



DNA Pre-Self-Assessment

Directions: Please read through each question or incomplete statement. Choose the correct answer or answers checking the box or boxes. You may select multiple answers for each question.

1. Whom would you identify as potential sources for elimination or reference samples in a residential burglary?
 - Police detectives, technicians and the dispatcher
 - Everyone who had lawful access to the crime scene
 - All family members and neighbors
 - None of the above answers are correct

2. CODIS is an electronic database that contains DNA profiles of _____?
 - Individuals who are convicted of certain crimes
 - All victims and suspects of rape and homicides
 - DNA profiles from unsolved crime scenes
 - None of the above answers are correct

3. In a sexual assault case, whom would you identify as potential sources for elimination or reference samples?
 - Victim's recent consensual partner(s)
 - Victim
 - Both of the above answers are correct
 - None of the above answers are correct

4. How is DNA evidence similar to fingerprints when used in suspect identification?
 - The method of collection for fingerprints and DNA is similar
 - 90% of all features must match for a positive identification
 - Evidence from the crime scene is compared to a known sample
 - None of the above answers are correct

5. What type(s) of collection implements most reduce the likelihood of contamination?
 - Disposable or sterile, single-use implements
 - Disposable or single-use implements that have been thoroughly cleaned
 - Re-usable implements that have been thoroughly cleaned between crime scenes
 - All of the above answers are correct

6. Identify the Combined DNA Index system's two searchable file systems?
 - Offender and Forensic
 - Convicted Offender and Victim
 - Suspect and Crime Scene
 - Forensic and Victim

7. When collecting old tissue, organ or bone with tissue attached:
- Pick up with a gloved hand
 - Evidence still connected together should be collected together
 - Evidence should be placed in a clean container and stored as cold as possible
 - Submit to the lab as soon as possible
 - All of the above answers is correct
8. DNA is _____?
- Different from cell to cell in a person
 - The fundamental building block for a individual's genetic makeup
 - The only material that can be used to identify a perpetrator
 - None of the above answers are correct
9. What type of evidence should be collected first?
- Fragile
 - Wet
 - Dry
 - Porous
10. DNA evidence can be used to identify?
- Accomplices
 - Potential suspects
 - Victims and perpetrators
 - All of the above answers are correct
11. What is the proper procedure for collecting wet evidence from a non-absorbent surface?
- Use a scalpel to scrape the stain into a paper bag
 - Use a new sterile swab or a piece of sterile gauze and air dry
 - Use saliva to moisten the swab
 - Use a moistened swab and air-dry before packaging
12. How does the CODIS aid in criminal investigations?
- To identify a suspect when no prior suspect existed
 - To link a crime to another crime scene
 - To eliminate potential suspects from a crime scene
 - To determine if a suspect (convicted offender) can be linked to a crime scene
 - All of the above answers are correct
13. To minimize cross contamination and exposure to infectious materials, what actions must you take at the crime scene?
- Use new gloves for each piece of evidence
 - Minimize contact with the sample
 - Use new or clean re-usable instruments when collecting evidence
 - All of the above

14. What is a proper procedure for collecting dried evidence from a porous surface?
- Collect the stained area and package in paper
 - Collect a portion of the unstained area as a control sample
 - Package all samples together
 - All of the above answers are correct
15. DNA evidence can _____?
- Be destroyed by environmental factors
 - Be used to identify a suspect or victim
 - Be used to determine when the suspect was at the crime scene
 - All of the above answers are correct
16. What is a proper procedure for collecting thick dried evidence from non-absorbent surfaces?
- Submit the entire item if possible
 - Use a new or clean scalpel blade to scrape crusted stains from the surface
 - Scrape the flakes into a clean plastic bag
 - Each sample should be collected into a proper evidence envelope or paper that has been folded into a paper bundle
17. How can DNA evidence be contaminated or compromised?
- DNA from another source is mixed with DNA relevant to the case
 - DNA evidence is collected and stored improperly
 - DNA evidence is exposed to environmental factors that cause deterioration
 - All of the above answers are correct
18. When collecting fingernail scrapings:
- Use the rounded end of a toothpick
 - Separate toothpicks should be used for each hand
 - Collect the scrapings and the toothpick into a piece of folded paper; one for each hand
 - All of the above answers are correct
 - A and C are correct
19. What is the purpose of maintaining the chain of custody of evidence?
- To establish a list of people who have entered the crime scene
 - To show that correct protocol and procedures were followed
 - To establish the identities of those people who have had physical possession of the evidence
 - To determine correct evidence collection and storage procedures
20. Why is it important to secure a place for temporary storage at a crime scene?
- This action helps to prevent contamination of DNA evidence
 - This action will help in maintaining the chain of custody of evidence
 - This action will help the first responding officer while he/she is interviewing witnesses

- All of the above answers are correct
21. Choose the best way(s) for cleaning re-usable implements when using them for evidence collection:
- Clean between evidence collection with a sterilizing solution such as bleach and water (1:10) and thoroughly rinse with water
 - Use dishwashing liquid to scrub the implements, then air-dry in the sun
 - Clean the implements with tap water, spray with a disinfectant and place back in the Evidence Technician Toolkit
 - None of the above answers are correct
22. How are elimination or reference samples used with DNA evidence?
- To determine if the evidence came from the suspect or someone else
 - To determine when the evidence was left at the crime scene
 - To demonstrate the probable cause needed for an arrest or indictment
 - All of the above answers are correct

Adapted from the National Institute of Justice *What Every Law Enforcement Officer Should Know About DNA Evidence*