

# SUPA Forensics – Evidence Collection Practical Examination

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions :** In this exercise you and your team will investigate a simulated crime . Your team is to treat this crime scene as if it were the real thing – from securing and documenting the scene ,to collecting evidence and finally reconstructing the crime. This is a team activity and you will be graded as such. Here are the specific rules of engagement :

1. evidence collected at the scene must be tagged and recorded and a chain of custody started
2. take accurate notes – including measurements when preparing your sketches and notes
3. evidence that is collected will be sent to the “forensic lab” – No evidence will be sent without proper documentation and request form(s) filled out
4. A copy of the “lab” report will be sent back to you following submission

**Members of Your Team - role in the team :**

- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**What Must Be Presented For a Grade of Passing / Competent**

1. \_\_\_\_ rough and final sketches of crime scene
2. \_\_\_\_ photographs (these may digital) of the scene with descriptors / labels
3. \_\_\_\_ a list of evidence
  - collected at the scene
  - sent to the lab
4. \_\_\_\_ a copy of the request form for evidence examination by the forensic lab and the subsequent lab report
5. \_\_\_\_ a report – authored with input by all members of team - that describes the crime reconstruction.

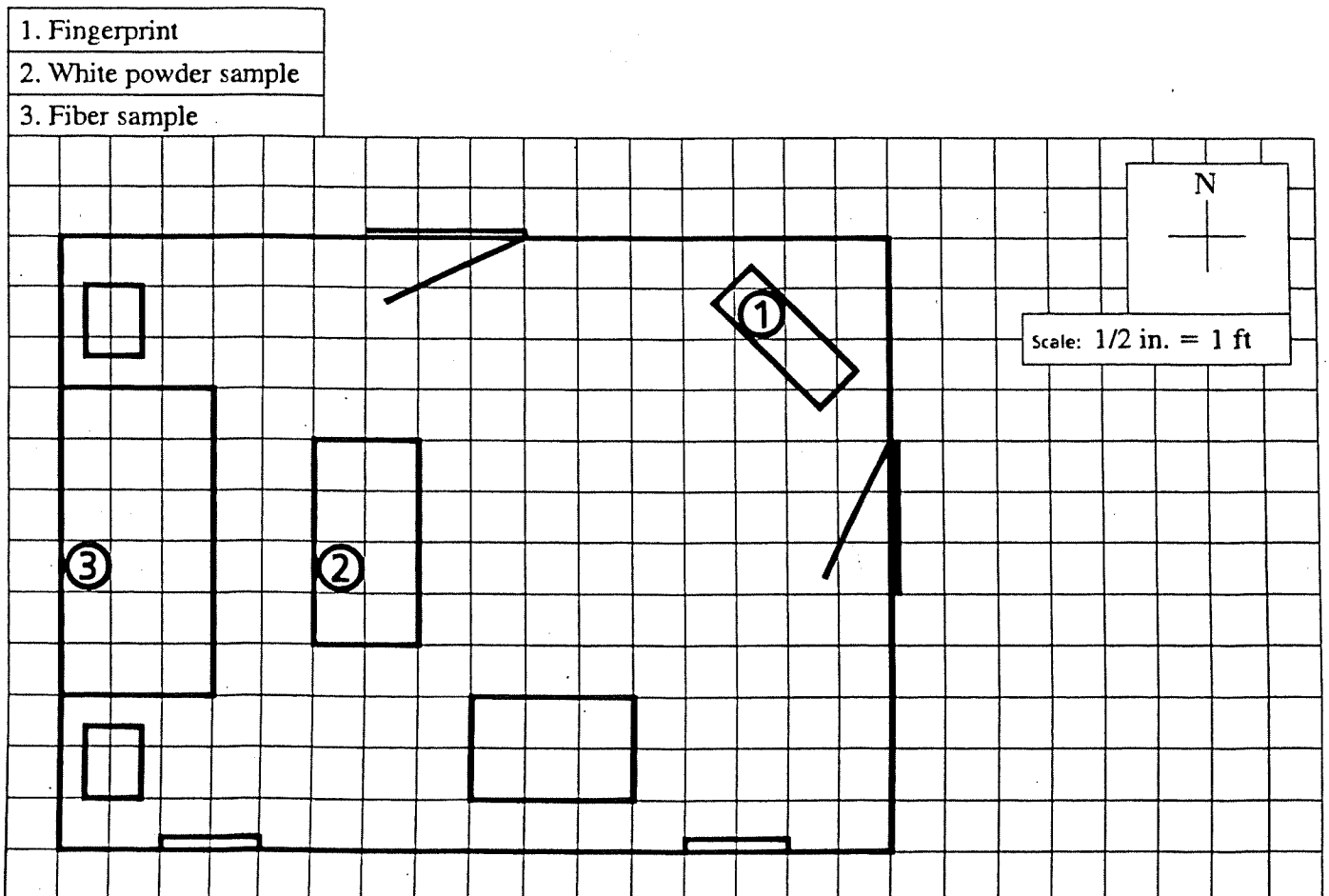
# Forensic Skills

The next several pages include general forensic skills. These skills do not relate to a specific crime but are used whenever they are needed in solving any crime.

## Observing the Scene and Collecting Data

The first task in a forensic investigation is to secure the site. A secure site means that it is marked off and no one can enter without permission. Nothing should be touched or altered in any way.

Sketch the scene and take photographs. The form on the following page is typical of one used to record where evidence was collected and photographs were taken at a crime scene. The numbered items at the top of the page provide necessary identification facts. The spaces numbered 1 through 18 are used to identify items or photographs whose locations are labeled on the grid. When you take a photograph, record the number of the picture and the location of the scene. When you collect fingerprints or any other evidence, the sample should be placed in an evidence bag and carefully marked for identification. Number the sample and label its location on your sketch and on a line item at the top of the page. The following figure shows an example of how evidence and photographs are recorded on such a form. Always keep in mind that your evidence may have to stand up to close scrutiny in a courtroom.





*GHS Forensic Laboratories*  
Helping You Solve Crime – With Science! ®

**Evidence Referral Form**

(This form is to be used to submit evidence for analysis by the GHS Forensic Laboratory )

Name of Submitting Organization / Team \_\_\_\_\_

Case # \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe the nature of the crime and a description of the crime scene  
(location ...) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Evidence you are sending :**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ - description \_\_\_\_\_

Analysis requested : \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ - description \_\_\_\_\_

Analysis requested : \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ - description \_\_\_\_\_

Analysis requested : \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ - description \_\_\_\_\_

Analysis requested : \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ - description \_\_\_\_\_

Analysis requested : \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ - description \_\_\_\_\_

Analysis requested : \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ - description \_\_\_\_\_

Analysis requested : \_\_\_\_\_

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**Other Information that may be helpful to the forensic technicians  
and scientists at *GHS Forensic Laboratories* :**

**Note : NO evidence will be examined by the lab if it does not have  
a chain of custody established !**

## Crime Scene Reconstruction – An Example

Crime scene reconstruction involves the team effort of all of the agencies that have gathered information in the criminal case – *The Medical Examiner (Coroner's Office)*, *the Law Enforcement Agency* investigating the crime and the *Criminalists* who analyze the evidence sent to the Forensics Laboratory.

### Law Enforcement Report – Case # 123456

19y/o male found on western edge of route 23 Saturday morning at approximately 3AM by a passerby.

- body found face down facing oncoming traffic
- a 9mm semiautomatic handgun was found approximately 10 cm from the victim's right hand – it was sent to ballistics lab for analysis
- there were no cartridge casings recovered at the scene
- the weapon had two rounds missing from the magazine and the gun was off safety
  
- neighbors were interviewed in the quiet residential and stated they heard no unusual sounds during the night – there were no reports of shots fired or other sounds of any disturbance
  
- Victim was identified at the scene as Mr. Joe Blow (by picture ID and wallet papers ...) He is a resident of Metropolis – the nearby city. He is unemployed and has had several police encounters - for petty larceny and drug possession. He is divorced and lives alone at 234 Durango Apts.

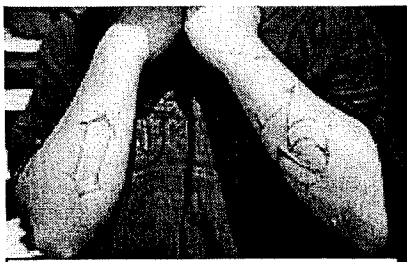
### Criminalist Report - Metropolis Police Forensic Laboratory

- Ballistics –
  - 9mm Glock handgun – serial # 12458980 – made in 1999 – reported stolen in 2001 in Philadelphia
  - gun test fired and found to be in working order
  - (1) bullet (9mm) was recovered from the jacket of the victim and analyzed – it compared with the rifling marks of the above weapon – there were no casings recovered
- Fingerprint evidence –

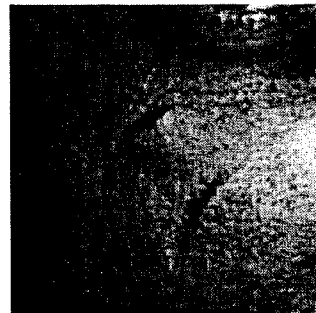
- latent fingerprints were lifted from the handle and barrel of the handgun – they matched Mr. Blow’s at several points
- analysis of soil found on the victim’s shoes did not match soil type found at the crime scene
  - shoe soil sample – sandy loam
  - soil at crime scene – clay loam
- tire impressions were noted approximately 2 meters south of victim – these appeared to be made when a vehicle existed the area at high speed. The direction of tire marks indicated the vehicle was moving toward Metropolis. Tire pattern analysis indicated a Goodyear Explorer 235 X 70 series – these tires were standard on Ford Pickup trucks between 1999 and 2002

**Medical Examiner Report – Mr. Joseph Blow**

- 19 y/o male – in apparent good health – at scene rectal temp = 75 degrees ,there was significant livor mortis about the back and posterior legs and head .A moderate degree of rigor mortis was found
- cause of death – GSW to anterior chest – damage to heart and aorta
  - small 2 mm wound noted on anterior CW 2 cm to right of sternocostal margin– extensive powder residue noted (16 cm diameter)
  - larger 4 cm wound on posterior CW near spine
  - bullet recovered from jacket (sent to ballistics lab)
- blood type analysis = A+
- toxicological screen done on blood and tissue samples :
  - + for ethanol and cocaine
- organs removed and analyzed – normal in size and weight ...
- tattoo present on right and left arms – see photo
- several scars noted on cheeks (well healed scars)
- stomach content analysis showed food – undigested pizza and beer



Tattoos on arms



Facial scars