



**SIGNATURE SKILL VALIDATION TRIAL**  
**July 2004**

**INFORMATION**

This trial is a signature barrage test. The trial aims to probe whether examiners have skill at determining whether or not the writer of a set of 16 known signatures (specimens) wrote each of 100 questioned signatures.

These questioned signatures are either genuine (written by the specimen writer), simulations of the specimen writer's signature or disguised.

All signatures are non-originals.

- The originals of the signatures were written using black ball-point pens.
- Each image was produced by a scanning and ink-jet printing process.
- All images are original size.

The enclosed CD contains a pdf file of the original scans on the questioned and specimen material should you require enlargements of the images. To view the images use Acrobat Reader 4 or 5. Acrobat Reader 5 is preferable giving better images when using lower magnifications.

Answers submitted may be either peer-reviewed responses or individual responses (see point 6 of "Instructions").

**INSTRUCTIONS**

We ask that you strictly follow these instructions.

1. Make sure you have the following:

- Five pages, bearing 16 signature specimens.
- Questioned signatures numbered 'Q001' to 'Q100'.
- An answer booklet.

2. For each questioned signature you are required to compare it to the specimen material and provide a response on the answer sheet. To do this read carefully the 'Multiple choice answer instructions' contained within the answer booklet.

3. Ensure that all questioned signature codes (Q1 to Q100) in the answer booklet have a written response. **Any codes in the answer booklet which are not answered, or which bear answers that are not clear, will be recorded by the experimenters as 'inconclusive'.**

4. Assume (correctly) that all signature samples supplied are a true and accurate representation of the signature from which they were reproduced.

5. Assume (correctly) that the date range of the specimen signatures is appropriate and that the specimen signatures are the normal signature of the specimen writer.
6. For peer-reviewed results both examiners must be registered participants with this laboratory. Where there are an even number of individuals in a participating laboratory an individual examiner, whether the principal examiner or the peer review examiner, can only participate once. Where there are an odd number of examiners in a participating laboratory, one individual may perform peer review on two booklets but can not be a principal examiner. Under no circumstances should your answer booklet represent the responses of more than two individuals (principal and peer review examiner).
7. **Examiners, other than the principal and peer review examiner, are not permitted to discuss the trial or their results with any party, either internal or external to their participating laboratory, prior to the submission of answers, by all participating parties, to La Trobe University.**

Should you require assistance, or have any questions, please direct these to Bryan Found on email:

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and cc. to:

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Thank you for your participation in this trial.