

Classification of Drugs

Student Worksheet



ANSWERS

Drug name	Any legal restrictions?	Classification	How is it used?	What are its effects at first?	What are its effects in the long term?	Is it addictive?
CANNABIS (pot, ganja, hashish, grass, marijuana)	Illegal	Hallucinogen	Resin or leaves smoked with tobacco either in a hand-rolled 'joint' (or 'spliff') or using a pipe.	Mild euphoria, relaxation, increase in pulse rate, decrease in blood pressure, impairment of short-term memory and motor co-ordination.	May cause depression, anxiety, mild hallucinations. May unmask hidden mental illness. May be harmful in the long term due to content of tar and other cancer-causing chemicals.	Yes, mildly.
LSD (acid)	Illegal	Hallucinogen	Orally. Drug placed on blotting paper ('tabs'), which dissolve on the tongue.	Dream-like state and powerful visions. Sense of time distorted. Changes in perception of senses (touch is heard, sounds are seen).	No long-term effects, but users may feel confused, disorientated and suffer flashbacks. May unmask hidden mental illness. Illusions may cause such panic that user becomes violent and may even commit murder or suicide.	No
ALCOHOL	Legal (in most countries)	Inebriant	Taken as liquid in wine, beer and spirits	Relaxation, elation, stimulation of appetite for food and sex. At higher concentrations, can cause clumsiness and aggression. At very high concentrations, can cause coma and death.	Increases risks of liver disease, heart and circulation problems and brain damage. Can cause aggressive behaviour, resulting in crimes, accidents and domestic violence.	Yes, in a small minority of people (alcoholics).
SOLVENTS	Restrictions on sales to under-16s	Inebriant	Vapours (e.g. aerosol sprays, paint thinners) inhaled or sprayed into mouth.	Similar effects to alcohol (drunkenness).	No long-term effects, but many dangers, e.g.: hallucinations can put user in danger; may contain poisonous substances like lead; solvents sprayed into mouth can make throat swell, suffocating user; can cause unconsciousness; in extreme cases can cause heart attack.	No.
HEROIN (smack)	Illegal	Hypnotic	Injected, sniffed, or heated and its fumes inhaled.	Drowsiness, euphoria, pain reduction.	Tolerance develops so that user needs more and more heroin to produce same effect; apathy and suppressed appetite leads to malnourishment; constipation; unpleasant and painful withdrawal symptoms; risk of transmission of HIV and hepatitis through shared needles and syringes.	Yes
NICOTINE	Restrictions on sales to under-16s	Stimulant	Smoked in cigarettes, cigars or pipes; inhaled as snuff; chewed	Increased alertness when tired; relaxation when tense.	Increases risks of heart disease, blood clots, heart attacks, brain haemorrhage, lung infections, cancer (particularly lung, mouth, pharynx, larynx, oesophagus, stomach, pancreas, kidney and bladder), stroke, bronchitis and ulcers.	Yes
COCAINE (coke, crack, freebase)	Illegal	Stimulant	Sniffed ('snorted'); dissolved in water and injected; or smoked in crystal form ('crack').	Euphoria, increased alertness, energy, physical power and mental clarity.	Repeated sniffing damages cells inside nose; suppressed sleep and appetite; paranoia and delusions; excessive doses can cause death from respiratory or heart failure, but rare.	Yes
ECSTASY ('E')	Illegal	Stimulant	Orally, as a tablet.	Euphoria, benevolence, feeling of connection with other people. High doses cause severe anxiety and inability to sleep.	Since it is a relatively new recreational drug, long-term effects not known. However, a number of deaths have occurred from over-heating/dehydration.	Yes, mildly.