



**Subject:** Questioned Document Analysis -BSCIFS13310

**Type of course:** Major (Core)

**Prerequisite:**

A basic understanding of handwriting characteristics, printing techniques, and paper and ink composition is essential. Knowledge of observation skills, microscopy, and simple chemical analysis helps in examining documents. Familiarity with writing instruments and common types of forgery is also required.

**Rationale:**

Questioned document examination is important for detecting forgery, verifying authenticity, counterfeit currency and analyzing alterations in documents. It helps in identifying handwriting, signatures, and the source of documents. This plays a crucial role in criminal investigations and provides reliable scientific evidence in legal proceedings.

**Teaching and Examination Scheme:**

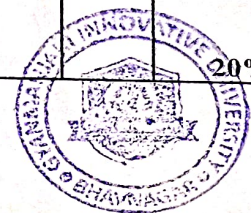
Teaching Scheme			Credits	Examination Marks		Total Marks
CI	T	P	C	SEE	CCE	
2	0	4	4	100	100	200

*Legends: CI-Class Room Instructions; T – Tutorial; P - Practical; C – Credit; SEE - Semester End Evaluation LWA - Lab Work Assessment; V – Viva voce; CCE-Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation; ALA- Active Learning Activities.*

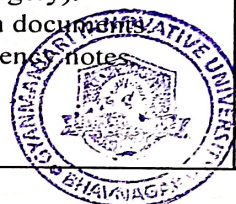
**Course Content:**

Sr. No	Course Content	Hrs.	% Weightage
1	Questioned Documents and its Nature and Scope - Nature and problems of document examination, Scope of Questioned document, Types of questioned document, Classification of documents, Care, Handling and packing of documents, Preliminary examination of documents, Physical matching of Documents, and age of document.	6/12	20%

	<p><b>Practical:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preliminary examination of questioned documents</li> <li>2. Care, handling, preservation, marking, packing and forwarding of documents.</li> <li>3. Examination and determination of creases and folds in documents.</li> </ol> <p><b>Evaluation Methods</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sr. No</th> <th>Evaluation Methods</th> <th>SEE</th> <th>CCE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td><b>Document Care &amp; Custody:</b> Students will demonstrate the proper care, handling, and packing of questioned documents to prevent damage or contamination.</td> <td>10</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td><b>Fragments to Facts:</b> Students will conduct a preliminary examination of questioned documents and perform physical matching of given samples.</td> <td>10</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td><b>Map of Questioned Documents:</b> Students will prepare a chart illustrating the types and classification of questioned documents used in forensic investigations.</td> <td></td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td><b>Unveiling Time: Age Determination of Documents:</b> Students will prepare a poster, highlighting the methods used for age determination of documents in forensic examinations.</td> <td></td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>20</b></td> <td><b>20</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sr. No	Evaluation Methods	SEE	CCE	1	<b>Document Care &amp; Custody:</b> Students will demonstrate the proper care, handling, and packing of questioned documents to prevent damage or contamination.	10		2	<b>Fragments to Facts:</b> Students will conduct a preliminary examination of questioned documents and perform physical matching of given samples.	10		3	<b>Map of Questioned Documents:</b> Students will prepare a chart illustrating the types and classification of questioned documents used in forensic investigations.		10	4	<b>Unveiling Time: Age Determination of Documents:</b> Students will prepare a poster, highlighting the methods used for age determination of documents in forensic examinations.		10		<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>		
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<p>2</p>	<p><b>Handwriting, signature and its comparison:</b> Handwriting and its Principles. Comparison of handwriting, Natural variations and fundamental divergences in handwritings. Class and individual characteristics, factors influencing handwriting, Fundamental of signature examination, types of signatures. Request and Standard Documents.</p> <p><b>Practical:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Determination of sequence of strokes.</li> <li>5 Forensic identification of class and individual characteristics of handwriting.</li> <li>6 Identification and comparison of signatures.</li> </ol>	<p>T:P 6:12</p>	<p>20%</p>																								



	<p>7 Effect of writing instruments, posture and emotions on handwriting.</p> <p><b>Evaluation Methods</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sr. No</th> <th>Evaluation Methods</th> <th>SEE</th> <th>CCE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td><b>Decoding Signatures:</b> Students will compare known and questioned signatures to identify similarities and differences in writing characteristics by given sample.</td> <td>10</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td><b>Handwriting Detective:</b> Students will perform a comparative examination of known and questioned handwriting samples to identify individual writing characteristics.</td> <td>10</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td><b>Writing Under Influence:</b> Students will study and present the various factors that influence handwriting and signatures, such as age, health, emotional state, writing instruments, and environmental conditions and upload on the GMIU portal.</td> <td></td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td><b>From Script to Suspect :</b> Students will participate in a mock conference on real-life forensic cases involving handwriting evidence and prepare a report summarizing the key findings and upload on the GMIU portal.</td> <td></td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td>20</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sr. No	Evaluation Methods	SEE	CCE	1	<b>Decoding Signatures:</b> Students will compare known and questioned signatures to identify similarities and differences in writing characteristics by given sample.	10		2	<b>Handwriting Detective:</b> Students will perform a comparative examination of known and questioned handwriting samples to identify individual writing characteristics.	10		3	<b>Writing Under Influence:</b> Students will study and present the various factors that influence handwriting and signatures, such as age, health, emotional state, writing instruments, and environmental conditions and upload on the GMIU portal.		10	4	<b>From Script to Suspect :</b> Students will participate in a mock conference on real-life forensic cases involving handwriting evidence and prepare a report summarizing the key findings and upload on the GMIU portal.		10		<b>Total</b>	20	20		
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3	<p><b>Forgery:</b> Types of Forgery and its examination, charred and torn documents. Examination of counterfeit Indian currency notes, passports, VISAs and stamp papers, seal, rubber &amp; other mechanical impressions. Disguised writing, Decipherment of secret handwriting.</p> <p><b>Practical:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 Detection of forgeries (simulated and traced forgery).</li> <li>9 Collection and preservation of charred and torn documents.</li> <li>10 Examination of security features of Indian currency notes.</li> <li>11 Identification of normal/ disguised writings.</li> </ol> <p><b>Evaluation Methods</b></p>	T:P 6:12	20%																								



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1	<b>Authentic or Forged?:</b> Students will examine documents and identify distinguishing features of genuine and forged specimens.	10	
2	<b>Ashes and Pieces:</b> Students will examine and reconstruct charred or torn documents using physical matching and recovery techniques.	10	
3	<b>Security Features Spotlight:</b> Students will prepare charts illustrating the security features incorporated in important documents such as currency notes, passports, and identity cards and upload them on the GMIU portal.		10
4	<b>Behind the Forged Lines -</b> Students will be given a hypothetical case related to forgery, counterfeit currency, charred/torn documents, or disguised writing. They will examine the evidence, identify forgery indicators, and prepare a forensic report based on their findings. and upload it on the GMIU portal.		10
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>

4	<p><b>Document Authentication and Alteration Analysis :</b>                      Determiation of absolute and relative age of documents, Alterations in documents- erasures, addition, overwriting and obliteration. Indented writings. Comparison of paper, ink, printed documents, typed documents, Xeroxed documents and anonymous letters.</p> <p><b>Practical:</b>                      12 Detection of erasures and obliterations.                      13 Field test for detection of indentation marks.                      14 Analysis of inks.                      15 Examination of paper.                      16 Examination of anonymous letters.</p>	T:P 6:12	20%					
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1	<b>Paper Characteristics Analysis:</b> Examination and comparison of different types of paper (texture, ink thickness, watermark).	10						

2.	<b>The Alteration Detective:</b> Identification and alteration (erasures, overwriting, additions, obliterations) using sample documents.	10				
3	<b>Spot the Difference:</b> Students will compare genuine and altered documents to identify discrepancies and signs of tampering and upload its findings on the GMIU portal.		10			
4	<b>The Document Age Detective:</b> Students will research and analyze techniques used for determining the absolute and relative age of documents, paper, and ink. They will prepare a report summarizing the principles, methods, and forensic significance of document dating and upload the same on the GMIU portal.		10			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>			
5	<p><b>Basic tools for examination of documents:</b> Basic tools and techniques (Light sources, Stereomicroscope, ESDA, VSC, Photomicrograph, Chromatography: paper chromatography, TLC.</p> <p><b>Practical:</b></p> <p>17 Examination of Questioned documents under oblique light. 18 Examination of Questioned documents under UV rays, IR rays. 19 Comparative Examination of Documents.</p> <p><b>Evaluation Methods-</b></p>			T:P 6:12	20%	
Sr. No	Evaluation Methods	SEE	CCE			
1	<b>Hidden Clues in Light:</b> Students will observe documents under UV, IR, and oblique light sources and record their findings and upload it on the GMIU portal.		10			
2	<b>TLC for Ink Examination:</b> Students will perform ink comparison using Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) to separate and analyze ink components.	10				
3	<b>Tools of the Document Detective:</b> Students will identify and study the	10				



		basic instruments used in forensic document examination, including light sources.				
4		<b>The Pros and Cons of Forensic Techniques:</b> Students will prepare an a report discussing the advantages and limitations of various forensic document examination tools and techniques and upload the same on the GMIU portal.		10		
		<b>Total</b>	20	20		

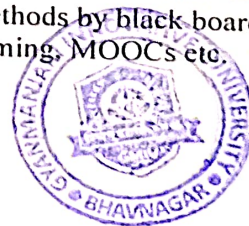
Distribution of Marks (Revised Bloom's Taxonomy)						
Level	Remembrance (R)	Understanding (U)	Application (A)	Analyze (N)	Evaluate (E)	Create (C)
Weightage %	10%	30%	30%	30%	-	-

**Course Outcome-**

After learning the course the students should be able to:	
CO1	Identify the types, handling, preservation, and preliminary examination of questioned documents.
CO2	Understand handwriting and signature characteristics for comparison and identification of questioned documents.
CO3	Explain counterfeit, charred, disguised, and secret writings using forensic document examination techniques.
CO4	Analyze document age and alterations through the examination of paper, ink, erasures, and overwriting.
CO5	Apply forensic tools and techniques to examine questioned documents and verify security features.

**Instructional Method:**

The course delivery method will depend upon the requirement of content and needs of students. The teacher, in addition to conventional teaching methods by black board, may also use any tools such as demonstration, role play, Quiz, brainstorming, MOOCs etc.



From the content 10% topics are suggested for flipped mode instruction.

Students will use supplementary resources such as online videos, NPTEL/SWAYAM videos, e-courses, Virtual Laboratory.

The internal evaluation will be done on the basis of the Active Learning Assignment.

Practical/Viva examination will be conducted at the end of semester for evaluation of performance of students in the laboratory.

#### Reference Books:

- [1] Forensic Document Examination: Principles and Practice By: K. M. Koppenhaver© Humana Press Inc.
- [2] Forensic Document Examination: Principles and Practice By: Max M. Houck and Jay A. Siegel.
- [3] Forensic Handwriting Identification: Fundamental Concepts and Principles By: Jane Lewis.
- [4] Document Examination: A Forensic Science Handbook By: Michael D. L. Paine.
- [5] The Forensic Examination of Questioned Documents By: William G. Eckert.
- [6] Forensic Document Analysis: A Guide to the Identification and Analysis of Handwriting and Other Documents By: John H. Schultz. Rubrics.

#### Module - 1

##### Document Care & Custody –

Proper handling of questioned documents to prevent damage or contamination – 2 Marks

Correct packing and preservation of questioned documents – 3 Marks

Understanding the importance of document care, custody, and evidentiary integrity – 5 Marks

##### Students Should Do:

- Handle questioned documents using appropriate precautions.
- Demonstrate methods to prevent folding, tearing, staining, or contamination.
- Select suitable packaging materials for different document types.
- Properly label and pack the documents for forensic examination.
- Submit the packed document with a brief note explaining the preservation procedure.

##### Fragments to Facts –

Preliminary examination and observation of questioned documents – 2 Marks

Physical matching and identification of corresponding document fragments – 3 Marks

Interpretation of findings and understanding the forensic significance of physical matching – 5 Marks

##### Students Should Do:

- Examine the given questioned documents for physical characteristics.
- Observe paper features, tears, cuts, edges, and alignment patterns.
- Match the document fragments based on physical fit and continuity.
- Record observations and justify the matching process.
- Submit the matched samples with a brief report of findings.



### **Map of Questioned Documents –**

Preparation of a chart showing the types and classification of questioned documents – **2 Marks**

Correct classification and inclusion of relevant examples – **3 Marks**

Understanding the significance and forensic applications of questioned documents – **5 Marks**

#### **Students Should Do:**

- Prepare a neat chart illustrating different types of questioned documents.
- Classify documents such as handwritten, printed, altered, forged, anonymous, and counterfeit documents.
- Include suitable examples and forensic relevance of each category.
- Organize the chart in a clear and logical manner.
- Submit the completed chart for evaluation.

### **Unveiling Time: Age Determination of Documents –**

Identification and explanation of methods used for age determination of documents – **4 Marks**

Accuracy and relevance of forensic information presented – **2 Marks**

Creativity, design, and visual appeal of the poster – **2 Marks**

Organization, neatness, and overall presentation – **2 Marks**

#### **Students Should Do:**

- Prepare an informative poster on methods used for age determination of documents.
- Include techniques related to paper, ink, and document examination.
- Use diagrams, illustrations, or flowcharts to enhance understanding.
- Present the information in a clear and visually appealing format.
- Submit the completed poster for evaluation.

### **Module - 2**

#### **Decoding Signatures –**

Examination and comparison of known and questioned signatures – **3 Marks**

Identification of similarities and differences in handwriting characteristics – **4 Marks**

Interpretation of findings and conclusion regarding authenticity or variation – **3 Marks**

#### **Students Should Do:**

- Examine the given known and questioned signatures.
- Compare features such as slant, spacing, size, pen pressure, and letter formation.
- Identify similarities and differences in writing characteristics.
- Record observations and justify conclusions.
- Submit a comparison sheet with findings.

#### **Handwriting Detective –**

Observation and examination of known and questioned handwriting samples – **2 Marks**

Identification of individual handwriting characteristics (slant, spacing, size, pressure, letter formation, etc.) – **5 Marks**

Analysis, comparison, and conclusion based on observed characteristics – **3 Marks**

#### **Students Should Do:**

- Examine the provided known and questioned handwriting samples.
- Identify and compare individual writing characteristics.
- Record similarities and differences systematically.



- Draw conclusions regarding the authorship of the samples.
- Submit a comparative analysis sheet with observations.

**Writing Under Influence –**

Identification and explanation of factors affecting handwriting and signatures – 4 Marks

Use of relevant examples and forensic significance of the factors – 3 Marks

Organization, presentation quality, and timely upload on the GMIU portal – 3 Marks

**Students Should Do:**

- Study factors such as age, health, emotional state, writing instruments, and environmental conditions.
- Explain how these factors influence handwriting and signatures.
- Include suitable examples or illustrations.
- Present the information in a clear and organized format.
- Upload the completed work on the GMIU portal.

**Handwriting Chronicles –**

Participation in the mock conference and understanding of handwriting evidence in forensic cases – 3 Marks

Analysis of the selected case and identification of key forensic findings – 4 Marks

Quality of report preparation and timely upload on the GMIU portal – 3 Marks

**Students Should Do:**

- Participate in the mock conference discussion on real-life handwriting cases.
- Analyze the role of handwriting evidence in the investigation.
- Summarize the key findings and conclusions of the case.
- Prepare a concise report highlighting forensic significance.
- Upload the report on the GMIU portal.

**Module - 3**

**Authentic or Forged? –**

Examination of questioned documents and observation of security features – 3 Marks

Identification of distinguishing characteristics of genuine and forged specimens – 4 Marks

Interpretation of findings and justification of conclusions – 3 Marks

**Students Should Do:**

- Examine the provided genuine and suspected forged documents.
- Observe features such as signatures, alterations, erasures, printing quality, and security elements.
- Identify indicators of authenticity or forgery.
- Record observations and provide reasons for their conclusions.
- Submit a comparison sheet with findings.

**Ashes and Pieces –**

Careful examination and handling of charred or torn document fragments – 2 Marks

Application of physical matching and reconstruction techniques – 5 Marks

Accuracy of reconstruction and interpretation of recovered information – 3 Marks



**Students Should Do:**

- Examine the provided charred or torn document fragments.
- Match fragments based on edges, tears, patterns, and continuity.
- Reconstruct the document using appropriate recovery techniques.
- Record observations and recovered information.
- Submit the reconstructed document with a brief report of findings

**Security Features Spotlight –**

Identification and explanation of security features in currency notes, passports, and identity cards – 4

**Marks**

Accuracy of information and inclusion of relevant examples/illustrations – 3 Marks

Chart presentation, organization, and timely upload on the GMIU portal – 3 Marks

**Students Should Do:**

- Prepare a chart illustrating the security features of important documents.
- Include features such as watermarks, security threads, holograms, microprinting, UV features, and barcodes.
- Use diagrams, images, or labels to enhance understanding.
- Present the information in a clear and organized format.
- Upload the completed chart on the GMIU portal.

**Behind the Forged Lines –**

Examination of the hypothetical case and identification of forgery indicators in documents, counterfeit currency, charred/torn documents, or disguised writing – 4 Marks

Analysis of evidence and application of forensic document examination techniques – 3 Marks

Preparation of a structured forensic report and timely upload on the GMIU portal – 3 Marks

**Students Should Do:**

- Study the given hypothetical case carefully.
- Examine the provided questioned documents or evidence.
- Identify signs of forgery, alterations, counterfeit features, or disguised writing.
- Analyze the evidence using appropriate forensic methods.
- Prepare a forensic report with findings and conclusions and upload it on the GMIU portal.

**Module -4**

**Paper Characteristics Analysis –**

Examination and observation of paper characteristics such as texture, thickness, and watermark – 3

**Marks**

Comparison of different paper samples and recording of observations – 4 Marks

Interpretation of findings and forensic significance of paper examination – 3 Marks

**Students Should Do:**

- Examine the provided paper samples for physical characteristics.
- Compare texture, thickness, color, watermark, and other visible features.
- Record similarities and differences systematically.
- Interpret the observations and discuss their forensic relevance.
- Submit a comparison sheet with findings.

**The Alteration Detective –**

Identification of document alterations such as erasures, overwriting, additions, and obliterations – 4

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**Marks**

Examination and comparison of altered and unaltered portions of the document – 3 Marks

Interpretation of findings and explanation of the forensic significance of alterations – 3 Marks

**Students Should Do:**

- Examine the provided sample documents for signs of alteration.
- Identify erasures, overwriting, additions, or obliterations.
- Record observations and highlight the altered areas.
- Compare altered and original features of the document.
- Submit a report summarizing the findings

**Spot the Difference –**

Comparison of genuine and altered documents and identification of discrepancies – 3 Marks

Recognition of signs of tampering, alterations, or forgery – 4 Marks

Preparation of findings report and timely upload on the GMIU portal – 3 Marks

**Students Should Do:**

- Examine the provided genuine and altered documents.
- Compare features such as handwriting, signatures, printing, erasures, and additions.
- Identify discrepancies and signs of tampering.
- Record observations and justify conclusions.
- Upload the findings report on the GMIU portal

**The Document Age Detective –**

Research and explanation of techniques used for determining the absolute and relative age of documents, paper, and ink – 4 Marks

Analysis of forensic significance and application of document dating methods – 3 Marks

Quality of report preparation and timely upload on the GMIU portal – 3 Marks

**Students Should Do:**

- Research methods used for age determination of documents, paper, and ink.
- Differentiate between absolute and relative age determination techniques.
- Discuss the principles, applications, and forensic significance of document dating.
- Prepare a well-structured report with relevant examples.
- Upload the report on the GMIU portal.

**Module 5 -**

**Hidden Clues in Light –**

Observation of documents under UV, IR, and oblique light sources – 3 Marks

Identification and recording of hidden features, alterations, or security elements – 4 Marks

Preparation of findings report and timely upload on the GMIU portal – 3 Marks

**Students Should Do:**

- Examine the provided documents using UV, IR, and oblique lighting techniques.
- Observe hidden writings, alterations, erasures, or security features.
- Record and compare observations under different light sources.
- Summarize the findings and their forensic significance.
- Upload the report on the GMIU portal.



**TLC for Ink Examination –**

Preparation and correct performance of Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) for ink analysis – 4 Marks

Observation and comparison of separated ink components – 3 Marks

Interpretation of results and conclusion regarding ink similarity or differences – 3 Marks

**Students Should Do:**

- Prepare and run the TLC experiment using the provided ink samples.
- Observe the separation of ink components and record the chromatographic patterns.
- Compare the questioned and known ink samples.
- Interpret the results and draw appropriate conclusions.
- Submit the observation sheet with findings.

**Tools of the Document Detective –**

Identification of basic instruments used in forensic document examination – 3 Marks

Explanation of the functions and applications of light sources, stereomicroscopes, and other tools – 4 Marks

**Marks**

Presentation of observations and understanding of their forensic significance – 3 Marks

**Students Should Do:**

- Identify the instruments used in forensic document examination.
- Study the working and applications of light sources, stereomicroscopes, and related equipment.
- Record observations on the purpose of each instrument.
- Explain their role in detecting alterations, forgery, and other document features.
- Submit a brief report or observation sheet.

**The Pros and Cons of Forensic Techniques –**

Discussion of the advantages and limitations of forensic document examination tools and techniques – 4 Marks

Use of relevant examples and critical analysis of the techniques – 3 Marks

Organization, quality of assignment, and timely upload on the GMIU portal – 3 Marks

**Students Should Do:**

- Study various forensic document examination tools and techniques.
- Discuss their advantages, limitations, and practical applications.
- Support the discussion with suitable examples.
- Prepare a well-organized assignment with conclusions.
- Upload the completed assignment on the GMIU portal.