

Legal Medicine and Toxicology Module

Tutorial 03: Asphyxia/ PM changes & time since death

Question 1

You are the Medical Officer Medico-Legal attached to Teaching Hospital Anuradhapura. Upon recovery of a male body which was found floating in Malwathu Oya you are called to the scene.

- 1.1 List 5 (five) forensically important observations you are going to make at this scene. [10 marks]
- 1.2 List 5 (five) observations you would make at autopsy to ascertain the time since death? [15 marks]

Autopsy external examination revealed few approximately 1cm diameter, roughly circular blue marks on the front of the neck.

- 1.3 Give 2 (two) possible explanations for these marks [10 marks]
- 1.4 Name the technique of dissection that you would use at the autopsy (postmortem examination) to determine what these marks are [10 marks]
- 1.5 Discuss briefly the problems associated with confirmation of cause of death as drowning? [40 marks]
- 1.6 State 5 (five) autopsy findings that are suggestive to conclude the cause of death as drowning? [15 marks]