H. Forensic Science Unit 1 Study Guide

1. What is Locard’s Exchange Principle?
2. Where is the world’s largest forensic laboratory? What is the oldest forensic lab?
3. What is an observation? What is perception(inference)?
4. What factors may influence eyewitness accounts of an event?
5. What important principle was established in the case of *Frye v. United States*.
6. What are the Federal Rules of Evidence?
7. How did the court’s ruling in the case of *Daubert v Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc* affect the admissibility of scientific evidence in federal courts?
8. What is physical evidence?
9. What is the first step in crime-scene investigation? Why is this critical?
10. What is the main objective in collecting and packaging physical evidence?
11. Why is it important to package items of physical evidence in separate containers?
12. What is a paper bindle (aka a druggist fold) and why is it used?
13. Define chain of custody and explain why maintaining a proper chain of custody is important.
14. What is a standard/reference sample and why is it important to the criminalist?
15. Distinguish between circumstantial evidence and direct evidence?
16. How does individual evidence differ from class evidence?
17. What information must be included in any notes taken at the crime scene?
18. What is a rough sketch and what information must it accurately reflect?
19. How does a finished sketch differ from a rough sketch?
20. How is comparison different than identification?
21. What are natural variations and how do they affect evidence?
22. An investigator at a murder scene notes signs of a prolonged struggle between the attacker and the victim. Name at least three types of physical evidence for which the investigator would likely collect standard/reference samples and explain why he or she would collect them.