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.**