

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.

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

Further Questions

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

It was first developed in the United Kingdom in 1984.

2) What is the Innocence Project?

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

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

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

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

48. Other problems can result from the police lineup, where an eyewitness is
49. asked to identify the suspect from a group of individuals. Police conducting
50. the procedure are usually aware of who the suspect is, which may lead them,
51. perhaps unconsciously, to sway the eyewitness towards
52. picking that person. The eyewitness may also feel compelled to identify a
53. suspect out of the assumption that the perpetrator of the crime is definitely

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

92. 1. Most of the methods have changed significantly since they were originally
93. tested and proven to be accurate by researchers.

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

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

119. 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.*

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