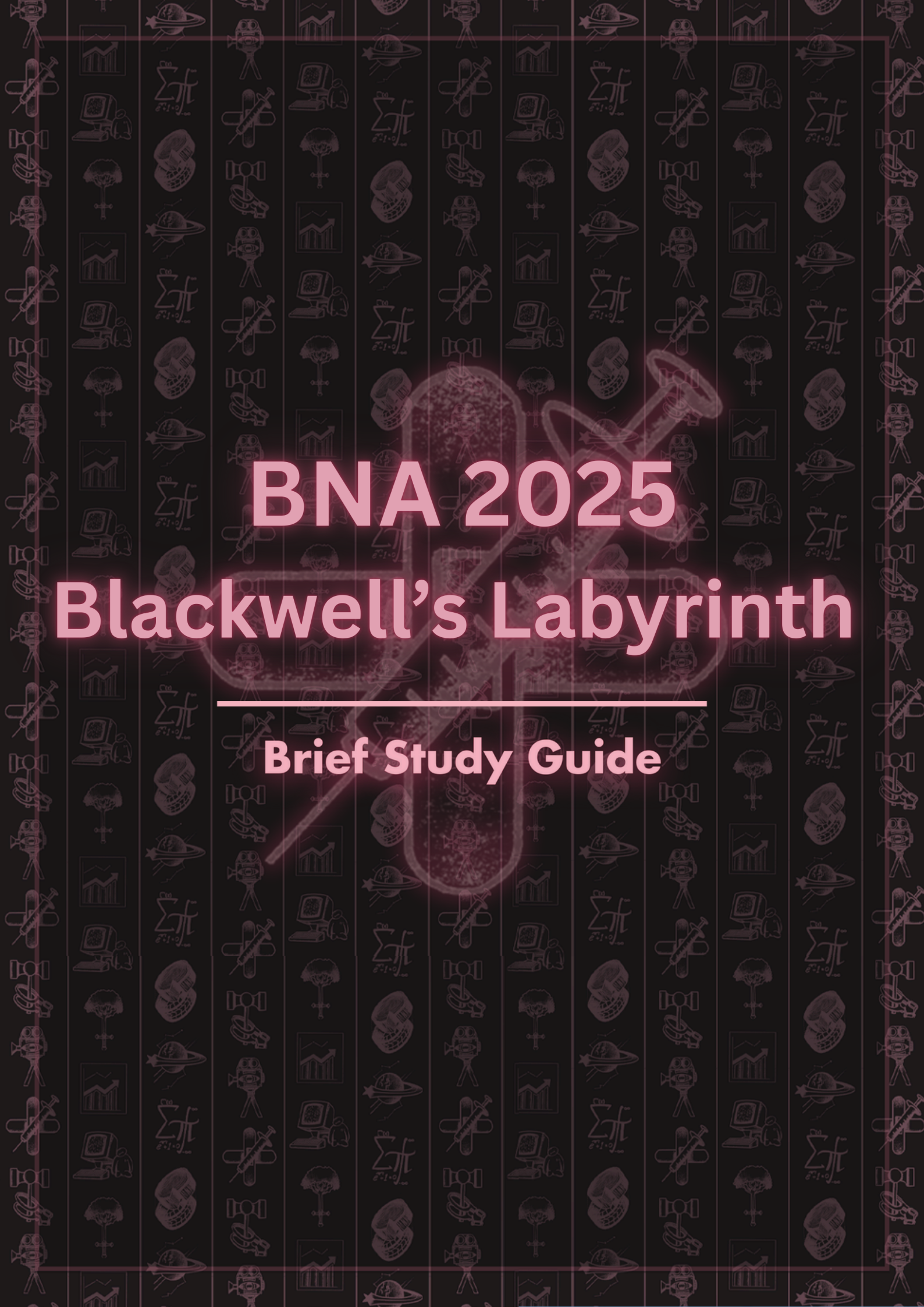

BNA 2025
Blackwell's Labyrinth

Brief Study Guide

Blackwell's Labyrinth

The **Blackwell Commonwealth** is a highly isolated research facility, accessible to only the top 5 scientists from the United States, China, Germany, the United Kingdom and Canada. The site was established to conduct advanced biological research, including the study of a newly discovered species of snake whose venom could be treated using a compound derived from a rare poisonous flower. During this research an intruder triggered an alarm and caused a lab accident that released an unstable experimental contaminant. The agent spreads quickly, inducing genetic changes: plants wilt, animals suffer severe neurological symptoms, aggression, and death. Forensics indicate the contaminant undermines immune defenses, allowing opportunistic neural infections and CNS degeneration. International teams were deployed; immediate priorities are containment, rapid diagnostics, treatment research, decontamination. For the medical module, focus on epidemiology, neuro-pathophysiology, ethical response, and coordinated clinical/forensic investigation.

Round

1

Research Proposal- Before the Outbreak

Delegates represent the top scientists from each of the 5 nations and are challenged with proposing authentic research related to the snake and its venom. Each team must develop a proposal within the allotted time, based solely on the background information provided. One representative will submit the proposal to the Grant Committee (judging panel). The panel will evaluate the proposals based on scientific depth, ethical considerations and clarity of vision and purpose. Research grants will be awarded in the form of points, after which teams must revise their proposals based on the grants.

2

Brain Model – During the Outbreak

Delegates will construct a 3D model of the brain using materials provided or improvised and will have to identify the regions that are being affected by the virus. Label each major region (e.g., fromtal lobe, temporal lobe, cerebellum, hypothalamus, amygdala, hippocampus, etc.) and specify the symptoms or behaviors linked to damage in that region.

Models should include brief annotations explaining how the virus disrupts neural pathways, release of neurotransmitters or immune responses with the CNS. Teams may use color coding or texture variations to represent infection intensity, such as red for inflammation and blue for degeneration. Delegates will present their models to the judges , explaining the biological reasoning behind the observed animal behaviours

3

International Debate- After the Outbreak:

In the final round, delegates will take part in a mock international court trial held to determine whether the Blackwell outbreak resulted from human negligence or an unavoidable scientific anomaly. One team will serve as the Prosecution, arguing that unethical research practices, poor containment, or intentional sabotage caused the disaster, using forensic reports, medical data, and lab records to show links between misconduct and the resulting mutations.

The Defense will argue that the outbreak was caused by unpredictable biochemical instability and that all established protocols were followed. Both sides are required to deliver structured opening statements , present original evidence supported by scientific reasoning and engage in cross examination of opposing experts. The trial will end with closing arguments and a final policy recommendation, evaluating each team's ability to use medical, neurological and environmental evidence to provide a clear, ethical and scientifically reasonable case

Note: The information in this document is subject to changes.