

NC BLET Controlled Substances Study Guide

I. Introduction to Controlled Substances

- **Definition:** Controlled substances are drugs regulated by law due to their potential for abuse and harm.
 - **Law Enforcement Role:** Officers frequently encounter controlled substances and must recognize their effects and related criminal activities.
 - **Legal Framework:** Governed by the **Controlled Substances Act of 1970** and North Carolina General Statutes.
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II. Classification of Controlled Substances

Controlled substances are categorized into **six schedules** based on medical use, abuse potential, and dependency risk.

1. Schedule I

- **High abuse potential, no accepted medical use, unsafe for treatment**
- **Examples:** Heroin, LSD, MDMA (Ecstasy), Mephedrone, Bath Salts (MDPV)

2. Schedule II

- **High abuse potential, restricted medical use, severe dependence risk**
- **Examples:** Cocaine, Methamphetamine, PCP, Ritalin, Dilaudid, Morphine, Hydrocodone, Oxycodone

3. Schedule III

- **Moderate abuse potential, accepted medical use, moderate dependency risk**
- **Examples:** Ketamine, Buprenorphine (Suboxone), Anabolic Steroids

4. Schedule IV

- **Low abuse potential, accepted medical use, limited dependency risk**
- **Examples:** Diazepam (Valium), Phentermine, Alprazolam (Xanax)

5. Schedule V

- **Lowest abuse potential, accepted medical use, limited dependency risk**
- **Examples:** Cough syrup with codeine

6. Schedule VI

- **No accepted medical use, low abuse potential, requires further study**
 - **Examples:** Marijuana, Synthetic Cannabinoids (K2, Spice)
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III. Commonly Encountered Controlled Substances

1. Narcotics (Opioids)

- **Effect:** Produce sleep-like state, relieve pain, and are highly addictive.
- **Examples:** Opium, Heroin, Dilaudid, Demerol, Oxycodone

2. Stimulants

- **Effect:** Increases energy, alertness, and excitement; highly addictive.
- **Examples:** Cocaine, Methamphetamine, Amphetamines

3. Depressants

- **Effect:** Slow down CNS and psychomotor activity.
- **Examples:** Alcohol, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines (Xanax, Valium)

4. Hallucinogens

- **Effect:** Alter perception, induce hallucinations and emotional changes.
- **Examples:** LSD, Psilocybin Mushrooms, Peyote, Ecstasy

5. Phencyclidine (PCP)

- **Effect:** Hallucinogenic and stimulant properties; may cause violent behavior.
- **Indicators:** Blank stare, difficulty speaking, chemical odor, increased pain threshold.

6. Inhalants

- **Types:**
 - **Volatile Solvents:** Glue, paint, gasoline, nail polish remover
 - **Aerosols:** Hair spray, deodorant, air freshener, computer duster
 - **Anesthetics:** Ether, chloroform, nitrous oxide

7. Cannabis (Marijuana & Hashish)

- **Active Ingredient:** THC (Delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol)
- **Effects:** Relaxation, euphoria, increased appetite, altered perception

8. Synthetic Drugs

- **Synthetic Cannabinoids:** K2, Spice
 - **Synthetic Cathinones (Bath Salts):** Cloud 9, Ivory Wave, Vanilla Sky
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IV. Identifying Drug Use Indicators

Cocaine Use Indicators

- **Low Dose:** Rapid speech, agitation
- **High Dose:** Slurred speech, sedation
- **Other Signs:** Dilated pupils, high pulse, nasal residue

Amphetamine Use Indicators

- **Signs:** Dilated pupils, sweating, talkativeness, paranoia, irritability

Hallucinogen Use Indicators

- **Signs:** Hallucinations, body tremors, disorientation, heightened emotions

PCP Use Indicators

- **Signs:** Blank stare, perspiration, confusion, combativeness

Inhalant Use Indicators

- **Signs:** Residue around mouth/nose, nausea, slurred speech, dizziness

Cannabis Use Indicators

- **Signs:** Red eyes, marijuana odor, relaxed inhibitions, increased appetite

Opioid Use Indicators

- **Signs:** Pinpoint pupils, itching, sleepiness, needle marks

Depressant Use Indicators

- **Signs:** Slurred speech, drowsiness, confusion
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V. Investigating Drug Crimes

1. Drug Paraphernalia

- **Includes:** Pipes, syringes, scales, rolling papers, bongs
- **NC General Statutes:** Prohibit possession and distribution of paraphernalia

2. Methamphetamine Labs

- **Common Ingredients:**
 1. Pseudoephedrine
 2. Lithium battery strips
 3. Solvents (acetone, brake cleaner)
 4. Fertilizer, lye, ammonia
- **Lab Equipment:**
 1. Flasks, funnels, tubing, coffee filters, cookware
- **Response Procedures:**
 1. Ensure safety, eliminate ignition sources.
 2. Remove people from the area.
 3. Notify SBI Clandestine Lab Team.

3. Surveillance Types

- **Open Surveillance:** Obvious monitoring.
- **Close Surveillance:** Subject may be aware of being watched.
- **Covert Surveillance:** Subject is unaware of monitoring.

4. Informant Development

- **Sources:** Citizens, law enforcement, criminals, government agencies
 - **Informant Types:** Occasional, regular, arrested, confidential
 - **Motivations:** Fear, revenge, financial gain, ego, reform
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VI. NC Unauthorized Substances Tax

- **Thresholds:**
 - 42.5+ grams marijuana
 - 7+ grams of any controlled substance sold by weight
 - 10+ dosage units of a controlled substance
 - **Enforced by the NC Department of Revenue**
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VII. Drug Overdose & Limited Immunity

- **Definition:** Acute condition (coma, hysteria, death) requiring medical aid.
 - **Limited Immunity:** Protects individuals seeking medical assistance for overdoses from prosecution.
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VIII. Conclusion & Key Takeaways

- **Controlled substances are categorized by risk and abuse potential.**
- **Recognizing drug indicators is crucial for law enforcement officers.**
- **Investigating drug crimes requires knowledge of paraphernalia, labs, and suspect behaviors.**
- **Limited immunity laws encourage life-saving overdose intervention.**