SOC 201  CH 3: ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Drug: any ________ that 1. affects the user’s functioning, 2. has potential for abuse, and 3. has bad effects on society.

I. THE GLOBAL CONTEXT: DRUG USE AND ABUSE

A. Drug Use and Abuse around the World: Drug use varies country by country-globally, between 3.6 to 6.9% of the world’s population (aged 16-64) reported using an illicit drug in the past year. Should drugs be ________ or should we increase the penalties to match some counties like Saudi Arabia where they typically ________ drug dealers.

B. Perception of the problem: The cultural definition of drugs as a problem varies—the U.S. takes a ________ approach, Great Britain takes more of a “__________ model” approach. Generally, law enforcement, family counselors, others see drug use as a huge social problem, whether ________ or not.

C. Drug Use and Abuse in the United States: drug use reached its peak in the ________ when concern was comparatively ________. Of Americans 12 and older, ______% report that they used an illicit drug sometime in the month prior to the Drug Survey (see your test for more). What is the most reported__________ drug used in the U.S.?

II. THEORIES OF DRUG USE AND ABUSE Psychological dependency: to ________ the drug to get a feeling of well-being. Physical dependency: withdrawal symptoms occur when the person ________ taking the drug.

A. Structural Functionalist Perspective: Drug abuse is due to ________ of societal norms (anomie). A nationwide 2002 poll found that ________ was the number one stated reason teens take drugs, and lack of ________ supervision was the second most common reason given for taking drugs. ________ religious exercise is associated with ________ drug usage.

B. Conflict Perspective: Alcohol and drugs are used for “escapism” and controlled by the ________ members of society. Because alcohol is a commonly used by the ________, they can define it as “socially acceptable.” Anti- ________ laws of the late 1800s in CA and NV targeted Chinese laborers who were the users.

C. Symbolic Interactionist Perspective: If initial ________ is defined or considered as pleasurable, the person is likely to become a user—if the ________ experience is bad, they will not. A large measure of the “goodness” or “badness” of illicit drugs is ________ influence. Symbols can be manipulated; the DARE program is often shown by politicians that they are doing something about drug problems, even though an ________ of DARE showed it was largely ineffective in reducing drug use among school-aged children.

D. Biological Theories: ________ form a predisposition to abuse alcohol (and other drugs) in some people. One bio-theory is that drugs affect some people differently; ________ do not get as much of a high.
III. FREQUENTLY USED LEGAL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

A. Almost 20 million in the U.S. use drugs (out of almost ______ million total population). Users of illegal drugs are most commonly young, _______ and members of a minority group.

B. Alcohol: Most widely used and abused drug in America, of people who say they are drug dependent, ________ is the drug that is the greatest problem. _______ Drinking: _____ or more drinks at one occasion/month. "Heavy drinking" is _____ or more per occasion on _____ or more days a month. Who drinks more college students or non-college youth? The ________________. Most men & women report their reason for drinking is to ______________. A new "temperance movement"? Some say that raising the drinking age to 21 is just the start of outlawing alcohol altogether.

C. Tobacco: __________ is an addictive drug. Youth and __________ are particularly targeted by tobacco companies—why? Federal law prohibits radio and TV tobacco ads. Problems due to smoking __________, Heart disease, __________, emphysema, premature birth. __________ of lung cancer and 82% of COPD __________ due to cigarettes. Smokers are more likely to be __________, white, live in the South, drink heavily, and have __________ education.

D. Marijuana: dates back to China, BC _______. It does cause health problems: impaired memory, __________ & panic attacks, cancer, and increased heart rate. May also be a __________ drug; it is very frequently included in the typical user's menu of cigarettes, __________, marijuana and cocaine. Tetrahydrocannabinol _______ is the psychoactive ingredient.

E. Opium and morphine were __________ in the 1800s and early 1900s; opium as a pain killer and morphine as a treatment for dysentery and fatigue. "_____________" salesmen often included these in their mixes. They also used amphetamines in __________.

F. Cocaine: also was legal when opium and morphine were. Coca Cola had it in their soft drinks until _______. Cocaine is the __________ most widely used illegal drug in the U.S.

G. Other Drugs: Meth, LSD, Heroin, Prescription Drugs. Meth is linked to violent behavior and is listed as the biggest drug problem for most __________ departments. Ecstasy is called a __________ drug and can lead to permanent brain damage (also produces 5 to 6 pounds of _______ waste for every pound of drug!). LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) is a synthetic hallucinogen. GHB and Rohypnal are called "_______ rape drugs—the victims are unable to fight sexual assault—add _______ years if convicted!

IV. SOCIETAL CONSEQUENCES OF DRUG USE AND ABUSE

A. Family Costs: __________ is the single most commonly associated trait with wife abuse. There is a greater incidence of __________ among drug abusers, also lower _____ in children when exposed prenatally. Children of alcoholics are _______ times more likely to have substance abuse problems than their peers, higher _______ rates, greater likelihood of homelessness also.
B. Crime Costs: abusers are more likely to commit ———— --Males and females! DWI is one of most common crimes. Over 90% of ———— on college campuses is alcohol related.

C. Economic Costs: very expensive to eradicate, lost worker productivity is very high, rehabilitation ———— are expensive and typically last between 30 and 90 days. Smoking costs to taxpayer/year = over $70 billion; alcohol = over $224 billion.

D. Health Costs: ———— health consequences include: shorter ————, higher illness & birth defects.
——— health consequences of drug abuse: greater likelihood of ————, anxiety, antisocial personality disorders & suicide.

V. TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES

A. Prevention is ———— of course, but what can be done for those who are abusing drugs? What are some reasons a person would want to get help? What is the most common reason given for not getting help? ———— ready to ————. Some research indicates similar results of “cure” rates regardless of desire to quit or not.

B. 12-Step Programs- Alcoholics Anonymous, Narc. Anon Success of these programs is described by the Interactionist perspective as people interacting with others to help them ———— their lives. Alcohol abusers may be assisted by a medication called ————.

VI. STRATEGIES FOR ACTION: AMERICA RESPONDS

A. Government Regulation of illicit drugs: The U.S. has reacted to the drug problem with get ———— policies, especially for traffickers. This is a deterrent/punishment approach to the problem. The largest program of this sort was prohibition of alcohol. Did it work?

B. Legalization or ————. Would drug abuse decrease if drugs were legal? Are ———— related problems at a low level because it is legal? One part of harm ————; is giving out clean needles. Is giving needles out a good idea to prevent the spread of disease, or is society encouraging drug use by doing so?

C. Collective Action: People banding together to get laws changed——— helped get the drinking age set to ——— (it used to be———) and stiffer penalties for DUIs. They also promote designated driver programs and want to hold the ———— responsible if someone has an accident after drinking. States are banding together to sue tobacco companies.