

Forensics Day 91 Class vs Individual Evidence Answer Key

Definitions:

5 points each, lose 1 point if your answer is not in a complete sentence.

Class Characteristics are characteristics that are common to a group or persons.

Individual Characteristics can be identified as having originated with a particular person or source.

Items:

2 points each, one for saying if it is class or individual characteristics, and the other point for your explanation. These are just samples answers, your explanations may not match these exactly.

Item 1:

Class, because the two “stick up” notes have similar characteristics.

Item 2:

Either: Individual, because DNA can be extracted if the hair tag is still attached thus the hair can be identified as belonging to one person only, except for the case of identical twins.

Or: Class, because the hair can be compared with similar samples but not uniquely identified (no hair tag attached).

Either answer is correct.

Item 3:

Class, because the rolls can be compared to one another to see if they are similar.

Item 4:

Individual, because fingerprints are unique to each person.

Item 5:

Individual, because the match can be aligned up with a particular book of matches.

Item 6:

Class, because the piece of yellow paper can be compared to the pad of paper to see if they are similar.

Item 7:

Individual, because the duct tape can be matched up exactly.

Item 8:

Individual, because DNA is statistically unique to each person unless you have identical twins.

Item 9:

Class, because the wearer of the white t-shirt cannot be uniquely identified since they are many people wearing white t-shirts.

Item 10:

Individual, because the striations on a bullet are unique to each weapon it is fired from.