

Weapons of mass destruction (WMD's) is a term used to describe weapons that have the potential to indiscriminately kill large numbers of human beings. They have taken on particular significance in the 21st century because of the fear they inspire and their potential for causing mass casualties, characteristics prized by terrorist groups. After reading the assigned material, use the guiding questions below to prepare an essay on chemical WMD's.

1. What are the major classes of chemical warfare agents?
2. How do they act? What types of physical symptoms do they cause?
3. From what types of compounds are various CW agents derived? Do these compounds have any legitimate uses?
4. Are any therapies available for treatment of CW exposure? If so, how do they act?
5. There is a lot of fear concerning the use of CW agents by terrorist groups, but what drawbacks do they have that can complicate their use?