

‘The government should lower the age at which people are allowed to buy alcohol.’
Discuss.



Learning Objective

- To understand the main effects of, and laws relating to, alcohol.

Success Criteria

- To consider how culture, religion, experience, influence of others, values and attitudes may guide your opinions and viewpoints.
- To practise the skill of debate and discussion.
- To consider the physical and mental health impact of alcohol use.

A-Z



In pairs, write out the alphabet.

Can you think of a type of alcohol or an alcoholic drink starting with each letter of the alphabet?



Alcohol and the Law



Children aged 5 and over can drink alcohol at home under the supervision of their parents!

Does this fact surprise you? Do you think it is OK for parents to make decisions about the age at which their children drink alcohol?

- If you are 16 or 17, an adult (aged over 18) can buy you beer, wine or cider if you are eating a meal together at a table in pub, restaurant or other licensed premises.
- It is illegal to sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18. If you are under the age of 18, you cannot buy alcohol yourself without breaking the law. Why do you think that this law exists? Do you agree with it, or not?
- Discuss your opinion with the people in your group. Did you all have the same viewpoints? Why/why not?



Effects of Alcohol



Drinking alcohol can have many different effects on the mind and body. What do you think some of the effects of drinking alcohol are? Make a list. Think about what you have seen on television, read about or learned about in school as well as your own experience and that of friends and family.

Now complete the Effects of Alcohol Activity Sheet, working in pairs or small groups.

Did any of the effects surprise you?

How did the activity make you think or feel about alcohol?



Alcohol and Age

“You can get married at 16 – I think it’s silly that you can’t buy alcohol at the same age.”

“Adolescence is already a difficult time and alcohol could make things a lot worse. I think the age should be raised to 21, like in America.”

“Alcohol is really dangerous for young people. I don’t think people should be drinking until they are at least 18.”

“You only learn responsibility by trying something. I think young people should be allowed to decide for themselves when they are old enough to buy alcohol.”



Class Debate



'The government should lower the age at which people are allowed to buy alcohol.' Discuss.

Your group has been given a number. This is the age that your group has to argue is the appropriate age to be legally allowed to buy alcohol.

Prepare your arguments for the debate. Make sure that you back up your points with reasons.

Try to think what others might argue and develop counter arguments.



Plenary – 1, 2, 3



List one thing that you already knew before today's lesson.

List two things that surprised you and give reasons for your answer.

Think of three ways to discourage young people from drinking alcohol.





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