

Fibre Analysis

Name:

Date:

INQUIRY

A single fibre found at a crime scene can link a suspect to the location. But how reliable is this evidence?

Discuss with your partner. Write your initial ideas below:

Key Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Natural fibre	From plants or animals: cotton, silk, wool.
Synthetic fibre	Human-made: polyester, nylon, acrylic.
Microscopy	Using a microscope to examine evidence.

Part A — Fibre Types

1. Classify: (a) Chinese silk (b) Korean hemp (c) nylon (d) cotton (e) polyester (f) German loden wool. Which are natural? Synthetic? [3 marks]

Part B — Testing

2. Describe two tests you could do to identify an unknown fibre (hint: burn test, microscope). [4 marks]

Part C — Evaluation

3. A blue polyester fibre was found at a crime scene. A suspect owns a blue polyester jacket. Is this enough to prove guilt? Explain the limitations. [3 marks]