Introduction to Forensic Science

Serial Killers

Test A

Choose the best answer(s) for each question.
There may be more than one correct answer for each question.

1. T   F       A serial murder is often a repetitive homicide where the offender has no previous acquaintance with his victim.

2. T   F  Serial killers usually kill their victims one-on-one, they do not usually have partners.

3. Serial murderers are nearly always males who are prompted by sexual or aggressive drives to exert ______ through killing
   a. power
   b. prestige
   c. pressure
   d. none of the above

4. A characteristic pattern of behavior repeated in a series of offenses to successfully complete an offense is called the
   a. Chain reaction
   b. Psychotic state
   c. Signature
   d. Modus operandi

5. T   F  Transport (as noted in Atcherley's categories of modus operandi) means method of transportation used by the serial killer.

6. Which of the following are categories of modus operandi devised by Major L.W. Atcherley, an English constable in the 1800's?
   a. Entry
   b. Means
   c. Object
   d. Time
   e. All of the Above

7. T   F  When the serial killer impersonates a plumber or cable TV repair person to gain access to the victim's home, this is referred to as his style.

8. T   F  The murderer's psychological calling card is known as his signature. These characteristics are rarely repeated at several crime scenes.

9. Poisoning the cat or eating a sandwich at the scene after murdering someone is known as a:
   a. Trademark
   b. Tale
   c. Style
10. What three pieces of evidence led to the conviction of Richard Ramirez, the Night Stalker?
   a. An AC/DC baseball cap, a fingerprint recovered from a stolen car, a size 11 1/2 Avia shoeprint
   b. A Dodgers baseball cap, a fingerprint recovered from a machete, a size 9 Avia shoeprint
   c. A Green Day baseball cap, a fingerprint recovered from a 22-caliber weapon, a size 10 1/2 Avia shoeprint

11. T F Ted Bundy's choice of female victims with blonde or light brown hair parted down the middle was an example of a signature behavior.

12. What type of evidence was used to obtain the arrest warrant of Gary Ridgway, The Green River Killer?
   a. Saliva and hair
   b. Footprints
   c. Bullet Fragments
   d. None of the above

13. T F John Wayne Gacy's victims were primarily older men in the military.

14. A murderer who douses his victim with gasoline and sets her on fire to cover up the crime, and does so to evade detection has executed a precautionary act. Is a precautionary act a modus operandi behavior or a signature behavior?
   a. modus operandi
   b. signature

15. The Zodiac killer's modus operandi included which of the following?
   a. Attacking couples on weekends
   b. Attacking his victims near water
   c. Using a different weapon and automobile each time
   d. All of the above

16. T F Serial killers are often not very intelligent.

17. Serial killers often have the following qualities:
   a. Ability to differentiate right from wrong
   b. Superficial charm
   c. No conscience
   d. All of the above

18. Two reasons law enforcement officers have trouble locating serial killers are:
   a. Serial killers are highly mobile
   b. Serial killers ate too much cereal as small children
   c. Serial killers often have no prior association with the victim
   d. A and C

19. T F The Charles Manson family could be considered both mass murderers and serial murderers, for they killed several people at one event on one day and then later went on to kill several people at another event on another day.
20. T F Mass murder is the killing of several people during one incident, such as the Columbine High School murders.

21. Mass murders often end with:
   a. Suicide of suspect
   b. Surrender of suspect after negotiations
   c. Death of suspect as police surround him/her
   d. All of the above

22. T F Serial killing is different from mass murder in that serial murders occur during separate events, on different days and times.

23. The FBI's classification of types of serial killers includes:
   a. Organized
   b. Disorganized
   c. Both

24. What three elements indicate an organized serial killer?
   a. Brings instruments of the crime to the scene
   b. Plans the event over several weeks or months
   c. Married with steady employment
   d. Lives on the fringes of society
   e. A, B, C

25. T F A disorganized serial killer acts spontaneously, with no planning.

26. T F The most common psychological type of serial killer is power oriented. He enjoys having dominion over the victim.

27. David Berkowitz, the "Son of Sam", was what type of serial killer?
   a. Power oriented
   b. Mission oriented
   c. Visionary

28. The purpose of ViCAP, the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program is to:
   a. Eliminate the lack of cooperation and communication between police agencies
   b. Speed up the gathering of a list of suspects
   c. Recognize a murder may be part of a series of murders earlier in the investigation
   d. All of the above

29. Female serial killers are often categorized as:
   a. Comfort - those who kill for monetary or other material gain
   b. Mobsters - who kill as part of a crime family
   c. Disciple-those who kill at the direction of a guru or charismatic person
   d. A and C

30. T F A psychological profile is a report that focuses on a particular type of crime and the personality and behavior of the type of criminal who perpetrates this type of crime.
31. Many serial killers display at least one trait of the McDonald triad. Which of these traits are included in the McDonald triad?
   a. Bedwetting past the age of ten
   b. Animal abuse
   c. History of arson
   d. All of the above

32. T F Most serial killers fall into the following categories, Caucasian, 18-32 years of age, and male.

33. T F There are exceptions to the typical serial killer profile. Dorothea Puente, who murdered tenants at her Sacramento boarding house, was an exception to the typical profile of a serial killer.

34. Ted Bundy was arrested through routine police work involving a stolen
   a. Cd player
   b. Car stereo
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35. T F David Berkowitz, known as the "Son of Sam", was captured because an alert officer saw a machine gun in Berkowitz's car when the officer went to follow up on a parking ticket Berkowitz had received while parked near the site of one the murders he committed.
Introduction to Forensic Science

Serial Killers - Test A Answer Key

1. T
2. T
3. A
4. D
5. T
6. E
7. T
8. F
9. A
10. A
11. T
12. A
13. F
14. A
15. D
16. F
17. D
18. D
19. T
20. T
21. D
22. T
23. C
24. E
25. T
26. T
27. C
28. D
29. D
30. T
31. D
32. T
33. T
34. C
35. T
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Serial Killers - Test B

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Serial Killers
Test B  Answer Key

1. A
2. T
3. A
4. F
5. A
6. D
7. F
8. D
9. D
10. T
11. T
12. D
13. T
14. C
15. E
16. T
17. T
18. C
19. D
20. D
21. T
22. D
23. T
24. T
25. C
26. T
27. T
28. T
29. A
30. D
31. T
32. E
33. T
34. F
35. A