1. Based on the opening paragraph, what are the symptoms of schizophrenia?

2. Hearing or seeing things that aren’t there is called “psychosis” or is described as a “psychotic break” or “psychotic episode.” In other words, a break in one’s ability to understand what is real. How could this be a problem?

3. When was schizophrenia first described/diagnosed and by whom?

4. How many people in the U. S. are affected by the disease?

5. When does the brain begin to go wrong?

6. When do the symptoms most commonly begin?

7. What evidence seems to show that the disease is at least partly genetic, but not completely?

8. What is the core definition / symptom of schizophrenia?
9. What are some of its other symptoms?

10. How is catatonic schizophrenia different from the other types?

11. Aside from hearing voices what kinds of beliefs influence those with paranoid schizophrenia?

12. In what ways did Andrea Yates exhibit some characteristic symptoms of schizophrenia?

13. What have brain scans of schizophrenics shown as they were experiencing hallucinations?

14. What part of the brain is active when they hear voices?

15. We hear because air hits our ear drum which in turn moves a set of bones that move small hairs or cilia in the inner ear which in turn send electrical and chemical signals through the cochlear nerve to the temporal region [auditory cortex] of the brain. If we were to remove all of the air from the room you are in, there would be no sound. Yet, even in this circumstance a schizophrenic will hear voices. What could explain that?
16. While hallucinating, what structures in the brain become active?

17. Why did Andrea Yates see religious hallucinations? Generally what influences the kinds of hallucinations one sees?

18. What was the old explanation for schizophrenia?

19. What has been discovered as contributing to schizophrenia?

20. What was Yate's reason for killing her children?

21. What is the legal definition of insanity?

22. Yates was found guilty of a crime and is spending her life in jail. The jury rejected an insanity defense. She knew that she was doing something the society considered wrong but did it anyway based on the belief that “God would take them up.” What do you think is she insane or simply a criminal?
23. What chemical acts as an antipsychotic drug by blocking the dopamine receptors?

24. What are its side effects?

25. How are the “atypicals” different?

26. What are their side effects?

27. How does stress play a role in schizophrenia?