

**Forensic Science****Answers to these questions should be turned in on a separate sheet.****POSTMORTEM CHANGES****Case History**

A man and his two sons were spending morning fishing at a local gravel pit when they noticed something floating in the water. Their curiosity was aroused and drawing closer they realized it was a body. They notified the local law enforcement agency and police arrived to find the body of a man floating face down in shallow water about 4 feet from shore. He was recovered and identified as a 25-year old who had recently been seen in the area.

The man had lived in a nearby city with relatives but had been asked to leave several months previously. Since then he had lived as a vagrant. Several times he had been roused out from among boxes and packing crates from behind a grocery store immediately adjacent to the gravel pit. He had also been observed by police patrols to be going through the garbage at the grocery store. It was assumed that he had no residence and no visible means of support.

His family was contacted; they indicated that he liked to go to the gravel pit to swim and that he was an accomplished swimmer. A search of his room at his former residence turned up marijuana Paraphernalia, although there was no history of hard drug use. He had been last seen alive by a storekeeper of a convenience store who had sold him several items of food two days prior to his discovery in the gravel pit.

When the body was recovered from the water and turned over, it was noted that there was a plastic brown trash bag clutched in his right hand. The bag contained a gold colored substance which looked like paint. The body was dressed only in boxer shorts. His clothes were found in a neat pile on the shore near where the body was recovered. The pants contained only 70 cents.

An autopsy was performed the next morning. The body measured 71.2 inches and weighed 132.9 pounds. There was post mortem decomposition. Rigor mortis was still present in the extremities but was receding. The comeas were cloudy, but the eyes were not sunken and a normal amount of vitreous humor was collected. There was purple discoloration of the face and purple and green discoloration of the abdomen. Marbling of the torso and upper extremities was present and subcutaneous emphysema of the upper torso and neck was palpable. The abdomen was moderately distended. Skin slipped easily

C  
A  
S  
E

S  
T  
U  
D