

Master Evidence Technician Certification – Practical Exam

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Master Evidence Technician Certification practical exam is to make sure the applicant has the skill set necessary to preserve, document, collect, and process evidence found at a crime scene.

STRUCTURE:

The applicant will be given a mock crime scene to process. The mock crime scene may include any items from the "Required Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities" list below. The applicant will also have a "Question and Answer" section of common forensic science/crime scene processing questions the applicant is likely to have to answer when testifying in court.

REQUIRED SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, AND ABILITIES:

Photography:

1. Overall, Midrange (Evidence Establishing Photographs), Close Up, Macro Photographs
2. Low light photography – Timed exposure and/or painting with light
3. Use of the DSLR camera in the Aperture Priority, Shutter Priority, and Manual Mode
4. Photography of Tire and/or Shoe impressions
5. Close up or Macro photographs of tool mark impressions, bloodstains, bullet holes, or trace evidence.
6. Flash Photography – Proper use of the flash via a flash cord or off camera

Diagramming

1. Completion of a rough sketch
2. Completion of a finished sketch with the necessary elements
3. The finished sketch can be done using a computer program or by hand
4. Proficiency in at least 2 measuring methods

Bloodstains

1. Document a bloodstain on a wall using either the road mapping method or grid method.
2. Proper bloodstain photography including Overall, Midrange, Close up and Macro photographs.
3. Calculation of the angle of impact of the bloodstain using measurements taken by the applicant.
4. Use of Bluestar/Luminol to find blood
5. Bluestar/Luminol photography

Note: This area may be tested by a question and answer session or hands on with items or a combination of both

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Fingerprinting

1. The applicant should know the difference between a porous surface and a non-porous surface.
2. The applicant should possess the knowledge of how to process various items such as:
 - a. Beverage can, bottle, or container
 - b. Paper – Notebook, computer, register tape
 - c. Cardboard – Regular and glossy
 - d. Bare wood
 - e. Painted drywall
 - f. Glass
 - g. Skin – Live or deceased victim
 - h. Items with difficult to lift surfaces

Note: This area may be tested by a question and answer session or hands on with items or a combination of both.

Trace Evidence

1. Collection and documentation of trace evidence using tape lifts
2. Discovery of trace evidence using an Alternate Light Source
3. Pros/Cons of using tweezers to collect trace evidence

Note: This area may be tested by a question and answer session or hands on with items or a combination of both

Shooting Scene Documentation

1. Photographing a shooting scene using Overall, Midrange, Close Up, and Macro Photography
2. Detailed sketch of the area of the crime scene that involves bullet holes
3. Ability to use a trajectory rod, protractor, and a plumb line to obtain the vertical angle and azimuth of the bullet path

Note: This area may be tested by a question and answer session or hands on with items or a combination of both

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SCHEDULING:

When the applicant is ready to take the practical exam they should contact Law Enforcement Training Officer Rick Meadows by email at Richard.meadows@ohioattorneygeneral.gov to schedule the practical exam. The exam is FREE and will be held at the OPOTA main campus in London, but lunch is not included. The applicant will be provided 1 hour for lunch.

GRADING:

The applicant will be graded on a pass/fail basis based on their total performance. If an applicant fails, they will be provided remedial instruction in the areas they are deficient and will be given an opportunity to retake the portion of the practical exam they failed at a later date.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAM:

The applicant will only be tested on subjects that are covered in the core classes of the Master Evidence Technician Certification program.

These core classes include:

Evidence Technician
Crime Scene Photography I (Formerly Basic Photography)
Crime Scene Photography II (Formerly Crime Scene and Evidence Photography)
Bloodstain Evidence

The applicant should review any textbooks, class material, handouts, or practical exercises from the core classes to prepare for the practical exam. The core classes of the Master Evidence Technician Certification program are designed using the study material for the "Certified Crime Scene Investigator" certificate issued by the International Association for Identification.

Required reading for the Certified Crime Scene Investigator exam:

- ***Crime Scene Photography, Edition II***, by Edward Robinson, 2010, Elsevier Science & Technology Books (All Chapters EXCEPT 1, 8 and 12)
- ***Practical Crime Scene Processing and Investigation***, 2nd ed. by Ross M. Gardner, 2012, CRC Press. Note: The book is provided to the students in the 80 hour Evidence Technician class at OPOTA.

If the applicant has any questions about preparing for any of the required skills, knowledge, and abilities they should contact Law Enforcement Training Officer Rick Meadows for assistance at Richard.meadows@ohioattorneygeneral.gov.