

Drugs and the Law

As a drug sometimes alters the way the body works most of them are illegal. The use or distributions of these drugs can result in a heavy fine, time in jail and a criminal record. Having a criminal record for drug use and/or abuse will stop you getting many jobs.

This sheet is designed to show you what a drug can do to your body and the law regarding each type of illegal drug.

What does a drug do?

Type of drug	Effect	Example
Anaesthetic	Causes loss of feeling or unconsciousness	Chloroform
Analgesic	Pain killer	Ibuprofen, aspirin
Antibiotic	Kills diseases	Penicillin, Amoxilin
Hallucinogen	Makes things appear more vivid. Makes people think they see things that are not there.	LSD, cannabis, ecstasy, magic mushrooms, solvents
Stimulant	Speeds up the brain activity	Nicotine, caffeine, crack, speed
Tranquilliser	Slows down the brain activity	Alcohol, solvents, cannabis, Heroin, sleeping pills

The drugs that are illegal can be divided into three classes.

Possession means being caught with an illegal drug.

Possession with intent to supply, means being caught with a larger quantity or if you were to share it with someone else.

Class	Example	Maximum penalties
A	Cocaine, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, injected speed.	Possession 7 years in prison Supply Life imprisonment.
B	Speed, barbiturates.	Possession 5 years and/or fine Supply 14 years and/or fine
C tranquilliser without a	Cannabis resin, oil & dried herb, prescription, anabolic steroids.	Possession 2 years and/or fine Supply 14 years and/or fine

Now answer the questions on the next page understood.	See how much you
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What do you remember?

After reading the information sheet try and answer these questions about drugs and the Law.

1. What is a drug? _____
2. Use the information on the sheet fill in this table.

Drug	Type of drug	Effect	Class
Cannabis			
Heroin			
Cocaine			
Steroids			
LSD			

3. Read each of these situations. Decide what offence has been committed.
 - a) Sue bought three ecstasy pills from someone she knew at a party and was seen giving them to someone at a club. _____
 - b) Two people start smoking cannabis at a party. _____
 - c) Fred was given steroids at the Gym to help him build up his muscles. _____
 - d) Martin was asked to deliver a package. The police stopped him, the package contained cannabis. _____
 - e) Greg and his friends were having a party when his parents were out. They found a bottle of Vodka and drank it.

 - f) Sam worked at a DIY store. His friends asked him to buy some modelling glue for them. _____
4. Now get into groups and act out one of these situations. You must show the offence, the police involvement, the penalty given and the consequences of this happening.