**RO51 Contemporary Studies - 8 mark question answers**

**2. June13 - LO2d**

**Indicative content**

Candidate responses are likely to include:

**Reasons for use:**

1. To gain an unfair advantage/sustain level of performance…

2. To be able to train harder/longer

3. …the athlete can build strength to facilitate additional training

4. ….the athlete knowingly takes a performance enhancing drug

5. Desire to win/Pressure to succeed…..

6. …..the athlete wants to be successful both as an individual and for the nation they represent

7. Pressure from coaches/other performers/parents

8. ….the athlete receives pressure from team mates to take performance enhancing drugs

9. Success brings money/extrinsic reward…..

10. …..if an athlete is successful they will be able to earn more money through participation and sponsorship

11. Success brings fame……

12. …..becoming successful can lead to increased coverage by the media and the athlete will become famous

13. Return from injury….

14. …. will be quicker if drugs are used – it is important for teams to have the best players available and with competition for places athletes want to return from injury as soon as possible

15. To aid weight control…..

16. …..jockeys and boxers are examples of athletes who have weight controls in sport. Use of certain drugs can help reduce weight quickly

17. To improve body image/size/shape

18. ….weight lifters using steroids to develop musculature

19. To control arousal

20. …..snooker players taking beta blockers to control anxiety

21. Performer perceives that fellow competitors are taking drugs

22. ….fear of falling behind other competitors

**Ethical issues:**

23. The use of performance-enhancing drugs damages the reputation of sport

24. Where drug use is evident there is not a level playing field

25. Some sports are tainted by the ongoing use of drugs, eg cycling

26. Sports performers are often role models to young people; it is therefore important that they set a good example

27. The use of performance-enhancing drugs will only spread wider if the next generation of elite performers grow up seeing it all around them

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28. Should there be a distinction between recreational drugs and performance-enhancing drugs?

29. Should someone be banned because they have taken recreational drugs which have not enhanced their performance?

30. Should all sports performers be allowed to take performance enhancing drugs?

31. …so that everyone participates on a level playing field?

32. Is the battle to regulate against the use performance enhancing drugs being lost?

33. Are current regulations fair?

34. …different rules in different sports (eg football not fully signed up to WADA code)

35. …is the ‘whereabouts rule’ an infringement of people’s civil liberties?

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**Differentiating between levels look for:**

**MB1 (1–3 marks)**

The response shows a limited understanding of the reasons why some sports performers might use performance-enhancing drugs and the ethical issues that the use of performance-enhancing drugs raises.

Candidates provide simple descriptions of a few points from the indicative content. No attempt is made at evaluation and there may be some irrelevant material in the answer.

There is little or no use of technical vocabulary and sentences have limited coherence and structure.

Errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling may be noticeable and intrusive.

**MB2 (4–6 marks)**

The response shows an understanding of the reasons why some sports performers might use performance-enhancing drugs and the ethical issues that the use of performance-enhancing drugs raises.

Candidates make some valid points from the indicative content with good knowledge and understanding. Some attempt at evaluation is made, which may include the use of one or more of the developed points in order to gauge the value of the benefit(s).

There is some use of technical vocabulary and sentences for the most part are relevant and are coherent.

There are occasional errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling.

**MB3 (7–8 marks)**

The response shows a detailed understanding of the reasons why some sports performers might use performance-enhancing drugs and the ethical issues that the use of performance-enhancing drugs raises.

Candidates make many points from the indicative content, several of which may be developed, leading to an evaluation being clearly made.

The answer is well structured and uses appropriate terminology and technical vocabulary.

There are few if any errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling.

**2. June13 - LO2d - Exemplar 8 mark answer**

*Give reasons why some sports performers might use performance-enhancing drugs. What ethical issues does the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sport raise?#*

Many athletes use performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) in order **to gain an unfair advantage.** They may feel that the only way they can **sustain their level of performance** and stay at the top of their sport is to take PEDs. They will also be able **to train harder and for longer** without feeling as much fatigue. Some PEDs, such as steroids, allow athletes to **increase muscle mass and build strength so they can complete extra training.**

Elite athletes are under a great deal of **pressure to succeed** so this is why some turn to the use of PEDs. Many also have a **desire to win** (Lombardian ethic) which means they are willing to take PEDs in order to do so. They want to **be successful for themselves but also for their country.** Athletes can also feel **pressure from coaches, family members, other athletes and the media.** Their coach may encourage them to take PEDs or even provide them e.g. USSR in the Olympics. If teammates are taking PEDs then they may encourage others to do so.

If top level athletes are successful then this can **bring money and other extrinsic rewards** e.g. sponsorship, prizes etc. Success can increase an athletes earning potential as they can **generate more money from advertising and sponsorship** and win higher sums as the standard of competition increases e.g. Wimbledon winners each earn £2.2 million. Some athletes feel it is worth the risk to try and win these vast sums of money so they take PEDs.

**Success brings fame and becoming successful can lead to increased coverage by the media.** The athlete will become famous and likelybe a role model for young people. This can lead to increased revenue from sponsorship and advertising.

Some athletes take PEDs so they can **return from injury quicker.** If an athlete wants to be fit and ready for a particular competition, such as the Olympic games or the FIFA World Cup, then they may take PEDs to speed up the recovery process. PEDs, such as diuretics, can help to **aid weight control.** This is particularly important for jockeys and boxers who have to control their weight in order to compete.

Certain PEDs, such as steroids, can **improve body image, muscle size and shape**. These are particularly popular with body builders and weight lifters as they allow them to develop muscle quickly. If a sport requires concentration then the use of beta blockers can help the performer to focus. Snooker players and archers have been found to use these PEDs during competitions.

There is a belief among some performers that **all their competitors are taking PEDs** so they fear that if they do not take them then they will **fall behind**.

The use of PEDs also **damages the reputation of the sport**. It is felt that where drug use is evident there is **not a level playing field** so some competitors have an unfair advantage over others. **Cycling** has suffered from this in recent times, due largely to the high profile case of Lance Armstrong who was found to be blood doping when he won his record number of Tour de France titles. Elite athletes are **role models** to young people so it is vital that they demonstrate good behaviour and set the right example. The next generation of athletes will think that it is OK or normal to take PEDs if they see that their heroes are doing it.

Some people think there should be a **distinction between the use of PEDs and recreational drugs** such as cannabis and cocaine. At present, athletes will receive sanctions (bans, fines etc) if they test positive for recreational drugs, even though they have **not enhanced their performance.**

There has been some debate as to whether there should be **separate competitions** for those athletes who do and do not want to take PEDs. This would then **create a level playing field** as athletes in either competition are competing like for like e.g. all on PEDs. National Governing Bodies have a duty to safeguard their members so the physical risks and damage that the use of PEDs cause are one of the reasons why it is unlikely this will ever happen.

There are some people who feel the use of PEDs is so wide spread that there is **no point trying to control and regulate their use**. Some athletes have received bans for unintentionally taking substances that they did not realise were banned e.g. some cough and flu medicines are on the WADA list, causing them to miss big competitions such as the Olympics. There are also **different rules and regulations for different sports** so this does not make the measures universal. Some people also feel that **WADA’s ‘Whereabouts rule’ is too restrictive** as it requires athletes to be available for one hour every day for testing. There has been debate as to whether this is an **infringement of people’s civil liberties**?