

1. One of the most useful consequences of the discovery of DNA has been the  
2. development of DNA testing, a technique for identifying individuals that was  
3. first developed in the United Kingdom in 1984. Although all people share  
4. about 99.9 percent of their DNA, the remaining 0.1 percent is sufficiently  
5. distinct to allow scientists to create DNA “fingerprints” of people. Since the  
6. late 1980s, this technique has been used to link suspects to crime scenes,  
7. usually by analyzing blood or other body fluids left behind.

8. Although not entirely foolproof, DNA testing is considered a far more  
9. reliable method of identifying criminals than most previous techniques. It has  
10. also turned out to have another, even more important application: By  
11. examining DNA left behind in past criminal cases, it is possible to exonerate  
12. people convicted of crimes they did not commit.

13. This has made lawyers aware of just how common mistaken convictions  
14. are. One of the first groups to publicize this was the Innocence Project, a  
15. nonprofit litigation and public policy organization founded in New York in  
16. 1992 with the specific aim of using DNA evidence to clear people wrongly  
17. convicted of crimes. By April 2010, more than 250 people in the United States  
18. had been cleared in this way.

19. Innocence Project lawyers, however, have not stopped there. By closely  
20. examining the wrongful convictions they had uncovered, they were able to  
21. analyze the factors that caused the failures, and begin urging changes to the  
22. system by which the police bring in suspects to trial.



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23. **(38) What have lawyers belonging to the Innocence Project been doing in the**  
24. **last two decades?**

25. 1. Reexamining the most highly publicized trials in which they played a part  
26. to determine why they overlooked instances of police error.
27. 2. Supporting other U.S. lawyers in their effort to show that prosecutors rely too  
28. much on DNA testing to convict people in criminal cases.
29. 3. Pressing for reforms in order to prevent the kinds of mistakes in police  
30. procedure that lead people to be wrongfully convicted.
31. 4. Collaborating with scientists to develop new methods of analyzing evidence  
32. in order to compensate for the inaccuracy of DNA testing.

### Further Questions

33. **1) Where was the technique for identifying people using DNA first developed?**

34. *It was first developed in the United Kingdom in 1984.*

35. **2) What is the Innocence Project?**

36. *It is a nonprofit group with the specific aim of using DNA evidence to clear*  
37. *people wrongly convicted of crimes.*

38. The analysis carried out by the organization has revealed that many different

factors can lead to a mistaken verdict, but that three in particular play a large role. The most important of these is the unreliability of witness identifications. Of the cases in which DNA testing overturned a conviction, 75 percent of the wrongly accused suspects had been identified by eyewitnesses. Prosecutors favor eyewitness testimony because it is persuasive to juries.

The problem that arises is not usually one of dishonesty on the part of the eyewitness, but rather the identification itself contains inherent weaknesses—the crime may have occurred in poor light, or the eyewitness may have been under stress, leading to ぼんやりした blurred memory.

Other problems can result from the police lineup, where an eyewitness is asked to identify the suspect from a group of individuals. Police conducting the procedure are usually aware of who the suspect is, which may lead them, perhaps unconsciously, to sway the eyewitness towards picking that person. The eyewitness may also feel compelled to identify a suspect out of the assumption that the perpetrator of the crime is definitely among the individuals present, even though this may not always be the case.

**(39) One difficulty with eyewitness testimony in criminal cases is that**

1. eyewitnesses may identify a suspect not because they actually remember that person, but because their judgment is influenced by the authorities.
2. people present at a crime scene often have a personal relationship with either the victim or the suspect, which can damage their credibility.
3. the high incidence of misidentification by eyewitnesses means juries now give less consideration to such testimony, even though it may be accurate.
4. many eyewitnesses eventually reveal that they doubt the accuracy of their own testimony because of stressful conditions at the crime scene.

### Further Questions

**3) What is the most important factor that can lead to a mistaken verdict?**

*The most important is the unreliability of witness identification.*

**4) How can police corrupt the results of a lineup?**

*Police conducting the procedure are usually aware of who the suspect is, which may lead them, perhaps unconsciously, to sway the eyewitness towards picking that person.*

Another major factor, present in 50 percent of the cases analyzed, is the use of faulty forensic techniques. With the exception of DNA testing, much of the “science” used to solve crimes was not developed in a rigorous scientific setting. Instead, it was developed by people whose aim was to catch and convict individuals. Consequently, traditional methods of investigation, such as analysis of hairs or shoe prints from crime scenes, have rarely been thoroughly tested. The Innocence Project notes these methods “have evolved primarily through their use in individual cases.” Nevertheless, prosecution presents them to juries as scientifically validated and trustworthy.

A third important factor is a surprising one: false confessions. To most

juries, nothing is more convincing than a confession, as it is difficult to imagine a suspect telling a lie that runs so contrary to their self-interest. This would be easier to comprehend, however, if juries could be present at the interrogations that elicit these confessions. Sometimes, suspects confess to please their interrogators. Youths or those with mental disabilities, for example, often try to satisfy intimidating authority figures in this way.

More commonly, though, the accused is told they will inevitably be found guilty, and that a confession would make the punishment lighter. Seeing no other way out, and simply wanting the interrogations to end, the supposed criminal confesses simply to try to improve their situation.

**(40) What is one point made regarding the forensic methods traditionally used in criminal investigations?**

1. Most of the methods have changed significantly since they were originally tested and proven to be accurate by researchers.
2. The majority of investigators involved in collecting evidence have not been properly trained to ensure DNA samples are not inadvertently contaminated.
3. Analysis of shoe prints and hairs at crime scenes often yields results that are later contradicted by further testing in a strictly controlled environment.
4. The fact that they were developed as tools to close cases rather than as scientific techniques means people should not assume they are reliable.

### Further Questions

**5) Why have the techniques used to solve crimes often not been thoroughly tested?**

*Because it was developed by people whose aim was to catch and convict criminals.*

**6) Why might a person confess to a crime they did not commit?**

*Sometimes, suspects confess to please their interrogators or they see no other way out and simply wish the interrogation to end.*

That mistaken convictions have come to light is especially troubling when one considered DNA evidence can only be obtained in 5 to 10 percent of crimes. Circumstances that could lead to false verdicts, however, are a factor in most criminal investigations and prosecutions, which means there are certainly many more wrongfully convicted people who have no hope of having their cases reexamined. For many at the Innocence Project, this leads to the most important point of all: The fact that DNA testing has uncovered so many cases where innocent people have been found guilty constitutes an irrefutable argument against capital punishment, which is practiced in 34 U.S. states. After all, when someone has been sent to prison, they can be released and compensating—financially if not emotionally—if later found to be innocent. Once a prisoner has been executed, however, what can possibly be done to make up for the injustice?

**(41) What does the author of the passage imply in the final paragraph?**

1. While many people may find the death penalty objectionable, if the evidence

120. against a suspect is convincing, an execution should be carried out.
121. 2. DNA testing itself should not be given too much weight in trials, as there
122. always exists the possibility that it was carried out incorrectly.
123. 3. The possibility that verdict may be based on inaccurate evidence should be
124. taken into account when the punishment for certain crimes is being decided.
125. 4. Although the percentage of cases in which DNA evidence can be used is
126. currently low, technological advances will enable its increased use in the
127. future.

### Further Questions

128. 7) What percentage of cases can DNA evidence be obtained?
129. *DNA evidence can only be obtained in 5 to 10 percent of crimes.*
130. 8) Why is the work of the Innocence Project an argument against the death
131. penalty?
132. *Because if someone is wrongly convicted and sent to prison, they can be compensated, but you cannot possibly compensate someone who has been executed.*

133. 解答: (38) 3 (39) 1 (40) 4(41) 3



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