

Forensic Law: Detecting Forgery Syllabus

1. Introduction to Forensic Science

- What is Forensic science?
- Types of Forensic Investigations.
- Role of science in Criminal Justice System.
- Historic Evolution of Forensic Science.
- Importance of Forensic Science in legal career.
- Necessity of Forensic Science in Criminal Investigation.
- What all careers are available in Forensic Science?
- Summary

2. Questioned documents and their legal aspects.

- What are Documents?
- Legal Definition of Documents and Forgery (Referring to Indian Evidence act, Indian Penal Code, General Clause Act, CPC and CRPC)
- What is forgery?
- Legal Definition of forgery
- Punishment for forgery
- What are questioned documents?
- Preliminary examination of Questioned Document.
- Other relevant legal provisions
- Summary

3. Case laws related to forensic science and handwriting expert.

- Central provisions of law on handwriting expert
- The State (Delhi Administration) v. Pali Ram
- State of Maharashtra & ors. v. Sukhdev Singh Alias Sukha & ors
- O. Bharatan v. K. Sudhakaran and another
- State through CBI v. S.J. Choudhary

- Murarilal v. State of M.P.
- Farhruddin v. The State of Madhya Pradesh
- State of Himachal Pradesh v. Jai Lal and others
- Summary

4. Principles of handwriting examination

- Introduction to handwriting
- Features of handwriting
- Basic principles of the science of handwriting (Signatures Comparison)
- Basic principles of the science of handwriting (Signature Identification)
- Influences factors for handwriting
- Summary

5. Individualization from handwriting

- Different factors that play an important role in individualization from handwriting.
- The movement of hand – Whole-arm, Forearm, Wrist, Finger
- Pen pressure- Light, Graduated, Medium, Heavy
- Pen position
- Shading
- Type of slant- Right handed, Left handed, Straight
- Speed of writing
- Summary

6. Other parameters for individualization from handwriting.

- Other parameters that effect handwriting
- Spacing
- Line quality
- Retouching
- Tremors
- Types of alignment- Even, Arched, Garland, Irregular, Ascending or descending
- Arrangement

- Size
- Identification of handwriting
- Graphology
- Summary

7. Methods to collect handwriting samples

- Collection standards and its types
- Collected standards- Amount of Standard writing, Writing conditions, Writing instruments and paper variety, Similarity of subject matter , relative data
- Requested standards
- Selection of text
- Standards sources
- Verification of sources
- Summary

8. Identification of forgery

- Introduction to identification of forgery
- Characteristics of forged document
- Laws related to forgery
- Kinds of forgery - Simulated, Traced, by memory and by impersonation.
- Summary

9. Characteristics which help in identification of forgery

- Characteristics of forgery
- Disputed signatures showing superior skills
- Tremors in simulated forgery
- Difference in writing skills
- Difference between skilled writers than unskilled writer.
- Examination of traced forgery
- Examination of forgery by memory
- Summary

10. Concept of Erasure

- Meaning of Erasure
- Types – Chemical and Physical
- Detection of Erasure
- Growth of Erasure
- Age of document
- Summary

11. Introduction to Writing Instruments

- Introduction
- Types of writing instruments– Ball pen, Fountain pen, Pencil, roller pens and Porous tip pens
- Paper – Manufacturing process and difference in paper
- Paper used as writing surface
- Other surfaces used for writing
- Typewriters
- Summary

12. Disguise handwriting

- Introduction of disguise handwriting
- Types of disguise handwriting
- Purpose of disguise handwriting
- Features of disguise handwriting
- Steps to Identification of disguise handwriting
- Summary

13. Identification of handprint and numerals

- Introduction to forensic document examination
- Examination of hand printing
- Examination of Numerals
- Class and individual characteristics
- Disguised hand printing and numerals
- Summary

14. Introduction to digital documents

- Meaning of Digital Documents and watermark
- Production of digital watermarks
- Digital signature
- Working of digital signature
- Benefits of digital signature
- Forgery detection in watermarks and digital signature
- Summary

15. Expert witness role in court of law

- Introduction
- Conduct of witness
- Content
- The role of counsel- Cross-examination
- Presentation method
- Summary

16. Practical class

- Introduction to handwriting comparison
- Sample comparison of handwriting and signature for practical knowledge.
- Typewriter and their individuality- based on Alignment, Pen pause, size, Pen lift, Line quality etc.
- Summary

17. Recent developments

- Problems in application of forensic findings
- Relation with other laws
- Technological and other recent developments
- Reforms and solutions
- Future of Forensic science
- Summary

18. Career options

- Growing scope
 - Opportunities in India
 - International opportunities
 - Qualifications required to be a practitioner
 - Way to develop skills
 - Summary
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