

# It's The Law Quiz Answer Sheet

## 1. People have to be 18 to buy alcohol in the UK

✓ **True:** It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to buy alcohol from a pub, bar, off-licence or supermarket. It is also illegal for an adult to buy or try to buy alcohol from any of these places on behalf of someone under 18.

## 2. Children under the age of 14 can go into a public bar

✗ **False:** They are only allowed to go into other parts of the pub e.g. the restaurant or garden and must be in the care of an adult. Children are only allowed in those areas if the landlord gives permission. Young people aged 14-17 can go anywhere in a pub (with the landlord's consent) but are not allowed to buy or drink alcohol; the only exception to this is that 16 and 17 years olds can be bought beer, wine or cider by an adult when having a meal together.

## 3. People can't be arrested just for being drunk

✗ **False:** Some towns have alcohol-free zones where nobody can drink in public. Even where these aren't in place the police can take away alcohol or move young people on if they have been drinking. They could even be fined or arrested.

## 4. A bottle of alcopop has more alcohol in it as a vodka and tonic

✓ **True:** An alcopop such as Smirnoff Ice, Bacardi Breezer or WKD has about 1.4 units of alcohol, whilst a pub measure (25ml) of vodka contains only 1 unit of alcohol.

## 5. Volatile substance abuse (solvents) kills more 10-15 year olds than all other illegal drugs combined

✓ **True:** Volatile substance abuse (sniffing solvents such as glue or aerosols) kills an average of one person every week in the UK. A person can die the first time they do it.

## 6. Young people under the age of 18 cannot be prosecuted for possessing cannabis

✗ **False:** If you're between ten and seventeen and caught in possession of cannabis, the police will confiscate the drug and may arrest you. They may also refer you to a Youth Offending Team (YOT) and are likely to:

- give you a reprimand and tell your parents what has happened if it is the first time you've been caught;
- give you a final warning and refer you to a YOT if it's your second offence;
- arrest you if it is the third time you have been caught with cannabis, which could lead to a conviction and a criminal record.

A criminal record can restrict which jobs you can apply for and which countries you could go on holiday to.

## 7. Possession of cannabis carries the same penalty as heroin and cocaine

✗ **False:** Heroin and Cocaine are classified as Class A drugs and carry heavier penalties. Cannabis was reclassified from a Class C to a Class B drug in January 2009. Class B drugs carry a penalty of up to 5 years in jail for possession.

## 8. Supplying someone else with cocaine, including your friends, can get you life imprisonment and an unlimited fine

✓ **True:** Punishments for supplying drugs are a lot tougher than those for possession. Supplying drugs doesn't just apply to dealers. If the police think you intended to share drugs with your friends, it's still considered to be supplying. The maximum sentences for intent to supply drugs are:

- up to life in prison or an unlimited fine (or both) for a Class A drug
- up to 14 years in prison or an unlimited fine (or both) for a Class B or Class C drug

## 9. If people are caught taking drugs in your house, they are the ones who will be prosecuted

✗ **False:** Allowing other people to use drugs in your house or any other premises is illegal. If the police catch someone using drugs in a club they can prosecute the landlord, club owner

# It's The Law Quiz Answer Sheet

or person holding the party. As in number 8 above, if the police think there is an intent to supply, then the penalty will be more severe.

## 10. The police can test for drink driving but not drug driving

× **False:** The police can stop anyone if they think they are driving with too much alcohol in their body or under the influence of drugs.

- **For alcohol,** the driver will be asked to take a breathalyser test to measure the amount of alcohol in their breath. If the test is positive, the driver will be arrested and taken to a police station for further tests – possibly involving blood and urine. It is illegal to refuse to give a sample when asked.
- **For drugs:** One of the first things the police can check is the effect drugs have on eyes. They have a pupil measure at their disposal if needed. Specially trained police may also carry out a roadside test called the Field Impairment Assessment. If the police believe the driver was driving whilst unfit through drugs, they will arrest them at the roadside and take them down to the police station where they will be examined by a doctor, who can take a blood test.

## 11. More than a third of robberies, burglaries and other thefts in the UK relate to drug use

√ **True:** Drug habits cost a lot to maintain. Heroin and crack cocaine are two of the most highly addictive drugs and therefore extremely likely to cause people to steal to support their habit. Class A drug use creates around £15.4 billion in crime and health costs each year.

## 12. If a British person is caught with drugs in another country, they can only be prosecuted under UK law

× **False:** A British person will be prosecuted under the laws of the country in which they are caught and they will get a criminal record in the UK. If a person has been caught with drugs abroad, they are unlikely to ever be allowed to visit that country again. Of the 3,000 or so British Nationals imprisoned abroad, over a third are held for drug offences. Possession of even small amounts of drugs in some countries can lead to lengthy prison terms and even life imprisonment.