

## GROUP ACTIVITY

### Consequences

**This RunAround has been designed to support young people in understanding some of the potential consequences of getting involved in gang/drug/knife/gun/crime. The figures are correct as of July 31<sup>st</sup> 2019**

1. Eightball wanted to set up a cannabis farm and offered to let Aldo help him. But what's the maximum penalty for dealing cannabis? Is it **(A)** a £14,000 fine, **(B)** a £140,000 fine, **(C)** 14 months in prison or **(D)** 14 years in prison?

The answer is **(D)** – 14 years in prison. The maximum sentence for possessing cannabis (for personal use) is 5 years. The police may issue an on-the-spot fine for a first offence but the offender still gets a criminal record

2. In which of these jobs would you always have to disclose a conviction for possessing cannabis no matter how long ago it was? Is it **(A)** dental hygienist, **(B)** teacher, **(C)** care worker in a home for elderly people or **(D)** accountant?

The answer is all of them. Although there are many jobs where convictions can be “spent” after a certain number of years, there are many where this is not the case.

3. In which of these jobs could you search someone if you think they might be carrying a knife? Is it **(A)** a teacher, on school premises, **(B)** a doctor, in a hospital, **(C)** a police officer, anywhere or **(D)** a lawyer, in a courtroom?

The answer is **(A)** and **(C)**. Teachers, on school premises, and police officers, anywhere, can search people at any time if they suspect a knife is being carried.

4. If a police officer catches you carrying a knife, which one of these will definitely happen to you? Will you **(A)** receive a warning, **(B)** receive an official police caution, **(C)** receive a fine or **(D)** be prosecuted?

The answer is **(D)**: you will be prosecuted. The police always prosecute in these cases and you can be sent to prison for up to 4 years – even if the knife isn't used.

5. In terms of maximum sentences, what's the difference between being caught with a real gun and with an imitation gun? Is it **(A)** it's prison for a real gun and a fine for an imitation one, **(B)** no difference – it's the same fine for both, **(C)** no difference – it's the same prison sentence for both or **(D)** it's a longer prison sentence for a real gun than for an imitation one?

The answer is **(C)**: no difference. It's the same prison sentence for both. The maximum sentence for possessing but not using a real or imitation gun is 5 years in prison. However, judges will normally penalise more heavily those carrying real guns.

6. If you are on the scene when someone is killed by a knife or a gun, even if you didn't use the weapon, what is the most serious offence you could be charged with? Is it **(A)** assault, **(B)** accessory to murder, **(C)** manslaughter or **(D)** murder?

The answer is **(D)**: murder. Under what's called “joint enterprise” there is a minimum sentence for adults of 25 years for murder with a knife and 30 years for murder with a gun, even if you didn't use the weapon.