**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS**

An examination of a disputed document is a scientific problem and it is no longer confined to comparison of signature or writing but it also includes examination of ink, typed matter, printed matter, watermark and all other elements that combine together to form a document. The examination of a document is not complete until its every element has been studied and examined thoroughly.

*Points which are generally considered in the preliminary examination:*

1) Is the paper of unusual size and was it cut or trimmed by hand at any margin?

 2) How many times, the paper has been folded and what is the sequence of folds?

3) Does the paper bear any marks of artificial ageing and has the paper been torn, wetted, mutilated in any way and if so, then what are the probable reasons?

 4) Does the paper bear indentation marks on the front side or embossed strokes on the reverse side?

 5) Does the paper show any physical or chemical erasing, obliteration, substitution or alteration of any kind?

 6) Was the document written or typed before or after the paper was folded?

 7) Was more than one kind of ink or pens used to write the body writing of the document?

8) Does the document show any unnatural spacing between the written or typed lines?

9) Is the body writing of document written in continuity by one and the same writer?

10) Any unusual feature, etc.

Forgery owes it origin to the inborn tendency in human beings to imitate, to which we may trace all arts, fines or useful. Its detection is possible through another trait known as inherent quality of imperfection attending all human acts and performance. The ‘counterfeit’ looks alike but doesn’t reach upto the genuine.