H&E Stain Optimization Worksheet

Test Run # _____ **Date: _____**

Tech: _____

Run Details:

Solution/Reagent	Time	Temp/ pH	Agitation on?

Evaluation:

OVERALL QUALITY (10 x objective):

YES	NO	
		Is the staining even?
		Are the nuclei standing out darker than the background?
		Is there absence of splotches (e.g., water droplets)?

HEMATOXYLIN STAINING (40 x objective):

YES	NO	
		Is the nuclear wall dark and crisp?
		Is the chromatin pattern stippled, not smudgy?
		Is the nucleolus (if present) a red to purple color?
		Are other cells expected to stain bluish doing so? e.g., plasma cells, pancreatic ascinar cells
		Are the muscle and connective tissue cells free from a bluish color?

EOSIN STAINING (40x objective):

YES	NO	
		Are RBC the darkest red?
		Are eosinophil granules, Paneth cell granules, and xymogen granules as dark, or nearly as dark, as RBC?
		Is muscle a medium shade of pink, and collagen a light shade of pink?
		Can muscle be differentiated from collagen? (check out medium size blood vessels)