

# Drugs Know Your Stuff Quiz



Q1. Alcohol and Cocaine mix within the body to form another chemical which is more potent and damaging to the body?

True ✓

False □

Alcohol and Cocaine mix to form cocaethylene in the body, which stays in the system for longer than either drug alone, and causes more damage to the liver than either drug alone.

This chemical also reduces the strength of the heart, increasing the risk of heart failure in the future.

A&E staff refer to the heart problems they see over the weekends as "coke strokes", illustrating how common heart problems are after taking cocaine and alcohol.

The disinhibiting effects of alcohol, along with the increased feeling of confidence that comes from taking cocaine can make violent and impulsive behaviour more likely.

Q2. In some cases in the UK, doctors will prescribe cannabis for pain relief?

True □

False ✓

No doctor in the UK can prescribe cannabis - it is an illegal drug!

However, some parts of the cannabis drug can be used to treat the disease MS in a prescribed drug called Sativex, although none of the cannabis "high" feelings are experienced with this medication.

Q3. Using solvents/inhalants can cause a heart attack?

True ✓

False □

Inhaling solvents such as glue or an aerosol can cause significant damage to the body, and in serious cases could cause a heart attack or even death.

Q4. You can be arrested for possessing a small amount of cannabis?

True ✓

False

As cannabis is a Class B illegal drug, being caught in possession of even a small amount can lead to arrest, with a potential penalty of up to 5 years in jail and/or an unlimited fine.

It is the discretion of the police whether to arrest someone for possessing cannabis, and may depend on other factors such as whether the person has ever been caught with cannabis before.

Q5. Legal Highs are less dangerous than illegal drugs?

True □

False ✓

Legal highs are not necessarily less dangerous than illegal drugs.

It is impossible to know how drugs will react within the human body, or how drugs will react with other drugs, such as alcohol.

As a result, taking "legal highs" can be just as dangerous as using illegal drugs.

Legal Highs are now known as New Psychoactive Substances.

Q6. It is impossible to become addicted to cannabis?

True □

False ✓

Cannabis can be psychologically addictive, which refers to an ingrained belief that normal life would be impossible without cannabis.

Research (Morgan et al. 2009) also suggests that cannabis can be physically addictive, which was once thought impossible.

Symptoms of withdrawal include, irritability, tiredness, restlessness, sleeplessness, anxiety and depression.

Q7. There is no penalty for sharing ecstasy amongst friends?

True ☐

False ☒

Sharing drugs amongst friends is considered by law as dealing drugs, even if no money changes hands. Dealing Class A drugs can be punished up to life imprisonment, an unlimited fine or both. Class A drugs are considered to be the most likely to cause harm.

Q8. Drugs such as ecstasy and cocaine are often mixed with other unknown ingredients, meaning purity of the drug is very low?

True ☒

False ☐

Cutting agents are often chemical and include, for example, the cancer-causing drug phenacetin, cockroach insecticide and pet worming powder.

In 2009, almost a third of cocaine seized by the police was less than 9% pure.