

Multiple choice answer instructions

Authorship

The first digit in your answer code for each of the questioned signatures refers to the authorship opinion. This digit is either a 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5. The levels you have to choose from are as follows:

1. The questioned signature **was written by** the writer of the signature specimens. This is an opinion of ‘moral certainty’ on the part of the examiner.
For some examiners this opinion level translates into *‘very strong support for the proposition that the questioned signature was written by the writer of the signature specimens’*.
2. There are indications that the questioned signature **was written by** the writer of the signature specimens.
For some examiners this opinion translates to statements such as *‘moderate support for the proposition that the questioned signature was written by the writer of the signature specimens’* or *‘it is probable that the questioned signature was written by the writer of the signature specimens’*.
3. **No opinion** can be expressed as to whether or not the questioned signature was written by the writer of the signature specimens. *This is an inconclusive opinion.*
4. There are indications that the questioned signature **was not written by** the writer of the signature specimens.
For some examiners this opinion translates to statements such as *‘moderate support for the proposition that the questioned signature was not written by the writer of the signature specimens’* or *‘it is probable that the questioned signature was not written by the writer of the signature specimens’*.
5. The questioned signature **was not written by** the writer of the signature specimens. This is an opinion of ‘moral certainty’ on the part of the examiner.
For some examiners this opinion level translates into *‘very strong support for the proposition that the questioned signature was not written by the writer of the signature specimens’*.

Process

The second digit in your answer code for each of the questioned signatures refers to the opinion regarding the process by which the questioned signature was produced. This digit is either a 1, 2 or 3. The strength of the process opinion is not required. ‘There is evidence that...’ translates to an opinion strength of ‘indications’ or ‘probable’ or higher. The levels you have to choose from are as follows:

1. There is evidence that the questioned signature **was written naturally** (that is, there is no evidence of a disguise and/or a simulation process).
2. There is evidence that the questioned signature **was written** using a disguise and/or a simulation process.
3. **No opinion** can be expressed as to the process by which the questioned signature was produced.

Disguise process: an attempt by a writer to purposefully alter their signature in order to avoid being identified or for them to deny writing the signature.

Simulation process: an attempt by the writer to imitate the signature characteristics of a visual or mental model. This imitation behaviour can either be the specimen writer imitating their own signature characteristics (as a form of disguise or resulting from acute internal or external influences) or someone other than the specimen writer ‘forging’ the specimen writer’s signature characteristics.