Classification of Drugs

Level: PSE Years 8, 9 or 10

Class discussion 1

(i) Ask volunteers from the class to respond in turn to the question “What are drugs?”. Record their answers on a blackboard or flipchart, based around the following pattern and appropriate links:

- DRUGS
  - LEGAL
  - ILLEGAL
  - SOCIAL USE
  - MEDICINE

Compare the results with pages 6 and 7 of the book.

(5 minutes)

(ii) Describe to the class the following categories of drugs (see page 85):

1. Hallucinogens
2. Inebriants
3. Hypnotics
4. Stimulants

(3 minutes)

Group work

Split the class into eight groups (suggest using random method of splitting) and assign each group one drug to investigate, using the following page references:

1. Cannabis, pages 86–87
2. LSD, pages 88–89
3. Alcohol, pages 90–93
4. Solvents, pages 94–95
5. Heroin, pages 96–99
7. Cocaine, pages 106–108
8. Ecstasy, pages 109–110
Each group should nominate a SCRIBE to complete the Student Worksheet on ‘Classification of Drugs’, and a REPORTER to present the information to the class at the end of the session.

*(10 minutes for group discussions; 3 minutes for each report)*

**Class discussion 2**

Lead a discussion on pupils’ perceptions of the dangers of drugs and the increasing social/recreational use of drugs.

*(10 minutes; or alternatively incorporate within group discussions above)*

**Additional activity (homework)**

Groups might also be asked to compile the answers from their completed worksheets into a ‘Fact Sheet’, incorporating the information which they feel to be most important about their particular drug. These Fact Sheets could then be photocopied and circulated to the whole class.

*(30 minutes)*