

# CANNABIS- What's the harm?



In Ireland, Cannabis is an i\_\_\_\_\_ drug. If caught with cannabis, there is a difference between 'possession for \_\_\_\_\_ use' and possession with 'intent to \_\_\_\_\_'. Depending on the amount and if this is your first offence, then you can get between a fine and/or jail time. • If the \_\_\_\_\_ have reason to suspect you have drugs, they have the power to \_\_\_\_\_ you, your vehicle, vessel or aircraft without a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Some of the problems with cannabis are:**

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**Some of the effects of cannabis on the body are:**

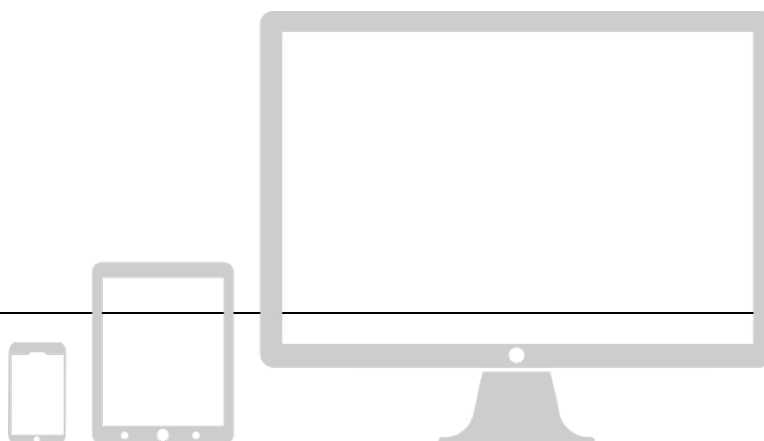
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**You (can/cannot) get addicted to cannabis. Some of the withdrawal symptoms are:**

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**I think cannabis (should/should not) be made legal, because...**

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**Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

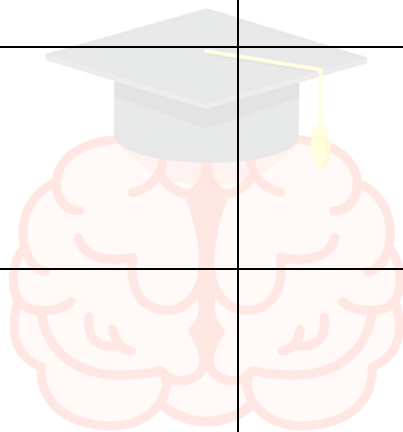
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Are you <b>for</b> or <b>opposed</b> this motion?	Key Arguments/ Points	Notes/ Comments
Speaker 1		
Speaker 2		
Speaker 3		

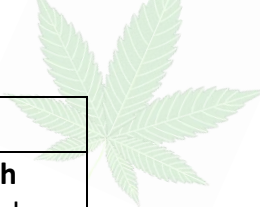
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***Possible Arguments against your motion:***

Key Arguments/ Points	Notes/ Comments



## Cannabis Fact Sheet (Teacher's Resources)



### What are the effects of cannabis?

It has another of different effects as a sedating and hallucinogenic drug. The effects can be both pleasant or unpleasant; it can make you:

- be a relaxed; making people feel at ease, happy and at times talkative;
- more aware of your senses, and of time slowing down;
- feel very hungry;
- feel light-headed, faint and nauseous;

May cause feelings of anxiety, suspicion, panic and paranoia.

### Cannabis Can Disturb Your Mental Health

Cannabis can affect the way the brain works.

- It can cause feelings of anxiety, suspicion, panic and paranoia.
- For people with illnesses such as schizophrenia, cannabis can cause a serious relapse.
- Regular, heavy use makes it difficult to learn and concentrate and research has linked cannabis use to poor exam results.
- Recent research published found those driving under the influence of cannabis had nearly double the risk of a crash.

### Cannabis Can Affect Your Body

- Smoking cannabis can lead to lung cancer
- Those with asthma it can make it worse
- It can cause wheezing in people without asthma.
- It can increase the heart rate and affect blood pressure (can accentuate those who suffer from heart disease).
- Frequent use of cannabis may affect fertility.
- Smoking cannabis during pregnancy may increase the risk of your baby being born smaller than expected.

### Cannabis and The Law

- If you're caught with cannabis for your own use and it's your first offence, the courts can decide to fine you. With more offences the court can order up to three years prison time.
- It's illegal to grow cannabis plants. If you are caught with a large amount of cannabis, it is assumed you intend to sell it. This could give you prison time.
- If the Gardaí have reason to suspect you have drugs, they have the power to search you, your vehicle, vessel or aircraft without a warrant.

### Can you get addicted to cannabis?

Yes. People have reported cravings and found it difficult to stop taking it. Regular users have reported significant withdrawal symptoms such irritability, mood changes, feeling sick, loss of appetite, difficulty sleeping; sweating, shaking and diarrhea in some people.

Image references:

- “Devices” image altered from its original retrieved from:  
[https://www.google.ie/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUK EwitsobBkM7ZAhUQZIAKHWHCByEQjRx6BAGAEAY&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpixabay.com%2Fen%2Fcross-device-cross-platform-desktop-1297696%2F&psig=AOvVaw1iHJOLwBVdtNqa\\_M8Vzv1D&ust=1520096823588271](https://www.google.ie/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUK EwitsobBkM7ZAhUQZIAKHWHCByEQjRx6BAGAEAY&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpixabay.com%2Fen%2Fcross-device-cross-platform-desktop-1297696%2F&psig=AOvVaw1iHJOLwBVdtNqa_M8Vzv1D&ust=1520096823588271) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March’2018.
- “Brain graduate”: Retrieved from:  
[https://www.google.ie/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjR4eaRrcHZAHVHaFAKHSzyBvAQjRx6BAGAEAY&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpixabay.com%2Fen%2Fbrain-clever-thought-dear-hats-2799833%2F&psig=AOvVaw3XgTYvlmHqw3mTU8D\\_lhAD&ust=1519657820362976](https://www.google.ie/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjR4eaRrcHZAHVHaFAKHSzyBvAQjRx6BAGAEAY&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpixabay.com%2Fen%2Fbrain-clever-thought-dear-hats-2799833%2F&psig=AOvVaw3XgTYvlmHqw3mTU8D_lhAD&ust=1519657820362976) on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February’ 2018.
- “Cannabis plant” retrieved from:  
<https://www.google.ie/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiPyI7ilc7ZAhUEOhQKHQB4CaEQjRx6BAGAEAY&url=http%3A%2F%2Fmaxpixel.freegreatpicture.com%2FMarijuana-Pot-Plant-Baking-Leaf-Hemp-Cannabis-1293986&psig=AOvVaw2K5IECRMPq9ZWwskARJ-rk&ust=1520098331164852> on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March’ 2018.