Criminology

Forensic Evidence and the Reliability of Evidence

11026

GRADED ACADEMIC SUBJECT CONTENT

Credit Value of Unit 6 GLH of Unit 60 Level of Unit 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The student should be able to</td>
<td>The student can</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Understand developments in the use of forensic science in crime detection</td>
<td>1.1 Describe key developments of forensic science</td>
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<td>1.2 Explain how to protect forensic evidence at a crime scene</td>
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<td>2 Understand the science of dactyloscopy and its use in the detection of crime</td>
<td>2.1 Describe the principles of fingerprint collection at a crime scene and from the suspects</td>
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<td>2.2 Explain the reliability of fingerprint matching</td>
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<td>3 Understand the use of biological materials in the apprehension of criminals</td>
<td>3.1 Identify potential sources of DNA that might be found at a crime scene</td>
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<td>3.2 Describe the production of a DNA profile from biological material</td>
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<td>3.3 Explain the use and reliability of DNA profiles in the elimination of suspects and conviction of criminals</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Understand a range of techniques that are available for the gathering of crime scene evidence</td>
<td>4.1 Outline a range of techniques used to gather evidence at the scene of the crime</td>
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Assessment Methodology

Short answer questions or simulation equivalent to 2000 – 2500 words

Grading of this unit

The following grade descriptors will be applied to the assessment of this unit:

1 Understanding of the subject
2 Application of Knowledge
3 Use of Information
4 Communication and Presentation
5 Quality

Please refer to the QAA Grade Descriptors for detail of the components of each descriptor
Indicative Content

Forensic Evidence and the Reliability of Evidence

- Outline and describe some of the key developments in Forensic Science over the last century
- An introduction to the world of forensics
- Working the scene - evidence collection and protection / describe a range of techniques to gather evidence at a crime scene
- Fingerprint - your personal signature - collection at a crime scene / and from the suspects detained
- Explaining the reliability of fingerprints - developing the science - a trip through fingerprint history
- John Dillinger's indelible fingerprints / Using ridge patterns / Grouping by arches, loops, and Whorls / Developing the Henry system
- Putting the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) to work - speeding up identification
- Identifying potential sources of DNA to be found at a crime scene
- Tracking down and preserving DNA
- Fingerprinting criminals using DNA fingerprints / Understanding the DNA fingerprinting process
- Looking at the reliability of DNA Profiles / preparing the sample / Elimination of suspects + the conviction of criminals - making the match
- Time since death (e.g. insect studies), victim identification: age, sex, cause of death (e.g. anatomical/morphological/dental studies)

Validation end date: 31 August 2019