**Study Guide: Medicolegal Death**

**What is Death?**

1. Why it is impossible to determine the precise moment of death?

2. What is the difference between manner, cause and mechanism of death.

3. Distinguish between 5 manners of death.

4. Explain the importance to forensics in determining the manner of someone’s death.

**Decomposition**

5. Name and Describe the 5 stages of decomposition of a corpse to include:

odor, amount of decay, color of the flesh, amount of moisture in the body, build up of gases

**Time of Death**

6. Explain why determining the time of death is important to forensics.

7. Describe at least 4 ways to estimate the time of someone’s death.

**Livor Mortis**

8. Describe what happens to the body as livor mortis sets in.

9. Explain when lividity first appears and how long after death it is fixed.

10. Explain how it is possible to determine someone’s body position when they died if a body was moved after death by examining the body for evidence of lividity.

11. Tell how to estimate the time of death using information about lividity.

**Rigor Mortis**

12. Define rigor mortis.

13. Explain the progression of rigor mortis from when it first sets in to when it fades.

14. Describe the effect of each of the following variables to the onset of rigor mortis:

a. Body temperature

b. Ambient temperature

c. Amount of body fat on the victim

d. Amount of clothing on the victim

e. Illness

f. Amount of exercise prior to death

. Sun exposure

15. Tell how to estimate the approximate time of death using rigor mortis evidence.

**Algor Mortis**

16. Define algor mortis.

17. State the “formula” used to estimate the loss of body temperature after:

a. the first 12 hours after death

b. after 24 hours after death

18. Determine the PMI in the following situations.

a. A body was found in a warm room with a temperature of 74.3°F.

b. A body was found outside with a temperature of 54.0°F.

19. Describe the effect of each of the variables on loss of body temperature:

a. Ambient temperature

b. Presence or absence of clothing

c. Exercise prior to death

d. Amount of air circulation

20. Tell how to estimate the time of death based on the loss of body temperature

**Anthropology**

21. How many bones do babies have? Adults?

22. What are skeletal differences in gender?

23. What are skeletal differences in ages?

24. What are skeletal differences in race?

25. What is the blowfly life cycle?