

## Biology Notes

### Topic: Drugs

*Objectives:* At the end of this topic, the students should be able to:

- 1. Define the term drug*
- 2. Name the various types of drugs*
- 3. State some effects of the abuse of cocaine, marijuana, alcohol and nicotine*

### **What is a drug?**

A drug is a chemical which can cause a change in the function of a living tissue. Drugs also alter the psychological state of an individual so that there is a change in behavior.

### **Types of drugs**

All drugs can be classified into four main groups:

1. Sedatives
2. Stimulants
3. Hallucinogens
4. Pain killers

### SEDATIVES

These are drugs that slow down the brain and the nervous system, making you clumsy and sleepy. e.g. alcohol

### STIMULANTS

These drugs speed up the actions of the brain and make you alert. e.g. cocaine, caffeine (coffee), nicotine (tobacco)

### HALLUCINOGENS

These drugs cause hallucinations i.e. sensing something that does not actually exist. e.g. marijuana

### PAIN KILLERS

These drugs suppress the part of the brain responsible for the sense of pain. e.g. Heroin

### **Why are drugs dangerous?**

1. Drugs impairs a person's judgment and makes him/her clumsy e.g. alcohol
2. Drugs are addictive i.e. it makes one so dependent on it so that he/she cannot do without it. A drug addict who cannot get his supply of drugs experiences powerful withdrawal symptoms such as fever, nausea and severe cramps. At this stage the only

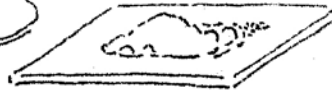
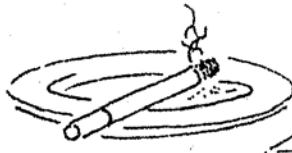
relief is to get the drug and they will do anything such as stealing and killing to get their supply of the drug.

3. Drugs damage the cells of the body e.g. alcohol kills brain and liver cells; marijuana also damages the brain cells (causing hallucinations)

Alcoholics tend to have an enlarged abdomen because the liver becomes enlarged from the damage caused to it by alcohol. This damage is called CIRRHOSIS of the liver.

QUESTION

1. The diagrams show drugs or substances containing drugs that are commonly abused in the Bahamas.



CIGARETTE

COCAINE

MARIJUANA

(a) Who is a drug addict? \_\_\_\_\_ (1)

(b) Which drug shown is least addictive? \_\_\_\_\_ (1)

(c) Name ONE of the drugs that is a stimulant and ONE that is a depressant.

Stimulant: \_\_\_\_\_ Depressant: \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

(d) It was found that non-smokers who worked for a long time, in places where customers smoked cigarettes, developed respiratory diseases.

(i) Name TWO such diseases.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

(ii) What action could managers of public buildings and transportation systems take to protect workers?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

(e) State ONE social effect caused by the abuse of cocaine.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

(f) The abuse of which substance shown, causes an enlarged abdomen? What is the reason?

Substance: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

(g) Which of the substances shown are legally sold in the Bahamas?

\_\_\_\_\_ (2)