

SYLLABUS

The Diploma course in Human Identification (DipFHID) will cover a wide range of topics which will include many but not all of the areas shown in the syllabus below.

Candidates will be expected to have a *theoretical* knowledge of the basic facts and principles of all forms of medico-legal human identification techniques and the reasons for the form of those processes. Topics to be covered for the examination include:

- 1) Process management. Candidates must understand and be able to describe:
 - a) operating procedures for identification including scientific methods of investigation;
 - b) Operating procedures in the investigation of multiple deaths with particular reference to catastrophes and mass graves and including the usage of databases for missing persons;
 - c) all types of documentation used in the investigative process and chain of evidence;
 - d) property in detail;

- 2) Living persons and the non-skeletonised deceased. Candidates must be able to describe and discuss:
 - a) DNA methodology in identification;
 - b) odontology procedures;
 - c) fingerprint procedures;
 - d) voice recognition techniques;
 - e) ear print techniques;
 - f) the use of photographs and other images such as CCTV to establish identification; including principles of gait analysis and height assessment techniques;
 - g) Bertillonage;
 - h) the use of handwriting analysis;
 - i) offender profiling;
 - j) radiography techniques;
 - k) age assessment;
 - l) analysis of hair and other samples such as fingernails;

- m) the use of witness reports;
- n) the psychology of recognition and the effectiveness of Identity Parades;
- o) the use of scars, tattoos, birthmarks and other visual clues, such as missing limbs, eye colour etc. for identification;
- p) the use of personal property such as clothing, jewellery and other possessions to assist identification;
- q) specimen sampling;
- r) familial trends and racial characteristics;
- s) the use of histology;
- t) the interpretation of pathology and data from post mortem reports;
- u) normal decomposition processes including mummification and adipocere;
- v) identification of an individual from consideration of toxicology;
- w) identification in relation to the effects of modification of the cadaver by water, burning, mutilation, embalming;
- x) sexing.

3) Human skeleton. Candidates must be able to describe and discuss:

- a) osteology;
- b) human tooth and bone morphology;
- c) bone and teeth identification;
- d) age assessments from teeth;
- e) sexing;
- f) the use of personal property such as clothing, jewellery and other possessions to assist identification;
- g) racial characteristics.

4) Legal aspects and other issues. Candidates must have a good understanding and be able to discuss accurately the important issues, relevant to forensic human identification, concerning:

- a) UK legal systems and international law;
- b) the responsibilities of Coroners and Procurators Fiscal;

- c) death rites;
- d) repatriation to and from the UK;
- e) Human Rights legislation;
- f) Data Protection legislation;
- g) inquests;
- h) crime scenes;
- i) medical and dental records;
- j) confidentiality and access;
- k) casualty bureaux;
- l) missing persons;
- m) paternity;
- n) Interpol;
- o) professional press releases;
- p) handwriting;
- q) the impact of information technology.