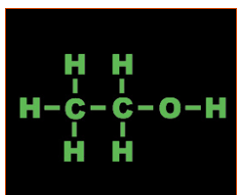


Vices among young people

New age has brought us hundreds of benefits, but it also has brought us many disadvantages. For example, the science has advanced a lot and the techinics have achieved a gratifying level. On the contrary, the very same technical achievement has numerous bad influences on our lives, especially among youngsters. Nowadays the young spend more and more time in front of their computers, and less outside the house with their friends. What is more, these days the youth rather spend their time drinking and smoking than doing some sports or going for a walk. Consequently, many vices such as alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and gambling are spread among the adolescents.

ALCOHOL

There are different types of alcohol. Some are used in chemistry laboratories and industry, e.g. isopropyl and methyl alcohol. Isopropanol, or isopropyl alcohol is also used in industrial processes as well as in home cleaning products and skin lotions. It is also commonly known as "rubbing alcohol". Methanol, or methyl alcohol or wood alcohol has been used as an industrial solvent and is also commonly available as methylated spirit. It is found in cleaning solvents, paint removers, photocopier developer and anti-freeze solutions. It is similar to ethanol but the end product after it is digested by the body is formaldehyde, which is poisonous. This is responsible for "alcohol poisoning". Methanol poisoning leading to blindness has been known to occur on consuming even small amounts.



Ethanol molecule

(100%) ethyl alcohol. Ethyl alcohol is also used as a reagent in some industrial applications. For such use, ethyl alcohol is combined with small quantities of methanol, with the mixture being called "denatured ethanol" to prevent theft for human consumption.

Brief description of alcoholic beverages



Beer is made by the process of fermentation. A liquid mix, called wort, is prepared by combining yeast and malted cereal. Fermentation of this liquid mix produces alcohol and carbon dioxide. The process of fermentation is stopped before it is completed to limit the alcohol content. The alcohol so produced is called beer. It contains 4 to 8 per cent of alcohol.



Wines are also made from a variety of fruits, such as grapes, peaches, plums or apricots. The most common wines are produced from grapes. The soil in which the grapes are grown and the weather conditions in the growing season determine the quality and taste of the grapes which in turn affects the taste and quality of wines. When ripe, the grapes are crushed and fermented in large vats to produce wine. Wines contain approximately 10-12 per cent of alcohol. Many mix red wine with cola and white wine with soda, in order to drink more.

Whisky is made by distilling the fermented juice of cereal grains such as corn, rye or barley. Scotch whisky was originally made in Scotland. The word "Scotch" has become almost synonymous with whisky of good quality. It contains 40-50 per cent of alcohol.



Rum is a distilled beverage made from fermented molasses or sugarcane juice and is aged for at least three years. It is the favourite drink of the Pirates. Caramel is sometimes used for colouring. It is usually mixed with cola.]

Brandy is distilled from fermented fruit juices. Brandy is usually aged in oak casks. The colour of brandy comes either from the casks or from caramel that is added. Serbian most known brandy is called *Shljivovitza*. It contains up to 45% of alcohol.



Gin is a distilled beverage. It is a combination of alcohol, water and various flavours. Gin does not improve with age, so it is not stored in wooden casks. It usually contains 40 per cent of alcohol. Some like drinking it mixed with tonic.

Liqueurs are made by adding sugar and flavouring such as fruits, herbs or flowers to brandy or to a combination of alcohol and water. Most liqueurs contain 20-65 per cent of alcohol. They are usually consumed in small quantities. *Absinth* is a type of liqueur that contains more than 55 per cent of alcohol.



Common local brews in the countries of the South-East Asia

Arrack is a distilled beverage, obtained from paddy or wheat. Jaggery, sugar or sugarcane is added to either of these two cereals and boiled with water. This is allowed to ferment, after which it is distilled. This beverage contains about 50- 60 per cent of alcohol.

Toddy is obtained from the flowers of a coconut or palm tree. A white liquid, with a sweet taste, oozes out of these flowers. When consumed fresh, this juice has no intoxicating effect. This liquid is collected and allowed to ferment. At times, yeast is added to hasten the process. The fermented juice has an alcohol content of approximately 5-10 per cent.

TOBACCO



Tobacco plant

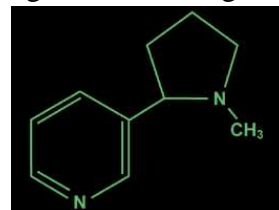
The origins of tobacco are lost in the mists of time. Smoking is universal and this history relates primarily to Britain. Tobacco came to Europe via the New World. Christopher Columbus made the first recorded reference to tobacco in 1492.

In Britain, tobacco was introduced to the Elizabethan court by Sir Walter Raleigh and he was a confirmed smoker until his death on the scaffold at the Tower of London.

Originally tobacco was classified as a drug and could only be bought from apothecaries. It was recognised for its medicinal qualities, particularly on the continent.

Contrary to the popular opinion there have always been detractors of tobacco. James I of England published his famous counterblast to tobacco in 1603. He concluded that it was a custom loathsome to the eye, harmful to the brain and dangerous to the lungs. The warning did not have the desired effect nor did the raising of the taxes for tobacco. This was the start of tobacco being used as a revenue raiser, which has continued to the present day.

Tobacco was grown in Virginia and it is regarded as America's first crop. Until the American War of Independence, tobacco could only be sold to Britain, and these trade restrictions were one of the reasons for the war. Before George Washington became the first President of America, he was a tobacco planter. Cigarettes were a favourite present for troops in the First World War. Women began to smoke and were encouraged to do so by advertising and the glamour of smoking in Hollywood



Nicotine molecule

films. Most men and many women smoked until the 1980's when health warnings, changing social attitudes and punitive taxes began to take their toll. Smoking is now banned on many premises. Yet we see employees standing in the rain having a smoke. The future remains to be seen.

Chewing tobacco

Also known as *chew* refers to a form of smokeless tobacco furnished as long strands of whole or very coarsely shredded leaves and consumed by placing a portion between the cheek and teeth. Unlike dipping tobacco, it isn't ground and must be mechanically crushed with the teeth to release flavor and nicotine. Unwanted juices are then expectorated. Historically, chewing tobacco was the most prevalent form of tobacco use in the United States until it was overtaken by cigarette smoking in the early 20th Century.

Cigarette

A 'cigarette' is a tobacco product that is manufactured out of cured and finely cut tobacco leaves, which is rolled or stuffed into a paper-wrapped cylinder (generally less than 120 mm in length and 10 mm in diameter). The cigarette is ignited at one end and allowed to smoulder for the purpose of inhalation of its smoke from the other (usually cigarette filtered) end, which is inserted in the mouth. They are sometimes smoked with a Cigarette holder. The term cigarette, as commonly used, typically refers to a tobacco cigarette, but can apply to similar devices containing other herbs, such as cannabis. All tobacco products have been medically proven to considerably shorten life spans.



Most Western and several Eastern countries have large health warnings printed on the front and back of packets to warn of the effects of smoking.

A cigarette is distinguished from a cigar by its smaller size (hence the name), use of processed leaf, and paper wrapping; cigars are typically composed entirely of whole tobacco leaves. Cigarettes were largely unknown in the English-speaking world before the Crimean War, when British soldiers began emulating their Ottoman Empire comrades, who resorted to rolling their tobacco with newsprint.

ILLEGAL DRUGS

Cocaine

Cocaine is a powerfully addictive stimulant that directly affects the brain. Cocaine is not a new drug. In fact, it is one of the oldest known drugs. The pure chemical, cocaine hydrochloride, has been an abused substance for more than 100 years, and coca leaves, the source of cocaine, have been ingested for thousands of years.



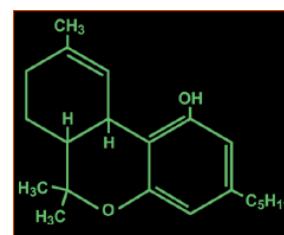
Pure cocaine was first extracted from the leaf of the *Erythroxylon* coca bush, which grows primarily in Peru and Bolivia, in the mid-19th century. In the early 1900s, it became the main stimulant drug used in most of the elixirs that were developed to treat a wide variety of illnesses. Cocaine abuse has a long history and is rooted into the drug culture in the world. It is an intense euphoric drug with strong addictive potential. With the increase in purity, the advent of the free-base form of the cocaine ("crack"), and its easy availability on the street, cocaine continues to burden both the law enforcement and health care systems in the world. The powdered, hydrochloride salt form of cocaine can be snorted or dissolved in water and injected. Crack is cocaine that has not been neutralized by an acid to make the hydrochloride salt. This form of cocaine comes in a rock crystal that can be heated and its vapors smoked. The term "crack" refers to the crackling sound heard when it is heated.

Street names: Blow, nose candy, snowball, tornado, wicky stick, Perico (Spanish)

Marijuana



Marijuana is the most commonly abused illicit drug in the world. A dry, shredded green/brown mix of flowers, stems, seeds, and leaves of the plant *Cannabis sativa*, is usually smoked as a cigarette (joint, nail), or in a pipe (bong). It is also smoked in blunts, which are cigars that have been emptied of tobacco and refilled with marijuana, often in combination with another drug. It might also be mixed in food or brewed as a tea. As a more concentrated, resinous form, it is called hashish and, as a sticky black liquid, hash oil. Marijuana smoke has a pungent and distinctive, usually sweet-and-sour odor. The main active chemical in marijuana is THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol). The membranes of certain nerve cells in the brain contain protein receptors that bind to THC. Once securely in place, THC kicks off a series of cellular reactions that ultimately lead to the high that users experience when they smoke marijuana.



THC molecule

Street names: Grass, pot, weed, bud, Mary Jane, dope, indo, hydro

LSD

Chemist Albert Hofmann, working at the Sandoz Corporation pharmaceutical laboratory in Switzerland, first synthesized LSD in 1938. He was conducting research on possible medical applications of various lysergic acid compounds derived from ergot, a fungus that develops on rye grass. Searching for compounds with therapeutic value, Hofmann created more than two dozen ergot-derived synthetic molecules.



LSD collage

LSD is sold on the street in tablets, capsules, and occasionally in liquid form. It is an odorless and colorless substance with a slightly bitter taste that is usually ingested orally. It is often added to absorbent paper, such as blotter paper, and divided into small decorated squares, with each square representing one dose.

Street names: Acid, blotter acid, window pane, dots, mellow yellow

Heroin



Heroin is an illegal, highly addictive drug. It is both the most abused and the most rapidly acting of the opiates. Heroin is processed from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed pod of certain varieties of poppy plants. It is typically sold as a white or brownish powder or as the black sticky substance known on the streets as “black tar heroin.” Although purer heroin is becoming more common, most street heroin is “cut” with other drugs or with substances such as sugar, or powdered milk.

Street heroin can also be cut with fentanyl or other poisons. Because heroin abusers do not know the actual strength of the drug or its true contents, they are at risk of overdose or death. Heroin also poses special problems because of the transmission of HIV and other diseases that can occur from sharing needles or other injection equipment.

Heroin can be injected, smoked, or sniffed. Injection is the most efficient way to administer low-purity heroin. The availability of high-purity heroin, however, and the fear of infection by sharing needles has made snorting and smoking the drug more common. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) researchers have confirmed that all forms of heroin administration are addictive.

Street names: Smack, thunder, hell dust, big H, nose drops

GAMBLING

Gambling is the wagering of money or something of material value on an event with an uncertain outcome with the primary intent of winning additional money or material goods. Typically, the outcome of a wager is evident within a short period.



Roulette is a casino and gambling game named after the French word meaning "small wheel". In the game, players may choose to place bets on either a number, a range of numbers, the color red or black, or whether the number is odd or even. To determine the winning number and color, a croupier spins a wheel in one direction, and then spins a ball in the opposite direction around a tilted circular track running around the circumference of the wheel. The ball eventually loses momentum and falls on to the wheel and into one of the colored and numbered pockets on the wheel.



Today, most people turn to electronic machines. There are many kinds of electronic devices on which you can gamble, but the most popular are roulette and poker machines. These two are most common among youngsters nowadays. Although it is proved that you cannot beat the machine, many of them still visit gambling rooms and waste their money.

VICES AMONG MY MATES

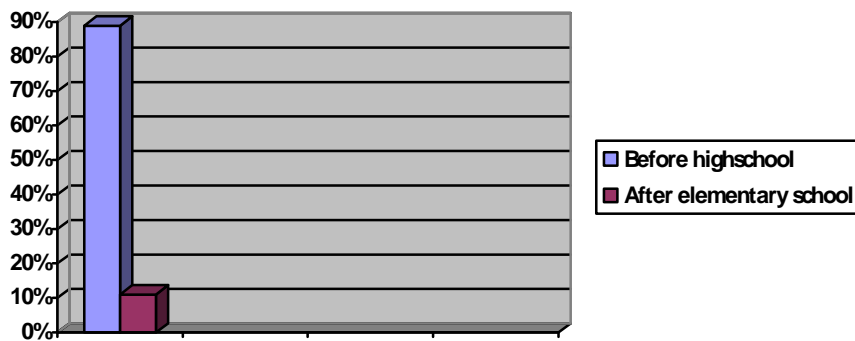
All those things refer to my schoolmates too. Throughout the year, I have gathered some information on my schoolmates and their vices.

In the next lines I will represent the consumption of brain-harmful-substances:

According to the results of the research, which was made in the 1st, the 2nd and the 3rd grade of Grammar school in Vlasotince, 96% of students have tried some kind of alcoholic drinks, while 4% have never tried any kind of alcoholic drink.



Many of the students have tried alcoholic drink before highschool, 89% actually. Only 11% started drinking after finishing elementary school.



Only 19% of students that have tried tobacco, did that after finishing elementary school. The rest did it while attending elementary school.



The students that still smoke make 83% and the ones that didn't continue smoking make 17%.



According to the questionnaire, 98% have never tried illegal drugs.



The results of various researches have shown that the adolescents are not resistant to the variety of vices that are available to them. What is more, they are often prone to abuse them. This study shows that the majority of pupils of Grammar school of Vlasotince have tried alcoholic drinks and consume it quite often. As far as the cigarettes are concerned, the percentage is way lower, but still high. According to this questionnaire only a little number of students have used an illegal drug. All in all, these problems are alarming and demand a solution as soon as possible.