Unit 2 Exam: Topic Review Questions

Unit 2 covers observation and crime scene investigation. Do not forget the information from Unit 1.
Note: Although no grade is given for this review sheet, I can guarantee working through and studying these questions will highly impact your grade on this exam.

Observation

1. What is the difference between an observation and an inference?
2. What are four things that forensic scientists need in order to be good observers?
3. Is it possible to improve your observation skills? If yes, how?
4. What is the difference between an expert and a lay witness?
5. Why are eye witnesses often unreliable?
6. What are factors that influence an eye witness' account?
7. What is the cross-race effect?
8. Explain the Innocence Project.
9. Describe what can occur at the crime scene itself that will influence the memory of an eye witness.
10. If you are a criminal, what are some things you can do to increase your likelihood of being recognized? Decrease that likelihood?
11. How does Facial Recognition software work?

Evidence

12. Define Locard's Exchange Principle.
13. Define evidence.
14. Define Direct, indirect, demonstrative, and testimonial evidence. Give an example of each.
15. Why is it a myth that a person cannot be convicted on circumstantial evidence?
16. Give 5 reasons why physical evidence is vital to a forensic case.
17. Define the 5 types of physical evidence. What are the classifications of physical evidence by nature?
18. Describe the difference between individual and class evidence. Give an example of each.
19. Explain how the product rule is used
20. Product Rule:

35.7% A+ blood	14% PGM type 1
6.3% A- blood	0.38% PGM type 2
5.56% K positive	0.95% Kp(a+b+)

What is the probability that the person will be Kp(a+b+), PGM type 2, A+?
21. What is the greatest weakness of class physical evidence? What is the main reason for this weakness?
22. What is the greatest value of class physical evidence?
23. Who ultimately determines the significance of physical evidence in a trial?
24. What is the importance of a positive and negative control in an experiment?

25. What are substrate controls, standard samples, and reference samples? Are they positive or negative controls?

Crime Scene Investigation

26. Briefly describe the 7 activities that often comprise forensic investigations.
27. Where does forensic science begin? Why is this important?
28. List and describe the 7 S's of crime scene investigation.
29. List the responsibilities of the first officer on the scene.
30. Define collusion.
31. Define primary and secondary crime scene.
32. Can a piece of evidence be removed before being photographed? If it is removed, can it be replaced?
33. Describe how photographs are taken at the scene; describe how rough sketches are obtained at the scene.
34. What should a crime scene sketch include?
35. What are the 5 search methods? Briefly define each.
36. Describe the methods for collecting and packaging evidence. Note the specific types of evidence and how they must be packaged.
37. Describe the evidence that is collected from the body from analysis. Who is responsible for the body or evidence found on the body?
38. How do you create a bindle?
39. Why is chain of custody important?
40. Why would someone stage a crime scene? How could you tell it was staged?
41. Describe crime scene reconstruction.
42. What legal considerations must you take into account before collecting evidence? What amendment of the Bill of Rights covers removal of evidence?
43. When can a warrantless search occur?

Other information

44. Class vs Individual lab – understand why each was classified as such.
45. Controls lab
46. Any case studies