

## Discussion

What were some of the reasons for legalising drugs mentioned in the article? Tick those which were mentioned in the article:

1. Drugs can help people who are ill.
2. Drugs keep criminals in business.
3. Making drugs legal means that they can be taxed, and that means revenue for the government.
4. Drug-trafficking is not as serious as violent crime, according to many people.
5. Legalising drugs could make the job of law enforcement officers much easier.
6. Alcohol and cigarettes are more addictive and more harmful and are already legal.

How many of those six points do you agree with?

## Language

Use the following words to complete the sentences below:

<i>immediate</i>	<i>long-term</i>	<i>legal</i>	<i>illegal</i>
<i>beneficial</i>	<i>damaging</i>	<i>designer</i>	<i>addictive</i>

1. Cigarette smoking is more . . . . . to your health than smoking marijuana or cannabis.
2. Nicotine is more . . . . . than marijuana.
3. Marijuana can have very . . . . . effects on cancer patients, helping them through chemotherapy.
4. The . . . . . effects of smoking dope are well-known – feeling extremely carefree and relaxed. The . . . . . effects are less clear.
5. How can it be . . . . . for a 16-year-old to buy and smoke cigarettes when at the same time it is . . . . . for a 21-year-old to buy and smoke marijuana? It's crazy!
6. One of the biggest dangers today is the so-called . . . . . drugs which young people use at discos and parties.

## Discussion

Do you agree with the following opinions? Discuss them in small groups:

1. *Getting high on a joint is less dangerous than getting drunk.*
2. *People who smoke dope change their personality over time. They become irresponsible, unreliable and ruin their lives.*
3. *The drug laws in our country are already too relaxed. They should be far stricter. Fine people for a first offence and then send them to prison if they re-offend. It's the only way.*
4. *Experimenting with drugs is OK. You just need to know when to stop.*
5. *Soft drugs lead to hard drugs. Just don't even think of starting!*
6. *More people die from alcohol-related problems or accidents than drug-related problems. Statistically, drugs are safer than alcohol.*
7. *All recreational drugs should be made legal for adults. That would immediately stop related crime.*
8. *Some countries in the Far East have the right idea – execute all drug dealers. That would soon stop the drugs trade.*

Have you ever tried drugs? Do you know anyone who has? Which ones?

Do you know where to get drugs in your town?

What problems have you seen in your community caused by drugs?

What would be the effect of legalising drugs? Take two minutes to think of three implications. Then tell your group what you have thought of.