

## 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, cannabis oil. | Possession 7 years in prison<br>Supply Life imprisonment.     |
| B     | Cannabis resin and dries herb, speed, barbiturates                                   | Possession 5 years and/or fine<br>Supply 14 years and/or fine |
| C     | Tranquilliser without a prescription, anabolic steroids.                             | Possession 2 years and/or fine<br>Supply 5 years and/or fine  |

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p>Now answer the questions on the next page<br/>understood.</p> | <p>See how much you</p> |
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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.