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Anthropology 121

Quiz #7

Chapter 5 – *Altered States of Consciousness*

1. T/F An altered state of consciousness refers to any mental state that differs from a normal state.

**T – good definition**

2. What are some examples of altered states of consciousness?

**Psychological, Pharmaceutical & Physiological Causes**

3. What are some features of altered states of consciousness?

**Blurred vision, hallucinations, timelessness, loss of control, new insights**

4. T/F Altered states of consciousness can be produced by fasting.

**T – and by sleeplessness and by spinning in circles**

5. T/F Native American Churches in the U.S. are not allowed to use peyote as a sacrament.

**F – once was banned; religious practice now recognized**

6. T/F Peyote is a hallucinogen.

**T**

7. T/F Users of peyote in religious ritual believe that it contains the power of God and that those who ingest it will absorb god's power.

**T**

8. What are examples of mental stimulants?

**Caffeine, tobacco, power drinks (red bull), methamphetamines, speed**

9. What consciousness altering drugs and substances have you tried? Did you achieve the state described in table 5.3 (p.110)?

10. T/F Christianity features many examples of vicarious suffering.

**T – including crucifixion, execution of witches and heretics, stigmata**

11. T/F Some funeral rituals involve self-inflicted pain on the part of the mourners.

**T – self flagellation**

12. What substance do Ju/'hoansi (Kung) trance healers use in their rituals?

**n/um, akin to sweat but full of power**

13. T/F The !Kung San believe that illness is shot into people by their ancestors.

**T – by laying hands on a person, they pull out sickness and throw it into darkness**

14. T/F About half the !Kung San women become healers.

**F (10% of women; 50% of men become healers)**

15. Why can certain kinds of pain produce a euphoric state?

**It causes the body to produce natural opiates...e.g. why getting tattooed can be addictive**

16. T/F Pain can be experienced as healing and/or transformative.

**T – re: rites of passage**

17. How does spirit possession work?

**1 – A spirit enters the body to accomplish certain goals**

**2 - A person can be possessed by a spirit and need it to be exorcised**

18. T/F A unitary state is caused by being one with oneself.

**F – One with the supernatural however it is conceived, re: one with the universe**

19. Why might a visual aura be interpreted by some to be a vision while others would consider it a pathology?

**Culture – depends on the existence of language that names the altered state of seeing such a vision...and being amongst others who respect such insight**

20. T/F For Holiness Church members, surviving a snakebite is a sign of god's grace.

**T**

21. What might be the appeal of snake handling amongst members of the Holiness church?

**Life in a context where there is little sign of god's presence. With the recent influx of economic opportunities interest in such tests of god's grace have diminished.**

22. What's in a salvation cocktail? What is tested by drinking it?

**Lye (poison) and water. – Faith in god's presence of protect against harm**

23. T/F Psychological tests of serpent handlers indicate that in many ways they are more emotionally healthy than members of mainline Protestant churches.

**T**

24. What is the name of the human-like spirits that the Yanomano recognize?

a. Oxheheom b. Hekura c. Peyote d. Ayahuasca e. Natema

**B- inhaled via blowing ebene, a hallucinogen into the nose**

25. What are some methods in which drugs are taken?

**Smoking, injecting, swallowing, snorting, rectally, sniffing, patch, soaking**

26. T/F Rastafarians refer to marijuana as "wisdom weed."

**T – ganga (holy sacrament, offers a path to understandings of the self, the universe and god)**

27. What are the differences in regards to setting and intention that separate ritual drug use and that practiced in secular societies?

**Recreational – escape, e.g. get bombed, blasted –lost vs. enlightenment, knowledge, greater awareness, insight and control**

## *Drug Culture Discussion*

1. What drugs do you use? Have you ever taken a prescription drug that was not specifically prescribed to you?

**(Discussion)**

2. Have you ever taken a prescription drug in a manner other than how it was prescribed?

**(Discussion)**

3. What over-the-counter drugs do you take?

**(Discussion)**

4. Are there drugs that you would not consider using? Why?

**(Discussion)**

5. What is a drug?

**Any non-food substance that is used for medicinal, spiritual or recreational purposes**

6. T/F The most basic reason people use drugs is for healing.

**T – both physical and mental – emotional and spiritual**

7. T/F The cultural meaning of various substances may vary greatly between different cultures.

**T – e.g. coca in Peru/Bolivia vs. Crack cocaine vs. Cocaine in the early coca cola recipe**

8. T/F Nearly all human groups have used drugs in meaningful ways.

**T – Meaning depends on the group – all believe their use is the correct one**

9. T/F Religious specialists traditionally dispensed medicines.

**T – Shamans, enabled visions of healing**

10. T/F Cultural knowledge determines a peoples' beliefs about drugs.

**T – different perspectives re: benefits and liabilities as well as trust in hallucinations**

11. T/F Marijuana smoking was legal in the U.S. until 1930.

**T – banned due to association with racism towards Mexican migrant farmworkers and Blacks**

12. Should marijuana be legalized?

**Re: Washington and Colorado...CA – medical marijuana**

**For whom? Regulation? Recent propositions re: dispensaries**

13. T/F Tobacco can be a hallucinogen.

**T – in it's unprocessed form )sacred/spiritual**

14. What drugs are legal in the US?

**Tobacco, alcohol, caffeine, pharmaceuticals**

15. What drugs are illegal in the US?

**Heroin, cocaine, speed, marijuana, LSD**

16. T/F Consideration of the culturally embedded meaning of drugs is necessary for enacting effective drug use policy.

**T – Must be seen in a larger cultural context – actual use practices and beliefs...**

## *Psychedelics and Religious Experience*

1. T/F The experiences resulting from the use of psychedelic drugs are often described in religious terms.

**T – insight, message, journey, realization, truth**

2. T/F The idea of mystical experiences resulting from drug use has been readily accepted in Western societies.

**F – seen as not trustworthy; “Just Say No” seen as a better path...**

3. How do *drugged* people behave?

**Goofy, out of control,**

4. Which psychedelics did Alan Watts experiment with? (select those that apply)

a. LSD b. marijuana c. ecstasy d. morning glory seeds e. peyote f. psilocybin (magic mushrooms)

**A,B, F as well as mescaline**

5. Where did Alan Watts have his first experience with LSD?

a. on a beach in Maui b. at a commune in Big Sur c. in the Amazon jungle  
d. the Neuropsychiatric Clinic at UCLA e. the Langley Porter mental health clinic in San Francisco

D...second was at Langley Porter

6. What were the four dominant characteristics of Watts’ experiments with psychedelics? (Select 4)

a. slowing down of time b. awareness of polarity c. kinship with animals d. awareness of relativity e. awareness of eternal energy.

**A,B, D, E**

7. T/F Watts found that he became reliant on psychedelics for achieving cosmic consciousness.

**F – more it enabled independent access (functioned as a teacher/guide)**

8. T/F Sensing “at oneness” with God and/or the universe is antithetical to Western religions including Christianity and Judaism.

**T – e.g. unitary state**

9. When Watts refers to “Los Angelization” what is he contending?

a. the worship of movie-stars b. reliance on technology causing an alienation between man and nature c. transport by freeways rather than soul travel d. reliance on prescription drugs rather than natural hallucinogens e. watching too much television rather than having human-human experience

**B**

10. Is the use of psychedelic drugs dangerous? Would you take them?

**(Discussion)**

11. Should the use of psychedelic drugs be legalized for research in pursuit of religious experience?

**Originally done by the US Army, later Timothy Leary at Harvard U.**

12. One purpose of a ritual setting for the taking of a drug is to:

a. prevent madness b. induce sleep c. promote temporary alienation  
d. enhance spiritualism

**A – need guide, Road Man**

13. What are some of the drugs used by traditional peoples? How are they used?  
**Peyote, Ayahuasca, datura, morning glory seeds, coca, agave**

### *Alcohol in the Western World*

1. How is alcohol regarded today?

**Social lubricant, sophisticated dining beverage, cardiovascular benefactor and agent of destruction, re: drinking and driving**

2. Why was alcohol considered the “Water of Life” in the Middle Ages?

**Safer to drink than water, fermentation killed pathogens**

3. Why did Prussia’s Frederick the Great (1777) consider beer a superior beverage to coffee?

**Beer regarded as nourishing...caffeine unpredictable effects. Too much money being spent on coffee (even today!)**

4. T/F 5,000 years ago Egyptians and Babylonians drank beers made from barley and wheat.

**T – basic diet...led to discovery of fermentation**

5. When and where did wine production begin?

**Armenia, 6000 BC**

6. T/F The Old and New Testaments make frequent mention to water being a common human beverage.

**F - wine**

7. T/F During the Middle Ages alcohol was rarely served in Asia.

**T – largely tea was served (water boiling made it a safe beverage)**

8. T/F Throughout Western history the normal state of mind may have been one of inebriation.

**T – only recently have we been focused on sobriety**

9. T/F Concerns over temperance may have led to the incorporation of wine into everyday Hebrew ritual.

**T – guidance so to restrain undisciplined drinking (context, amount, purpose)**

10. T/F The 17<sup>th</sup> century Christian church banned the production and consumption of wine.

**F – They were the largest producer**

11. When did the drinking of non-alcoholic beverages become popular in Europe?

**Beginning of 17<sup>th</sup> c**

12. When was alcoholism first considered to be a disease?

**19<sup>th</sup> c. re: advent of distillation**

13. T/F Alcoholism is the primary cause of preventable death in the U.S.

**F – biggest culprits are smoking tobacco, poor diet, sedentary way of life**

## *History of Peyotism and the Peyote Church*

1. T/F A peyote ceremony is akin to a prayer meeting during which peyote is eaten by participants under leadership of a road man.

**T**

2. What are the four elements of the Peyote rite? (pick four)

a. prayer b. singing c. drumming d. eating the Peyote e. tripping f. contemplation

**A,B,C,D,**

3. How is Peyote taken? (select all that apply)

a. by enema b. eating the plant (fresh or dried) c. intravenous injection d. smoking e. as a tea f. snorting the powder

**B,E**

4. How much Peyote is usually taken?

**Depends on the person and the prescription offered by the Shaman/Road Man**

5. T/F The Navajo tribal government once decreed that the peyote religion was illegal.

**T**

6. How might a shaman use peyote to heal a sick person?

**Both take it. Gives shaman access to the illness in the sick person.**

7. What is happening when a sick person vomits from having taken Peyote?

**Cleansing—removal of illness causing spirits**

8. What are some of the ways that Peyote teaches?

**Respect for the power of nature – personal clarity**

9. Why might nonmembers of the Native American Church have different experiences under the influence of Peyote than members?

**No roadman – no guidance, not taken with the same intention re: healing and insight**

## *The Sound of Rushing Water*

1. Where do the Jivaro live?

**Ecuador**

2. T/F The Jivaro believe that witchcraft is the cause of the vast majority of illnesses and non-violent deaths.

**T**

3. Why do the Jivaro consider normal waking life to be “a lie?”

**Under the influence of Natema/Ayahuasca they can see “the truth”**

4. The Jivaro recognize which two kinds of shamans?

a. curing b. diagnostic c. bewitching d. possessing e. magical

**A,C**

5. What is the Jivaro hallucinogenic drink *natema* made from?  
 a. peyote b. tobacco c. ayahuasca d. psilocybin mushrooms e. datura

**C**

6. T/F Anthropologist Michael Harner drank *natema* as a means to access the reality of his informants.

**T – discuss his research methods...non-traditional; experiential**

7. T/F About 25% of Jivaro men become shamans.

**T**

8. Under what conditions can a Jivaro shaman access *tsentsak* (his spirit helpers)?

**To attack an enemy – bring illness to a victim --**

9. T/F While curing under the influence of *natema*, the curing shaman can *see* the shaman who bewitched his patient.

**T**

10. How might a shaman take powers away from another shaman?

**Create a bridge—see the shaman and intercept his power**