

Tutorial 3

Alcohol

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A. Speeding motor car knocked down a pedestrian and collided with an electricity post by the side of the road. The injured pedestrian and the occupants of the car (driver and the front seat passenger) were rushed to the hospital. The House Officer noticed that one of the occupants Mr. SA was drunk with smell of alcohol. On questioning he denied being in charge of the vehicle. However, police suspects that he was the driver.

- 1) Describe the injuries expected in the pedestrian explaining the mechanisms of causation
- 2) State your opinion to the courts confirming Mr. SA as the driver considering the injuries on his body
- 3) List conditions that could mimic ethanol intoxication

B. A 30 year old married woman was found suspending from a soft fabric in her own bedroom. The ligature was tied to the rafter of the roof. Relatives of the woman alleged that her husband had killed her prior to suspension.

- 1) Indicate 3 (Three) other forensically significant observations you would expect to make at this scene? (10 marks)
- 2) State the findings you would observe at the autopsy to address the issue of postmortem suspension (20 marks)
- 3) What are the injuries you would expect to see in this woman if the cause of death is manual strangulation? (20 marks)
- 4) Indicate the differences between ligature strangulation and hanging (20 marks)
- 5) Discuss the significance of petechial haemorrhages in deaths due to asphyxia