

Grade 9 Life Orientation Worksheet

Personal and social causes of substance abuse

Brainstorm the personal and social causes of substance abuse. Create a mind map to show the results of the activity. (Group activity)

There are some common factors that are associated with the causes of substance abuse, such as:

1. Genetic factors:

Family history, genetic predisposition

- a. Pre-existing psychiatric or personality disorder, or a medical disorder
- b. Reinforcing effects of drugs
- c. Withdrawal effects and craving
- d. Biochemical factors

2. Psychological factors:

- e. Peer pressure
- f. Curiosity
- g. Social rebelliousness
- h. Early initiation
- i. Poor control
- j. Sensation seeking (Feeling high)
- k. Low self-esteem (Anomie)
- l. Poor stress management
- m. Childhood loss or trauma
- n. As a relief from fatigue or boredom
- o. To escape reality
- p. No interest in conventional goals
- q. Psychological distress

Work in groups of 4 learners per group for this activity.

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1. Brainstorm the following issues:
 - What are the personal causes of substance abuse?
 - What are the social causes of substance abuse?

2. Present the conclusions of your brainstorming activity in the form of a mind map.

Your teacher will assess your participation in the brainstorming activity and mind-map illustration using the following checklist.

Checklist for observation of brainstorming activity and construction of mind map			
Name:		Date:	
	Criteria: Does the learner:	Yes	No
1	Wait for a pause before s/he interrupts a speaker?		
2	Interrupt a speaker politely?		
3	Show evidence of having understood the concept of substance abuse?		
4	Show evidence of having understood the concept of 'personal causes'?		
5	Show evidence of having understood the concept of 'social causes'?		
6	Keep to the topic under discussion?		
7	Accept others' points of view?		
8	Give reasons to support alternative points of view?		
9	Make points clearly using appropriate vocal volume?		
10	Make eye contact when speaking?		
11	Use body language appropriately?		
12	Make notes of important points?		
13	Draw a mind map to illustrate the group's ideas?		
14	Cover all the important points in the mind map?		
15	Present the mind-map neatly?		
1 point per 'yes' answer: 15 marks available			

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Suggested Solutions

Task number	Possible marks	Solution
1	15	See checklist 1 in Appendix of Assessment Tools.

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