



## 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 ultimate passing score for each examination is determined by the school. The school is provided with a recommended passing score established by a national committee of college faculty who teach this course. The DSST program is approved by the American Council on Education (ACE), and the ACE provides both a recommended passing score and a recommended number of credits that could be awarded to successful students. 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 from which they expect to receive credit.

## CONTENT OUTLINE

The following is an outline of the content areas covered in the examination. The approximate percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is also noted.

### Substance Abuse Exam Content Outline

- I. Overview of Substance Abuse and Dependence Abuse – 11%**
  - A. Terminology
  - B. Theories of Abuse and Dependence
  - C. Models of Abuse and Dependence
  - D. Demographics
  - E. Costs to society and associations with social problems
  - F. Screening and diagnosis
- II. Classification of Drugs – 6%**
- III. Pharmacological and Neurophysiological Principles – 11%**
  - A. Nervous system
  - B. Actions of drugs
  - C. Drug interactions
- IV. Alcohol – 12%**
  - A. History and types
  - B. Determinants of blood alcohol level
  - C. Effects
  - D. Uses and administration
  - E. Tolerance, withdrawal, and overdose
  - F. Dependency issues
  - G. Prevention and treatment
- V. Anti-anxiety and Sedative Hypnotics – 6%**
  - A. History and types
  - B. Effects
  - C. Uses and administration
  - D. Tolerance, withdrawal, and overdose
  - E. Prevention and treatment
  - F. Dependency issues
- VI. Inhaled Substances – 4%**
  - A. History and types
  - B. Effects
  - C. Uses and administration
  - D. Tolerance, withdrawal, and overdose
  - E. Prevention and treatment
  - F. Dependency issues
- VII. Tobacco and Nicotine – 7%**
  - A. History and types
  - B. Effects
  - C. Uses and administration
  - D. Tolerance, withdrawal, and overdose
  - E. Prevention and treatment
  - F. Dependency issues
- VIII. Psychomotor Stimulants – 9%**
  - A. History and types
  - B. Effects
  - C. Uses and administration
  - D. Tolerance, withdrawal, and overdose
  - E. Prevention and treatment
  - F. Dependency issues
- IX. Opioids – 9%**
  - A. History and types
  - B. Effects
  - C. Uses and administration

- D. Tolerance, withdrawal, and overdose
- E. Prevention and treatment
- F. Dependency issues

**X. Cannabinoids – 8%**

- A. History and types
- B. Effects
- C. Uses and administration
- D. Tolerance, withdrawal, and overdose
- E. Prevention and treatment
- F. Dependency issues

**XI. Hallucinogens – 4%**

- A. History and types
- B. Effects
- C. Uses and administration
- D. Tolerance, withdrawal, and overdose
- E. Prevention and treatment
- F. Dependency issues

**XII. Other Drugs of Abuse – 5%**

- A. Anabolic steroids
- B. Over-the-counter (OTC) substances
- C. Herbal substances
- D. Club drugs
- E. Other prescription drugs of interest

**XIII. Antipsychotic Drugs – 4%**

- A. History and types
- B. Effects
- C. Uses and administration

**XIV. Antidepressants and Mood Stabilizers – 4%**

- A. History and types
- B. Effects
- C. Uses and administration
- D. Tolerance, withdrawal, and suicidal behaviors

2. *Drugs, Society and Human Behavior*, 12th Edition, 2008, Charles Ksir, Carl Hart and Ray Oakley, McGraw-Hill, Two Penn Plaza, New York, NY 10121, books.mcgraw-hill.com.

**SAMPLE QUESTIONS**

All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. You may want to review these samples for the type of questions that may appear on the exam.

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

**REFERENCES**

The following references were used to create exam questions and may be useful as study materials. You are not allowed to use these references in the testing center.

1. *Drugs and Society*, Ninth Edition, 2006, Glen Hanson, Peter J. Venturelli and Annette E. Fleckenstein, Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 40 Tall Pine Drive, Sudbury, MA 01776, www.jbpub.com.

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. Which of the following is an opium derivative?
  - A. Codeine
  - B. Cocaine
  - C. Phenobarbital
  - D. LSD
  
8. The junction between two neurons is called the
  - A. axon
  - B. dendrite
  - C. synapse
  - D. receptor
  
9. Paradoxical effects of the benzodizephines include all of the following EXCEPT
  - A. nightmares
  - B. irritability
  - C. agitation
  - D. hypersomnia
  
10. 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
  
11. An alcoholic who drinks while taking Antabuse (disulfiram) is likely to experience
  - A. sedation
  - B. nausea
  - C. convulsions
  - D. euphoria

## CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Area or Course Equivalent	Substance Abuse
Level	Upper-level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit	Three (3) semester hours
Source	ACE Commission on Education Credit and Credentials

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. Prometric will be happy to help schools in this effort.

**Answers to sample questions:** 1-A; 2-A; 3-D; 4-C; 5-A; 6-B; 7-A; 8-C; 9-D; 10-B; 11-B.

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