

# DRUGS... THE REAL DEAL



## Discussion Prompts

- The group are drinking alcohol and smoking cannabis in the street.

What are the legal implications of public drinking and being in possession of a Class B drug?

- A joint is being passed from person to person – how hygienic is this?
- At first Johnny refuses the joint and is ridiculed by his friends causing him to leave – do you think it took a lot of strength for Johnny to walk away, what else could he have done?
- When Johnny decides to try it he obviously didn't like it - why do you think he would continue to smoke cannabis when it caused him to cough violently and become disorientated?
- What are the differences between the split screens? – In the first screen he continues to use cannabis at the expense of his school work, do you think he could concentrate on his homework if he was 'stoned'?
- What would be the implications on achieving success at school if Johnny continued to use cannabis?
- Is Johnny breaking the law smoking cannabis at home?
- Do you think the friends that Johnny is hanging out with are a positive influence on him?
- What are the chances of Johnny trying other drugs?

**The group are drinking alcohol and smoking cannabis in the street – What are the legal implications of public drinking and being in possession of a Class B drug?**

Under the Licensing Scotland Act 2005 it is illegal to drink alcohol in the street. The police can confiscate the alcohol from you, and you could receive a fine. If you are smoking cannabis in the street anywhere else it is illegal as you are in possession of a Class B substance. The penalty for possession is up to 5 years in prison and/ or an unlimited fine.

### **A joint is being passed from person to person – how hygienic is this?**

There is the potential that diseases and infections that can be transmitted by saliva could be transmitted by sharing a cigarette including the herpes simplex virus (the virus that causes cold sores).

### **At first Johnny refuses the joint and is ridiculed by his friends causing him to leave – do you think it took a lot of strength for Johnny to walk away? What else could he have done?**

This point could be related to peer pressure amongst young people (see previous section on peer pressure)

### **How has Johnny's continued cannabis use affected his life?**

The scene shows Johnny choosing to smoke cannabis over his school work. This could lead to low performance levels at school as it is much harder to concentrate and absorb information when under the influence of cannabis. There is also the chance that Johnny could withdraw from society and spend more time isolated or with others who smoke dope. His relationship with his family could also be affected as in the DVD he is aggressive towards his mum and becomes defensive when questioned about his behaviour. There is also the potential for him to lose interest in his appearance and his surroundings as he just can't be bothered.

### **Is Johnny breaking the law smoking cannabis at home?**

Johnny is breaking the law as he is in possession of a Class B drug, even if he is in the privacy of his own home.

### **Additional Discussion Points**

Many young people do not identify with the dangers of cannabis use and see it as 'harmless'. Cannabis is one of the most commonly used drugs amongst young people and there is also much confusion as to the legal status of cannabis. Studies have shown that there is a link between cannabis and underlying mental health issues, and can increase the risk of developing illnesses such as schizophrenia, paranoia and anxiety, especially amongst adolescents.

### **Would the possibility of developing an underlying mental health issue stop you from using cannabis?**



# Cannabis Factsheet

## Street Names

Marijuana, Mary Jane, Dope, Hash, Grass, Blow, Smoke, Weed, Skunk, Pot, Blaw, Puff

## Looks Like

### Comes in 3 forms

— Resin

which is hard, waxy and looks like a brown/ black block

Herbal

which is grassy looking and from the plants leaves and buds

Oil

which is a brown/ golden coloured thick liquid

## Law

Cannabis has been reclassified as a Class B drug

Up to 5 years and/ or an unlimited fine for possession

Up to 14 years and or an unlimited fine (including giving it to your mates) for supply/dealing

## Effects

Cannabis is a mild hallucinogenic, it relaxes people, helps them chill out and affects the way they see and hear things. Colours may seem brighter and sounds sharper. Relaxes muscles, increases appetite and make user believe food tastes better e.g., 'the munchies'. Users can 'whitey' which results in them turning a grey/ white colour and feeling/ being sick and feeling disorientated.

This usually happens when used for the first time or when mixed with alcohol. Can cause short term memory loss, feelings of anxiety, edginess and paranoia, affects concentration and slows reaction times. It can be detected in urine for up to 56 days.

## Risks

Using cannabis can lead to heart, lung and breathing problems as well as increasing the risk of lung and other cancers. These risks are increased when used with tobacco. May trigger underlying mental health issues. The risk is increased if there is a family history of mental illness.

Can make some users feel confused or psychotic in extreme cases. Users build up a tolerance so they need to take more. Cannabis contains over 2000 chemicals and when mixed with tobacco this increases to over 6000.

Cannabis resin is often mixed with a variety of substances to bulk it out. These include things like henna, turpentine, boot polish, animal poo, old tyres and sometimes tranquilisers.



# Cannabis Quiz

What category of drugs does cannabis belong to?

How many days after using cannabis can it be detected in the urine?

Cannabis comes in 3 forms (ways), what are they?

What is the legal classification of cannabis?

Name 3 substances cannabis resin can be cut with.

Name 3 street names for cannabis.

Name 3 effects from taking cannabis.

How many chemicals are found in cannabis?

What is the maximum sentence for dealing/supplying cannabis?

Name 2 ways cannabis can be taken.

# Cannabis Quiz-Answer Sheet

1. What category does cannabis belong to?  
(hallucinogenic)
2. How many days after using cannabis can it be detected in the urine?  
(up to 56 days)
3. Cannabis comes in 3 forms, what are they?  
(3 forms – Resin – hard, waxy, brown block, Herbal - grassy looking, from the plants' leaves & buds and Oil – brown/ golden thick liquid)
4. What is the legal classification of cannabis?  
(Class B drug)
5. Name 3 substances Cannabis Resin can be cut with.  
(Cannabis Resin is often mixed with a variety of substances to bulk it out. These include, henna, turpentine, boot polish, animal poo, old tyres and even tranquilisers)
6. Name 3 street names for cannabis.  
(Marijuana, Mary Jane, dope, hash, grass, blow, smoke, weed, skunk, resin, draw, blaw, joint, toke, dooby, hemp, pot)
7. Name 3 effects from taking cannabis.  
(Cannabis is a mild hallucinogenic drug. Relaxes people, helps them to chill out, and affects the way they see and hear things. Colours may seem brighter and sounds sharper. Relaxes muscles, increases appetite and makes user believe food tastes better e.g. "The Munchies". Users can Whitey – usually if used for first time with alcohol or if cannabis is stronger than the person is used to. Can cause short term memory loss, feelings of anxiety, edginess and paranoia, affects concentration and slows down reaction times. People can become psychologically dependant on Cannabis. This means they are not physically addicted but they find it hard to get by without it because their mind convinces them they need it)
8. How many chemicals are found in cannabis?  
(over 2000)
9. What is the maximum sentence for dealing/supplying cannabis?  
(Up to 14 years imprisonment for producing or dealing)
10. Name 2 ways cannabis can be taken.  
(Can be smoked in a joint with/without tobacco, in a bucket/bong, in a pipe, swallowed, with hot knives or eaten in food)



# Cannabis



## Also known as:

Hash, Pot, Weed, Grass, skunk, Wacky Backy, Blow, Draw, Marijuana, Skunk, Puff.

## Legal classification:

Illegal – Class B

## Type of drug:

Hallucinogenic-depressant

## How it is used:

- Mixed with tobacco and smoked as a joint (also known as a spliff).
- Smoked through a pipe
- Smoked using a bucket/bong – passing the smoke through water and inhaling it
- Eaten.

## What it looks like:

Cannabis comes in different forms.

Resin /Hash is a blacky-brown lump made from the resin of the plant. It's quite often squidgy. Grass or weed is the dried leaves of the plant. It looks like tightly packed dried garden herbs. Oil is the most concentrated form of Cannabis but is rare in the UK.

## Effects:

The effects of Cannabis can have a lot to do with who the users are with, what mood they're in, the strength and how much of the drug they take and how it is taken.

Smoking a joint can make people feel happy and relaxed, but the effects vary from person to person. It's a mild hallucinogen. Colours and sounds appear brighter and sharper.

Someone who's been smoking a lot will have bloodshot eyes, a dry mouth and may well experience hunger pangs or 'the munchies'.

## Short term dangers:

- Cannabis affects co-ordination, balance and memory.
- Cannabis can make people feel withdrawn, fearful, anxious or depressed.
- Smoking Cannabis when pregnant may harm the baby.

## Long term dangers:

- Cannabis has a high concentration of chemical 'nasties' that cause cancer, heart problems and bronchitis.
- Regular, heavy use makes it harder to learn and concentrate.
- Frequent use of Cannabis can cause fertility problems for both men and women.
- Some people begin to feel tired all the time and may lose their motivation.
- Cannabis can have a negative effect on people with mental health problems or with a history of mental illness in the family. Cannabis may worsen mental illnesses like schizophrenia.

## Other effects and dangers:

Psychological dependency occurs in about 10% of Cannabis users. Users are more likely to get addicted to nicotine if they mix their Cannabis with tobacco.

## The local situation:

- 19% of 15 year old pupils in Lanarkshire reported using Cannabis in the last year. (SALSUS, 2010)

## FACT

*Eating or drinking the Cannabis delays the effects and can make them stronger and longer lasting.*