

INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SCIENCE STUDY GUIDE FROM TEXT

Chapter 1

- 1. Define forensic science/criminalistics**
- 2. Recall the major contributions to the development of forensic science.**
- 3. Give examples of typical crime laboratories as they exist on the national, state and local levels of government in the U.S.**
- 4. Describe the services of a typical comprehensive crime laboratory in the criminal justice system.**
- 5. Explain the different approaches espoused by the Frye and Daubert decisions to the admissibility of scientific evidence in the courtroom.**
- 6. Explain the role and responsibilities of the expert witness.**
- 7. Review the proper collection and packaging of common types of physical evidence (see Appendix A).**

Chapter 2

- 1. Define physical evidence.**
- 2. Discuss the responsibilities of the first officer who arrives at the crime scene.**
- 3. Explain the steps to be taken for thoroughly recording the crime scene.**
- 4. Describe proper procedures for conducting a systematic search of crime scenes for physical evidence.**
- 5. Describe proper techniques for packaging common types of physical evidence.**
- 6. Define the chain of custody.**
- 7. Discuss the implications of the Mincey and Tyler cases.**

Chapter 3

- 1. List the common types of physical evidence encountered at crime scenes.**
- 2. Explain the differences between the identification and comparison of physical evidence.**
- 3. Define individual and class characteristics. Give examples of physical evidence possessing these characteristics.**
- 4. Discuss the value of class evidence to a criminal investigation.**
- 5. Explain the purpose physical evidence plays in reconstructing the events surrounding the commission of a crime.**