Drugs, Behaviour, and Modern Society

First Canadian Edition

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In today’s world, drugs and their use have the potential for good and for bad. As a society and as individuals, we can be the beneficiaries of drugs—or their victims. This perspective is the message of Drugs, Behaviour, and Modern Society, First Canadian Edition. This text introduces the basic facts and major issues concerning drug-taking behaviour in a straightforward, comprehensive, and reader-friendly manner. A background in biology, sociology, psychology, or chemistry is not necessary. The only requirement is a sense of curiosity about the range of chemical substances that affect our minds and our bodies and an interest in the challenges these substances bring to our society and our daily lives. These challenges can be framed in terms of three fundamental themes.

■ The role of drug-taking behaviour throughout history—First of all, present-day issues concerning drug misuse and abuse are issues that society has confronted for a long time. Drugs and drug-taking behaviour are consequences of a particularly human need to feel stronger, more alert, calmer, more disconnected and dissociated from our surroundings, or simply good. It is the misuse and abuse of chemical substances to achieve these ends that have resulted in major problems in Canada and around the world.

■ The diversity in psychoactive drugs in our society—There is an enormous diversity among drugs that affect the mind and the body. We need to educate ourselves not only about illicit drugs such as cocaine, amphetamines, heroin, hallucinogens, and marijuana but also about legally available drugs such as alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine. Drugs, Behaviour, and Modern Society has been designed as a comprehensive survey of all types of psychoactive drugs, addressing the issues of drug-taking behaviour from a combination of psychological, biological, and sociological perspectives.

■ The personal impact of drug-related issues in our lives—Finally, we need to recognize that, like it or not, the decision to use drugs is one of life’s choices in contemporary society, regardless of our racial, ethnic, or religious background; how much money we have; where we live; how much education we have acquired; whether we are male or female; and whether we are young or old. The potential for misuse and abuse is a problem facing all of us.

Preface

Features of the First Canadian Edition

The first Canadian edition of Drugs, Behaviour, and Modern Society is divided into six sections:

■ Part One (Chapters 1–3): Drugs in Society/Drugs in Our Lives
■ Part Two (Chapters 4–7): Legally Restricted Drugs in Our Society
■ Part Three (Chapters 8–11): Legal Drugs in Our Society
■ Part Four (Chapters 12 and 13): Enhancers and Depressants
■ Part Five (Chapters 14 and 15): Medicinal Drugs
■ Part Six (Chapters 16 and 17): Prevention and Treatment

As you will see, chapters about particular drugs have been grouped not in terms of their pharmacological or chemical characteristics, but rather in terms of how readily accessible they are to the general public and today’s societal attitudes toward their use. The last section of the text concerns itself with prevention and treatment. In addition, several special features throughout the text will enhance your experience as a reader and serve as learning aids.

By the Numbers . . .

At the beginning of most chapters, a feature called By the Numbers . . . provides an often surprising and provocative insight into current viewpoints and research. It is presented in a brief, quantitative format that draws you into the chapter and sets the stage for further exploration.

Quick Concept Checks

Sometimes, when the material gets complicated, it is good to have a quick way of finding out whether you
understand the basic concepts being explained. Each chapter of this text includes, from time to time, a **Quick Concept Check**, where you can see in a minute or two where you stand. Some of the Checks are in a matching format; others involve interpreting a graph or diagram. In some cases, you will be asked to apply the principles you have learned to a real-world situation.

**Portraits**

Thirteen **Portrait** features take you into the lives of individuals who either have influenced our thinking about drugs in our society or have been affected by drug use or abuse. Some of these people are known to the public, but many are not. The subjects of these Portraits include a brutal drug trafficker (Pablo Escobar, Chapter 2), a Canadian neuroscience researcher (Quentin Pittman, Chapter 3), a movie star (Robert Downey Jr., Chapter 4), a Canadian Olympic snowboarder (Ross Rebagliati, Chapter 7), a famous psychologist (Sigmund Freud, Chapter 10), and a coffee icon (Tim Horton, Chapter 11). All the Portraits put a human face on discussions of drugs and behaviour. They remind us that we are dealing with issues that affect real people in all walks of life, now and in the past.

**Drugs . . . in Focus**

There are many fascinating stories to tell about the role of drugs in our history and our present-day culture, along with important facts and serious issues surrounding drug use. **Drugs . . . in Focus** features are presented throughout the first Canadian edition. The topics of these features cover a wide range, from questions about how many famous entertainers died from drugs (Chapter 2), what marijuana is commonly called on the street (Chapter 7), to future possibilities of gene doping in the Olympics (Chapter 12) and the present-day use of “truth serum” in terrorist interrogations (Chapter 13).

**Health Line Boxes**

Helpful information regarding the effectiveness and safety aspects of particular drugs, specific aspects of drug-taking behaviour, and new medical applications can be found in many **Health Line** features throughout the text. Health Line topics include whether we should consider things like spices, olive oil, and grapefruit drugs (Chapter 1), understanding the neurological basis for drug craving (Chapter 3), the risks of smoking and helpful tips on quitting (Chapter 10), and natural health products and how to use them safely (Chapter 14), to name a few.

**Point/Counterpoint Debates**

Drug issues are seldom black or white, right or wrong. Some of the most hotly debated questions of our day concern the use, misuse, and abuse of drugs. These issues deserve a good deal of critical thought. This is why, at specific locations in this book, we have taken five important controversies concerning drugs, collected the key viewpoints pro and con, and created a **Point/Counterpoint** debate based on a simulated conversation that two people might have on that question. Each Point/Counterpoint feature appears at the end of the chapter that deals specifically with the controversy addressed in the debate. We invite you to read these debates carefully and try to arrive at your own position as an exercise in critical thinking. Along with considering the critical thinking questions for further discussion that follow each Point/Counterpoint feature, you may wish to continue the debate in your class.

**Supplements**

Pearson Education Canada is pleased to offer the following supplements to qualified adopters.

- **Instructor’s Manual**: This Instructor’s Manual provides instructors with support material, classroom enrichment information, and wealth of assessment questions. Corresponding to the chapters in the text, each of the manual’s 17 chapters contains discussion questions, lecture outlines, and video suggestions.

- **Test Bank**: The test bank in Microsoft Word format includes an extensive set of multiple choice, true/false, and essay questions, each with an answer justification, page reference, difficulty rating, and type designation. This test bank is also available in MyTest format (see below).

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