "sympathetic ophthalmia" occurred once in approximately 14,000 such procedures, although there was also evidence that the chance of occurrence was slightly greater when, as here, there had been an earlier penetrating injury to the eye operated upon.

- 5.1 Outline the major ethical principle violated by the ophthalmologist in this case. (10 marks)
  - 5.2 State the five basic elements that should be followed when this ethical principle is applied in routine hospital practice. (10 marks)
  - 5.3 Outline three other ethical principles involved in this case. (15 marks)
- She complained to the Ministry of Health about the incident and decided to sue the ophthalmologist at the District Court for damages suffered by her.
- 5.4 Define the most likely offence committed by the ophthalmologist in this case. (5 marks)
  - 5.5 Describe how you would establish it in this case. (15 marks)
  - 5.6 State the possible defenses that could be submitted by the ophthalmologist to justify his action. (10 marks)

She has also complained to the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) alleging that the action of the ophthalmologist amounts to serious professional misconduct.

- 5.7 Explain how SLMC describes 'serious professional misconduct' and whether the patient's complaint is justifiable. (20 marks)
- 5.8 Outline how SLMC would investigate the complaint made by the patient against the ophthalmologist. (15 marks)