

KEY: A Mind Altering Experience?

Part One:

1. FEELING APPREHENSIVE?

Watch the first 60 seconds of the video:

Why is the journalist feeling apprehensive? **Because he's going to take an illegal class A hallucinogenic drug**

What do you know about it? **It was used in mind control experiments**

Write down the name of the substance: **PSILOCYBIN or magic mushroom**

2. Discuss together...

Why is this an interesting experiment?

Why are researchers interested in this?

How will the subject react?

What will the impact on the brain be?

3. True or false?

Change the false statements so that they correspond to the information given.

The journalist is worried that he will have a bad reaction.

Not really - the doctor tells him he should enjoy it, he has had no bad reactions

The Doctor tells him it will be like getting drunk.

Yes and No- he says that being drunk changes your consciousness, so the journalist shouldn't be worried about altering his consciousness.

The researchers do not think he will experience significant effects.

False - they expect a significant impact

You need to be mystical and spiritual to feel the effects.

No - these questions are asked by the researcher for research purposes.

The subject receives a 3.5 mg dose.

No it's 2mg

The journalist feels he has lost himself in conceptual thought.

No- that's a previous volunteer.

The journalist was not sure he had felt any effects.

No -One of the strangest, most unusual experiences of his life

4. What are the therapeutic objectives of this research programme?

To treat psychiatric disorders such as depression

What is the method? **Give patients the drug and put them in the scanner (as usual)**

Part two: 3'00

5. Which of these effects or sensations is mentioned?

Which do the researchers anticipate? (A) Which are actually experienced? (E)

Anticipated : Floating, Physical Sensations, Strange visions, Seeing Colourful imagery

**Experienced : Whooshing, Levitating, Being talkative, Beautiful visions, Floating
Dissolving, Strange visions, Flying**

6. *Analysis of the results*

What are the blue blobs? **Areas where the blood circulation is reduced**

What does this indicate? **Brain has shut down activity in these areas**

What is the action of the drug on the brain? **Causes a reduction in blood flow**

Why is this surprising and/or interesting? **Inactivating not activating areas**

7. Therapy – eliminate the incorrect information.

These regions may be inactive/overactive/underactive in patients suffering from depression/ ADHD/ OCD/ anxiety. If we could dampen down/ boost/slow down/turn up these regions then patients may change their mind-set /mind / brain cells and become more aggressive/positive /calm / lucid. One possible advantage is that this therapy acts quickly on the brain / is available as a pill/ will not cause hallucinations.

8. **Language work:** Listen with the script

a) Find the underlined words or expressions in the script

Choose the best equivalent phrase for these expressions

Become – **turn out to be**

Become less active – **dampen down**

Deactivate / turn off – **shut down, switch off**

Has an effect on – **work on**

No longer have an effect – **wear off, worn off**

Watch – **look on**

b) **COULD** – hypothesis or ability? What is the value of could in the underlined sentences?

i) **He felt he was able to levitate – he had the capacity to do it.**

ii) **Might – if it were possible**

iii) **If you were able to maintain – capacity**