CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION
&
CRIMINAL JUSTICE BLUEPRINT

This Blueprint contains the subject matter content of this Skill Connect Assessment. This Blueprint does **NOT** contain the information one would need to fully prepare for a SkillsUSA Championships contest. Please refer to the *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* CD-ROM for the current year or purchase and download the relevant "Contest Singles." Both are available through *www.skillsusa.org* > Shop > Educational Materials Catalog.

Standards and Competencies

Explain concepts and applications of the major principles of federal laws related to criminal justice and crime scene investigation

- Identify major themes of constitutional law and criminal law
- Describe applicable laws of arrest
- Describe rules of evidence
- Explain and demonstrate knowledge of federal laws related to search and seizure
- Describe principles of juvenile law
- Explain surcharges and civil and criminal liabilities

Demonstrate standard patrol procedures in a simulated situation

- Describe commonly accepted procedures used for patrol
- Plan patrol routes and practices
- Use protocols in communicating with dispatcher
- Describe safe operation of a police vehicle
- Direct and control traffic as needed

Investigate a traffic report and traffic accidents using standard procedures in a given situation

- Write a clear and concise report
- Use proper grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Identify persons involved
- Provide a full description of the person(s) and vehicle(s) involved
- Obtain a statement from the victim
- Accurately describe an incident
- Conduct a records check of suspicious subjects
- Exhibit defensive techniques when encountering a suspicious subject

Demonstrate the proper use of firearms and chemical agents used in law enforcement situations

- Describe standard protocols that govern the use of firearms and chemical agents
- Identify components of common firearms and chemical agents
- Explain the use and effect of common firearms and chemical agents
- Show the use of a firearm in a simulated situation
- Show the use of a chemical agent in simulated situation

Demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed for emergency and crisis situations encountered by law enforcement officers

- Use crisis intervention techniques

- Apply basic elements of emergency response
- Demonstrate first aid procedures
- Demonstrate water safety and rescue procedures
- Explain first responder techniques

Explain trial procedures and provide testimony for a given situation
- Explain typical trial procedures
- Describe roles of those involved in trials and hearings
- Prepare for trial as a witness
- Provide testimony in a given situation

Demonstrate communication and interpersonal skills used in criminal justice and crime scene investigation situations
- Show courtesy and professionalism
- Listen intently to others and use eye contact to establish rapport
- Shake hands and introduce self to others
- Speak clearly and effectively and use proper grammar
- Answer questions precisely
- Follow protocol in communicating to a dispatcher

Describe or explain activities prior to conducting a crime scene search
- Obtain information from the responding officer and secure the scene
- Demonstrate proper procedures for checking vital signs of a victim and certifying death of a victim

Explain and demonstrate the use of crime scene photography
- Demonstrate proper crime scene photography
- Document photographs taken at the crime scene

Demonstrate standard procedures for searching for, collecting, removing and evaluating physical evidence from a crime scene
- Explain and demonstrate appropriate search method to use
- Identify evidence at a crime scene
- Document location where evidence was collected
- Explain methods for collecting DNA evidence
- Explain and demonstrate proper bagging and marking of all evidence
- Follow chain of custody protocols

Draw a crime scene sketch using proper measurements, symbols and labels
- Demonstrate proper use of measurements
- Demonstrate proper use of symbols and labels

Apply proper procedures for collecting clear and legible latent fingerprints from a crime scene
- Explain and demonstrate the ability to properly lift and mount a latent fingerprint from a designated item of evidence
- Demonstrate the proper technique for marking a latent fingerprint card
- Check for legibility of collected prints

Demonstrate procedures to arrest and search a subject in a simulated situation
- Approach subject safely and professionally and use procedures that insure safety at all times
- Obtain identification from subject
- Identify and describe probable cause prior to arrest
- Check for active warrants through dispatcher
- Place subject under arrest and notify subject of reason for arrest

- Use safe handcuffing procedure to secure subject
- Pat down or search subject using safe procedure
- Find and remove weapons from subject
- Secure removed weapons

Describe the operations of home and commercial security systems
- Identify types of security systems
- Explain the operation of various types of security systems

Committee Identified Academic Skills

The SkillsUSA national technical committee has identified that the following academic skills are embedded in the crime scene investigation training program and assessment:

Math Skills
- Measure angles
- Use the rectangular coordinate method to locate evidence (uses two fixed reference points and right angles to indicate the exact location of evidence in the crime scene)
- Apply transformations (rotate or turn, reflect or flip, translate or slide, and dilate or scale) to geometric figures
- Construct three-dimensional models
- Organize and describe data using matrixes
- Find arc length and the area of a sector

Science Skills
- Plan and conduct a scientific investigation
- Use the proper method for developing latent fingerprints
- Identify and demonstrate necessary safety precautions for handling and processing DNA evidence
- Use knowledge of the particle theory of matter
- Describe and recognize elements, compounds, mixtures, acids, bases and salts
- Describe and recognize solids, liquids and gases
- Describe characteristics of types of matter based on physical and chemical properties
- Use knowledge of physical properties (shape, density, solubility, odor, melting point, boiling point, color)
- Use knowledge of chemical properties (acidity, basicity, combustibility, reactivity)
- Describe phases of matter
- Describe and identify physical changes to matter
- Predict chemical changes to matter (types of reactions, reactants and products, and balanced equations)
- Use knowledge of speed, velocity and acceleration
- Use knowledge of Newton's laws of motion
- Use knowledge of simple machines, compound machines, powered vehicles, rockets and restraining devices

Language Arts Skills
- Provide information in conversations and in group discussions
- Provide information in oral presentations
- Demonstrate use of verbal communication skills, such as word choice, pitch, feeling, tone and voice
- Demonstrate use of nonverbal communication skills, such as eye contact, posture and gestures using interviewing techniques to gain information
- Organize and synthesize information for use in written and oral presentations
- Demonstrate informational writing
- Edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure and paragraphing

- Demonstrate comprehension of a variety of informational texts
- Use text structures to aid comprehension
- Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate reference materials
- Use print, electronic databases and online resources to access information in books and articles
- Demonstrate narrative writing

Connections to National Standards

State-level academic curriculum specialists identified the following connections to national academic standards.

Math Standards

- Algebra
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Data analysis and probability
- Problem solving
- Reasoning and proof
- Communication
- Connections
- Representation

Source: NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics. To view high school standards, visit: standards.nctm.org/document/chapter7/index.htm. Select "Standards" from menu.

Science Standards

- Understands the principles of heredity and related concepts
- Understands the structure and function of cells and organisms
- Understands the structure and properties of matter
- Understands the nature of scientific knowledge
- Understands the nature of scientific inquiry
- Understands biological evolution and the diversity of life

Source: McREL compendium of national science standards. To view and search the compendium, visit: www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/.

Language Arts Standards

- Students adjust their use of spoken, written and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes
- Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and nonprint texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience
- Students use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion and the exchange of information)
- Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes
- Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language and genre to create, critique and discuss print and nonprint texts
- Students use a variety of technological and information resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge

Source: IRA/NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts. To view the standards, visit: www.readwritethink.org/standards/index.html.