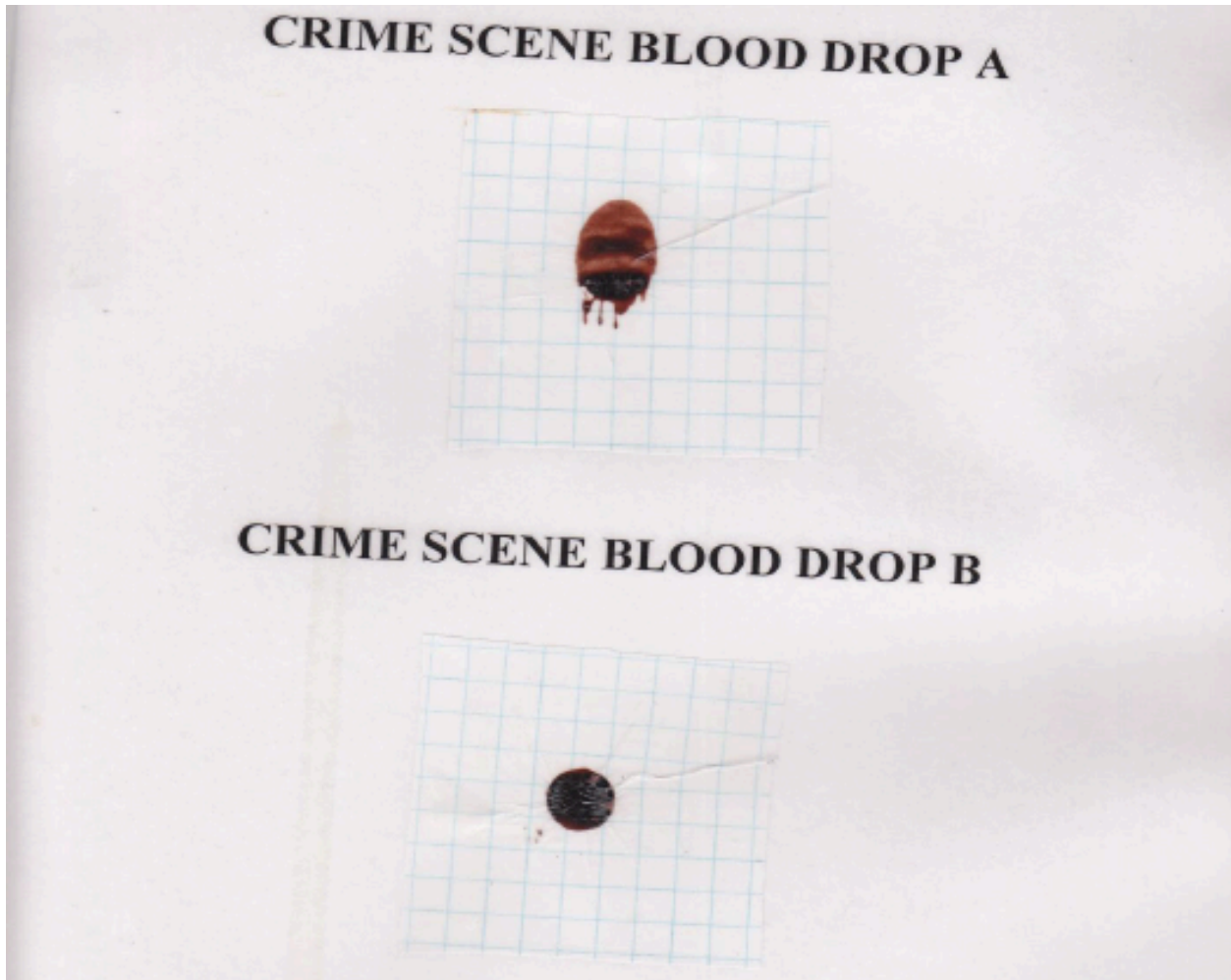


Backboard Information on Blood Spatter

*** Answer Questions 3 and 3 (3,4) only under part 8: blood splatter ***



Blood can tell you more than whose veins it used to flow through. The pattern of a stain can determine where a person was when the blood was shed and whether the victim was alive or dead at the time.

A blood spatter will often be formed of a blob with a fine tail at one side. This pattern indicates that the blood was travelling fast when it hit the object and the tail will point in the direction it came from. Experts can work out from which direction the blood struck the object. If the stain is circular, blood struck the object straight on; if the stain is egg-shaped, blood came from an angle, and the greater the angle the more stretched out the egg-shape will be. If the blood has travelled at great speed, the blood droplet will be surrounded by numerous smaller flecks. A smudged blood stain tells you someone rubbed against it. Trails of blood can show

how an incident developed, and how people moved from place to place. Quite often, both the assailant and victim will lose blood at the crime scene so it's important to determine whose blood makes up each separate mark. A large pool of blood shows the victim was alive in that spot for some time following the wound. Dead bodies stop bleeding quickly because the heart stops after death. If spatter marks are clear, you can learn about the type of weapon used. The pattern of blood spatter can also reveal if the assailant was right or left handed. A narrow track of blood suggest that something fine, such as a sharp knife was used where a broad band of blood spatter could suggest a large weapon like a bat or stick. A great amount of spatter can also suggest the emotion behind the attack. A great deal of spatter can suggest an angry assailant which can suggest some level of intimacy with the victim. Finally a spot with no blood can also be revealing in an area with a great deal of spatter. It may suggest the assailant picked something up such as a bag or box and removed it from the crime scene.

***** Answer Questions 3 and 3 (3,4) only under part 8: blood splatter *****