Key Objectives for Forensic Science Test #1 (Chapters 1 and 2)

For the following list of objectives, please write out the information that would need to know to accomplish the objective.

Write them on notebook paper by number and leave an empty line between numbers. When you are done, staple this paper to the top of your additional papers of information.

You should be able to:

1. Define observation
2. Describe what changes occur in the brain when memories are formed.
3. Describe why we have perceptual fallacies and how this affects our memories of events
4. Describe examples of factors influencing eyewitness accounts of events
5. Compare the reliability of eyewitness testimony to what actually happened
6. Discuss how some researchers feel police line-ups can be improved
7. Relate observation skills to their use in forensic science
8. Define forensic science and how it got its name
9. Define Locard’s Exchange Principle
10. Identify four examples of trace evidence
11. Distinguish between direct and circumstantial evidence
12. Distinguish between physical and biological evidence
13. Identify the type of professionals who are present at a crime scene
14. Summarize the seven steps of a crime scene investigation
15. Explain the importance of securing the crime scene
16. Identify the methods by which a crime scene is documented
17. Demonstrate proper technique in collecting and packaging trace evidence
18. Discuss the responsibilities of the first police officer that arrives at a crime scene
19. Explain the steps to be taken to thoroughly record the crime scene
20. Describe proper procedures for conducting a systematic search of a crime scene for physical evidence
21. Discuss what must be included on a crime scene sketch
22. Describe proper techniques for packaging common types of physical evidence
23. Define and understand the concept of chain of custody / continuity of possession
24. Explain what cross-contamination of evidence is and why it must be avoided