

Chapter 6 – Essay Questions

1. Athletes from an Asian country win many medals in distance events in running and swimming. It is discovered that they use a special herb in their diet, and the herb only grows in the special high-altitude environment in which the Asian runners train. Should the herb be put on the banned-substance list? What are all the issues that need to be considered when answering this question?
2. After reading Chapter 6, do you think it is possible to have elite sports in which the use of performance-enhancing substances does not occur? If you say yes, then explain how you would maintain a “substance free” environment. If your answer is no, then explain why it is not possible.
3. You are a school headteacher, and some parents have asked your position on drug testing for athletes. What is your position, and how would you justify it? What would be the main objections to your position?
4. The year is 2020. Your 15-year-old daughter comes to you and says she wants to take a new drug that will help make her a track star in school. The drug is cheap, it has no known side effects, it is not illegal, and other athletes are taking it. You tell your daughter you don’t want her taking the drug, and she demands an explanation. How do you justify your position?
5. Imagine that the athlete who wins the gold medal in the decathlon in the 2012 Olympic Games in London later admits that he underwent a form of genetic manipulation to produce high amounts of growth hormone in his own body. Should his medal be taken away? Explain your position regardless of whether it is yes or no.