

Introduction to Forensic Science

Latent Fingerprint Classification

Test A

1. T F When the hand touches a surface, some of the moisture is transferred from the hand to the object, leaving an impression. These are referred to as latent impressions.
2. T F On most surfaces latent impressions are readily visible.
3. T F A latent impression must be enhanced or developed to be collected and seen completely.
4. A patent impression occurs as the result of transferring a _____ material coating to the skin of the fingers. Paint, grease, blood, and ink are known as _____ material.
 - a. liquid
 - b. foreign
 - c. slick
 - d. unusual
5. When doing an ink standard, what is used as the transfer medium?
 - a. a brochure
 - b. a fingerprint card
 - c. an index card
6. T F Patent means evident or obvious.
7. T F Patent and latent impressions are both visible to the naked eye.
8. What is the difference between a latent print and a molded print?
 - a. a molded print has mold growing on it and a latent does not
 - b. a latent print is visible on the surface and a molded impression is invisible to the naked eye
 - c. a latent print is deposited on a surface; a molded impression is deposited into the surface
9. T F Molded impressions are left in clay, wet paint, blood, or tar.
10. What are three methods of discovering latent prints?
 - a. dusting with powders
 - b. Super Glue Fuming
 - c. spraying with ninhydrin
 - d. all of the above

11. T F Perspiration contains elements that fluoresce when illuminated by laser light.
12. T F Ninhydrin is the oldest method for visualizing latent prints.
13. Ninhydrin is often the preferred method because of:
a. its extreme sensitivity
b. easy application
c. it is brushed on
d. a and b
14. T F Cyanoacrylate Fuming is also known as Super Glue Fuming.
15. T F Super Glue Fuming is used on latent prints found on nonporous surfaces such as metals, electrical tape, leather, and plastic bags.
16. The object and the super glue are both enclosed in the fuming tank for _____ - _____ minutes until the print appears.
a. 1 hr. – 2 hr.
b. 10 min. – 20 min.
c. 30 min. – 60 min.
17. Super Glue fuming may now be done using a small portable unit consisting of a _____ wand.
a. stainless
b. handheld
c. magic
18. _____ and _____ powders are sufficient for most latent print work.
a. Blue and gray
b. Gold and blue
c. Gray and black
d. Black and blue
19. T F You should always use the powder that results in the highest contrast.
20. T F Fingerprint powders are applied with camel hair or fiberglass brushes.
21. What type of powder is used on plastics and leather?
a. fluorescent powder
b. magnetic-sensitive powder
c. blue powder
22. If you wish to use multiple methods on one surface you must use them in this order:

- a. first use ninhydrin, then fume with iodine
 - b. first fume with iodine, then use ninhydrin
23. What are the three general groups of fingerprint patterns?
- a. diamonds, hearts, clubs
 - b. loops, whorls, arches
 - c. latents, patents, molds
24. T F Sixty five percent of all prints are loops.
25. T F Five percent of all fingerprints are arches.
26. T F Thirty percent of all fingerprints are whorls.
27. _____ is that part of a loop or whorl in which appear the cores, deltas, and ridges with which we are concerned in classifying.
- a. pattern area
 - b. short ridge
28. T F Type Lines – may be defined as the two innermost ridges, which start parallel, diverge, and surround or tend to surround the pattern area.
29. T F A sufficient recurve may be defined as that part of a recurving ridge between the shoulders of a loop.
30. What is the easiest of all fingerprint patterns to recognize?
- a. whorl
 - b. loop
 - c. plain arch
 - d. accidental whorl
31. What are the three types of tented arches?
- a. whorl, patent, latent
 - b. angular, loop, thrust
32. What are the four types of whorls?
- a. loose, twister, tented, ordinary
 - b. singular, double, triple, quadruple
 - c. accidental, double loop, plain, central pocket
33. T F The central pocket loop whorl has two ridges and at least one delta.
34. T F Galton's details or characteristics are also known as minutia.
35. T F A bifurcation is the forking or dividing of one line into two.

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Test A - Answer Key

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. B
5. B
6. T
7. F
8. C
9. T
10. D
11. T
12. F

13. D
14. T
15. T
16. C
17. B
18. C
19. T
20. T
21. B
22. B
23. B
24. T

25. T
26. T
27. A
28. T
29. T
30. C
31. B
32. C
33. F
34. T
35. T

Introduction to Forensic Science

Latent Fingerprint Classification Test B

1. The object and the super glue are both enclosed in the fuming tank for _____ - _____ minutes until the print appears.
 - a. 1 hr. – 2 hr.
 - b. 10 min. – 20 min.
 - c. 30 min. – 60 min.
2. Super Glue fuming may now be done using a small portable unit consisting of a _____ wand.
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35. T F Super Glue Fuming is used on latent prints found on nonporous surfaces such as metals, electrical tape, leather, and plastic bags.

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Test B - Answer Key

1. C	13.T	25.B
2. B	14.T	26.T
3. C	15.C	27.F
4. T	16.B	28.C
5. T	17.C	29.T
6. B	18.F	30.D
7. B	19.T	31.T
8. B	20.T	32.F
9. T	21.T	33.D
10.T	22.F	34.T
11.T	23.T	35.T
12.A	24.B	