

Drug Laws Around the World

Quiz Questions

All information correct March 2011	True	False
1. A person can be hung for supplying any drugs in Iran		
2. Doctors in England can prescribe cannabis for multiple sclerosis		
3. Cannabis is legal in Holland		
4. Countries that have de-criminalised cannabis have fewer drug users		
5. Most heroin available in the UK comes from China		
6. In Australia it is permitted for adults to home-grow cannabis		
7. In Sudan a café owner can be executed for allowing a customer to smoke heroin on their premises		
8. In Dubai a person can be imprisoned for personal possession of cannabis		

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Quiz Answers

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1. A person can be executed for supplying any drugs in Iran **True**

In 32 countries, including Iran, China and Singapore, drug-related offences can all lead to the death penalty. In these countries the judge can apply the death penalty to any drug offence, including personal possession, or storing them for another person and 2/3 of all executions by hanging are drug-related offences.

2. Doctors in England can prescribe cannabis for multiple sclerosis **False**

This is not currently available in the UK, though it may change. However, there are 16 states in USA where medical prescribing is now legal for illnesses including MS, arthritis, chronic pain, HIV and cancer treatments, as it can be an effective pain relief if cultivated for that purpose.

3. Cannabis is legal in Holland **False**

This is a common misconception, all drugs are illegal in the Netherlands. Some cities, e.g. Amsterdam, have “decriminalised” cannabis use for adults and have licensed cafes that can sell small amounts of cannabis for adults for consumption on the premises, so it is treated similar to UK alcohol laws. However, adults can not smoke cannabis off the café premises and cafes cannot be within ½ mile of a school or nursery to protect children and young people. There are fewer cafes now as many have been shut down.

4. Countries that have de-criminalised cannabis have fewer drug users **True**

Evidence from the Netherlands and Portugal shows the numbers of drug users has reduced since their laws were changed, plus more people get treatment sooner if they need it, i.e. addiction or health problems. Netherlands also has fewer young people using drugs than other European countries, in spite of their licensed cannabis cafes.

5. Most heroin available in the UK comes from China **False**

Most heroin is imported from Afghanistan, despite their harsh laws on growing, selling or trafficking heroin, which all carry the death sentence.

6. In Australia it is permitted for adults to home-grow cannabis **False**

In some states adults growing plants for their own use will be fined up to \$2,000 if caught, however large amounts would be classified as intent to supply leading to a prison sentence.

7. In Sudan a café owner can be executed for allowing a customer to smoke heroin on their premises **True**

They could also even be executed for allowing customers to smoke hashish, a form of cannabis. Many Middle Eastern and African countries have very harsh laws and use the death penalty.

8. In Dubai a person can be imprisoned for personal possession of cannabis **True**

Foreign prisons often have high numbers of UK and European prisoners who have not known about the countries drug or alcohol laws. In 2008, Radio One DJ, Grooverider, was sentenced to four years in prison in Dubai for having ½ a cannabis joint in his pocket at the airport when flying in to do a gig. He was released after serving 8 months, after a pardon from the Dubai royal family.

Are You Breaking The Law?

	No	Yes	Don't Know
1. A friend asks you to hide some drugs in your bag for them			
2. You are drinking alcohol in a local park with some friends			
3. You ask an older friend to go into a supermarket to buy some alcohol for you			
4. You light up a cigarette in a hotel bedroom when you are away on holiday			
5. You get into a club and buy alcohol from the bar when you are under 18			
6. You go to a person you know to buy drugs for your friends			
7. You drink alcohol with friends at lunchtime and come into school in the afternoon			
8. You get into a car to have a lift home with a driver you know has drunk a lot and is well over the limit			
9. You are with some friends at a party – for a laugh you put some ecstasy into a friend's drink			
10. You lie about your age to buy some cigarettes			
11. You deliberately help to get a friend very drunk on his birthday by slipping extra shots into their drink when they are not looking			
12. You are stopped by the police for anti-social behaviour in the street and refuse to co-operate and won't give your name when asked			
13. You have several strong lagers and then cycle home on your bike at night			
14. You have been smoking cannabis all night with your mates and then you drive home on your motorbike			
15. You are on a school trip, staying away from home for a few days, you take some amphetamine with you to use in the evening when you have some free time			
16. Buying drugs on the internet			

Are You Breaking The Law?

ANSWER SHEET

1. **YES.** Technically, if you agree you are in possession of an illegal drug whatever the reason.
2. **MAYBE.** If the area is a recognised prohibited alcohol zone you could be fined and have your alcohol confiscated.
3. **NO.** The shopkeeper could be fined if it could be proved that they knew the alcohol was being purchased for someone under age.
4. **YES.** The non-smoking law prevents smoking in public places. The hotel owner could be fined if they allowed it to happen with their knowledge.
5. **YES.** The law says that the club should check the age of anyone they are unsure about. They can refuse to serve someone who cannot prove their age.
6. **YES.** You are in possession of an illegal drug. If you are caught with a large amount of a substance you could be prosecuted for dealing which carries a higher penalty.
7. **NO, but ...** the school rules do not allow pupils to be under the influence of alcohol during the school day. Your parents/carers may be contacted and asked to take you home. The school may want you to make amends for your behaviour.
8. **NO, but ...** you would be prosecuted if you failed to identify the driver when asked by the police.
9. **YES.** Possession of an illegal substance and if something happened to your friend because of the drugs they had been given without their knowledge, you could be implicated in the outcomes of any crime.
10. **NO, but ...** the shopkeeper could be fined for selling cigarettes to someone under age.
11. **NO, but ...** if something happened to your friend because of the alcohol they had been given you could be implicated.
12. **YES.** Refusing to co-operate with a police officer could lead to you being arrested and taken to the police station. Your parents/carers would be contacted.
13. **YES.** If you are over the limit and riding your bike on the road. The same rules apply as for a car.
14. **YES.** If the police stopped you they could take you to the police station for a blood test.
15. **YES.** You are in possession of an illegal drug. The school may also take action.
16. **NO.** Buying drugs on the internet is not illegal, but being in possession of an illegal drug is.