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Write a comprehensive note on the principles of criminal investigation. Illustrate with examples from Pakistan.

Introduction:

Criminal investigation is a significant part of the criminal justice system because justice can be served only when there is evidence and proof. The key principles of criminal investigation include the principles of impartiality and legality, preservation of evidence, use of modern techniques, protection of the victims and witnesses, use of forensic science, no use of coercion, and inter-agency coordination for effective investigation.

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Understanding criminal investigation:

According to L.R. Curzon, it is,

"A legal process which aims at finding out the culprit and collecting evidence."

The Criminal Procedure code (CrPc) 1898 defines it as;

"All the proceedings conducted by a police officer for collecting evidence and digging out the truth."

investigation.

Key Principles of Criminal Investigation with Examples from Pakistan:

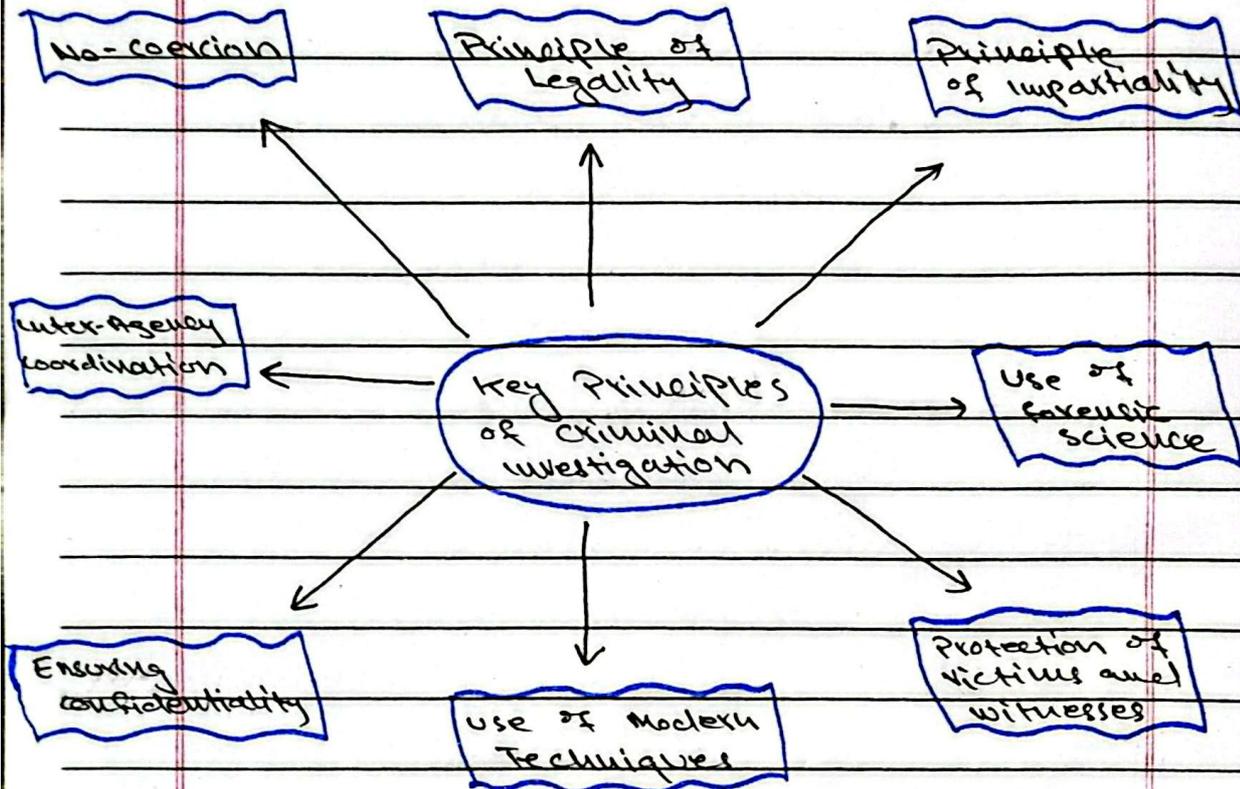
1- The Principle of Impartiality:

The investigators must be

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impartial and remain free from bias and pressure from government, public, media, or any other group.



2- The Principle of Legality:

Every action taken by the investigators must be authorized by law. For instance as per section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc) of Pakistan, a police officer can arrest a person without warrant only if they have been reasonably suspected of a

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legitimate offence.

3- Presumption of Innocence:

As asserted by Cesare
Beccaria,

"An accused should be
considered innocent until
proven guilty."

4- Investigation without Delay:

As the legal maxim goes:

"Justice delayed is justice
denied."

Delay can lead to obstruction
of evidence or it can be tam-
pered with.

5- Inter-Agency coordination:

For effective investigation, inter-
agency coordination is vital. For
instance, police in Pakistan coordi-
nates with intelligence agency
and NADRA to identify and
track culprits.

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6- No Use of Coercion:

Interviews should not be conducted forcefully so that truthful information can be extracted.

7- Protection of victims and witnesses:

Victims and witnesses should be protected from threats, pressure, and retaliation during investigation and trial. Fear can lead to changed statements.

8- Use of Forensic Science:

Forensic and laboratory analysis is important to discover facts and establish a reliable link among crime, victim, and the accused. In Pakistan, the Punjab Forensic Science Agency helps in investigation.

9- Thoroughness of Investigation:

The crime scene should be en-

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mined, witnesses interviewed, motives studied, and alibis should be analyzed. For instance, in a bank robbery, CCTV footage should be checked, employees interviewed, and DNA and fingerprints collected.

10- Ensure confidentiality:

All the case details, evidence, and information of victims and witnesses should be kept secret to ensure suspects do not escape, and evidence is not destroyed.

11- Preservation of Evidence:

Physical and documentary evidence should be preserved in original condition. It should be protected from contamination, loss, and tampering to ensure integrity in court.

12- Use of Modern Techniques:

Electronic tracking, database verification, and forensic analysis

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is essential to combat modern, sophisticated crimes. In Pakistan, digital surveillance, NADRA verification, and forensic science are used to bring culprits to justice.

Conclusion:

An effective criminal investigation is essential for finding criminals. To ensure the success of the investigation, it is important to follow the principles of criminal investigation which include impartiality, authorization of actions by law, and use of modern techniques.