



Fact Sheet

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

TEST INFORMATION

This test was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that, which is learned, by students taking the course. The school may choose to award college credit to the student based on the achievement of a passing score. The passing score for each examination is determined by the school based on recommendations from the American Council on Education® (ACE). This minimum credit-awarding score is equal to the mean score of students in the norming sample who received a grade of C in the course. Some schools set their own standards for awarding credit and may require a higher score than the ACE recommendation. Students should obtain this information from the institution where they expect to receive credit.

CONTENT

The following topics, which are commonly taught in courses on this subject, are covered by this examination.

	Approximate Percent		Approximate Percent
I. Overview	10%	IV. Alcohol	18%
A. Drug use in society		A. Types and sources	
B. Terminology		B. Determinants of BAL	
C. Reasons for drug use		C. Effects of alcohol	
II. Classification of drugs	6%	D. Alcoholism	
III. Pharmacological principles	12%	V. Sedative hypnotics	8%
A. Physiology		A. General properties and effects	
B. Dose response curve		B. Principle types	
C. Routes of administration		C. Uses	
D. Metabolism		VI. Narcotic analgesics	10%
		A. General properties and effects	
		B. Principle types	
		C. Uses	
		VII. Stimulants	12%
		A. General properties and effects	
		B. Principle types	
		C. Uses	
		VIII. Hallucinogens	12%
		A. General properties and effects	
		B. Principle types	
		C. Uses	
		IX. Other drugs	5%
		A. Inhalants	
		B. Steroids	
		C. Others	
		X. Prevention/treatment	7%
		A. Law enforcement	
		B. Treatment and rehabilitation	

Questions on the test require candidates to demonstrate the following abilities. Some questions may require more than one of the abilities.

- Knowledge of basic facts and terms (about 95% of the examination)
- Ability to apply knowledge to specific cases or issues (about 5% of the examination)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. Cannabis intoxication can
 - (A) increase the heart rate
 - (B) increase mental activity
 - (C) cause respiratory collapse
 - (D) cause chromosomal damage
2. The drugs posing the most immediate risk of organic brain damage are
 - (A) inhalants
 - (B) narcotics
 - (C) hallucinogens
 - (D) sedative hypnotics
3. The most commonly abused drug in the United States is
 - (A) heroin
 - (B) cocaine
 - (C) marijuana
 - (D) alcohol
4. Endorphins and enkephalins are similar in effect to
 - (A) steroids
 - (B) psychedelics
 - (C) opiates
 - (D) stimulants
5. The metabolism of alcohol takes place primarily in the
 - (A) liver
 - (B) kidneys
 - (C) brain
 - (D) pancreas
6. Crisis intervention and detection of the early stages of drug abuse is referred to as
 - (A) primary prevention
 - (B) secondary prevention
 - (C) tertiary prevention
 - (D) quaternary prevention
7. The highest concentration of alcohol in an alcoholic beverage produced through natural fermentation is about
 - (A) 5%
 - (B) 15%
 - (C) 25%
 - (D) 35%
8. Which of the following is an opium derivative?
 - (A) Codeine
 - (B) Cocaine
 - (C) Phenobarbital
 - (D) LSD
9. The junction between two neurons is called the
 - (A) axon
 - (B) dendrite
 - (C) synapse
 - (D) receptor
10. The primary cause of death due to an overdose of alcohol is
 - (A) respiratory arrest
 - (B) cardiac arrest
 - (C) bursting of the aorta
 - (D) depression of cerebral activity
11. Paradoxical effects of the benzodiazepines include all of the following EXCEPT
 - (A) nightmares
 - (B) irritability
 - (C) agitation
 - (D) hypersomnia

12. Buerger's disease, caused by heavy cigarette smoking, results from the
- (A) accumulation of tar in the lungs
 - (B) reduction of blood to the body's extremities
 - (C) destruction of the cilia in the trachea
 - (D) disruption of the normal functioning of the liver
13. An alcoholic who drinks while taking Antabuse (disulfiram) is likely to experience
- (A) sedation
 - (B) nausea
 - (C) convulsions
 - (D) euphoria

STUDYING FOR THE EXAMINATION

The following is a list of reference publications that were being used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. Appropriate textbooks for study are not limited to those listed below. If you wish to obtain study resources to prepare for the examination, you may reference either the current edition of the following titles **or** textbooks currently used at a local college or university for the same class title. It is recommended that you reference **more than one textbook** on the topics outlined in this fact sheet. You should **begin by checking textbook content against the content outline** included on the front page of this Fact Sheet **before** selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study. Textbooks may be found at the campus bookstore of a local college or university offering a course on the subject.

Sources for study material suggested but not limited to the following:

Ray, Oakley, and Charles Ksir. *Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior*. St. Louis: Mosby-Year Book, Inc., current edition.

Hanson, Glen, and Peter Venturelli. *Drugs and Society*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, current edition.

Maisto, Stephen A., Mark Galizio and Gerard J. Connors. *Drug Use and Abuse*. Fort Worth: Harcourt Press, current edition.

Current textbook used by a local college or university for a course on the subject.

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Center For Adult Learning and Educational Credentials of the American Council on Education (ACE) has reviewed and evaluated the DSST examination development process. ACE has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course	
Equivalent:	Drug and Alcohol Abuse
Level:	Upper level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit:	Three (3) semester hours
Source:	ACE Commission on Educational Credit and Credentials

INFORMATION

Colleges and universities that would like additional information about the national norming, or assistance in local norming or score validation studies should write to: DSST Program, Mail Stop 11-P, Thomson Prometric, 664 Rosedale Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

It is advisable that schools develop a consistent policy about awarding credit based on scores from this test and that the policy be reviewed periodically. Thomson Prometric will be happy to help schools in this effort.

Correct Responses: 1.A; 2.A; 3.D; 4.C; 5.A; 6.B; 7.B; 8.A; 9.C; 10.A; 11.D; 12.B; 13.B.

