**Questioned Documents and Handwriting Examination**

**Syllabus**

**Unit – 1**

Document in General: Importance, Classification & Preliminary Examination. Nature & Problems of Document Examination. Handling & Preservation of Documents. Basic Tools needed for Forensic Document Examination and their use. Writing instruments and their influence on writing. Examination of Paper and Ink.

**Unit – 2**

Handwriting: Basic Principle of Handwriting Identification, Handwriting Characteristics - General and Individual. Development of Individuality in Handwriting, Comparison of Handwriting, Natural Variations, Fundamental Divergences. Standard for Comparison.

Signatures: Characteristics of Genuine and Forged Signatures and their Examination.

**Unit – 3**

Forgery: Definition, Types, Characteristics and their Detection.

**Unit – 4**

Disguised Writing and Anonymous Letters: Definition, Characteristics and Identification of Writer. Sequence of Strokes: Definition and Determination of Sequence of Strokes.

**Unit – 5**

Alteration in the Document: Examination of Erasures, Additions, Overwriting and Obliteration. Decipherment of Secret Writing, Indented and Invisible Writing, Charred Documents. Examination of Seal Impression and other Mechanical Impressions.

**Unit – 6**

Type Writing: Working of Type Writer, various type of Typewriting Devices, Identification of type Scripts, Typist.

Printed Matter: Various types of Printing Processes, Examination of Various Types of Printed Matter.

**Overview**

The most common type of questioned document examination involves identifying the authorship of a written document. It is also common for forensic document examiners to determine if an item originated from the same source as a known item, determine when a document was produced, and decipher information on a document that has been erased, hidden, or obscured.

Students after completing this certificate will gain solid background in document examination, handwriting analysis and other related technical aspects, allowing them to seek employment and become certified as Forensic Document Examiners.

**Scope**

Questioned Document Examination (QDE) is one of the Forensic Science disciplines pertaining to documents that are doubtful or potentially disputed in a court of law. This curriculum can provide guidance to anyone encountering matters involving Forensic Document Examination. Furthermore, the curriculum will develop interest and motivate students to inculcate diverse understanding of basic principles and concepts of Forensic Document Examination.