

# STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

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## READING SECTION (40 questions)

### Reading Passage 1

The economic debate surrounding drug legalization is a complex and multifaceted issue with compelling arguments on both sides. Proponents of legalization often highlight the potential for significant financial benefits, including increased tax revenue and reduced government expenditure on law enforcement. Conversely, opponents raise concerns about the potential for increased social costs, such as higher rates of addiction and associated healthcare expenses. A comprehensive examination of the economic landscape reveals a delicate balance between these competing considerations.

One of the most frequently cited arguments in favor of drug legalization is the potential for a substantial influx of tax revenue. By regulating and taxing the sale of drugs, governments could create a new stream of income that could be used to fund public services. For instance, a report from the Cato Institute projected that legalizing all illicit drugs could generate approximately \$41.3 billion in annual tax revenue for the United States. This revenue could be allocated to education, infrastructure, or public health initiatives, thereby turning a previously illicit market into a productive component of the economy. Furthermore, the creation of a legal drug industry would lead to job growth in cultivation, processing, distribution, and retail, further stimulating economic activity.

In addition to generating revenue, legalization could also lead to significant savings in government expenditure. A substantial portion of law enforcement budgets is currently dedicated to combating the illegal drug trade. The costs associated with policing, court proceedings, and incarceration for drug-related offenses are immense. The Cato Institute report also estimated that legalization could reduce government spending by approximately 41.3 billion annually, with 25.7 billion of that savings coming from state and local governments and \$15.6 billion from the federal government. These funds could be redirected to other priorities, such as crime prevention or rehabilitation programs.

However, the economic case for legalization is not without its counterarguments. Opponents often point to the potential for increased social costs that could offset any financial gains. A primary concern is the risk of a surge in drug addiction. If drugs become more readily available and socially acceptable, it is plausible that rates of use and dependency will rise. The Office of Justice Programs has suggested that drug legalization could lead to a 25 percent increase in the number of drug addicts. This would, in turn, place a greater strain on healthcare systems, with increased demand for addiction treatment and mental health services. The costs associated with treating addiction, as well as the lost productivity from an impaired workforce, could be substantial.

Furthermore, there is the question of how a legal drug market would be regulated. To be effective, a regulatory framework would need to be established to control the potency, purity, and marketing of drugs. This would require a new government bureaucracy, which would have its own associated costs. Additionally, there is the risk that a legal market would not entirely eliminate the black market. If taxes on legal drugs are too high, or if regulations are too stringent, an illicit market could continue to thrive, thereby undermining the potential for tax revenue and continued law enforcement challenges.

In conclusion, the economic arguments surrounding drug legalization are complex and nuanced. While the potential for increased tax revenue and reduced law enforcement costs is a powerful incentive, the potential for increased social costs, such as higher rates of addiction and the need for a new regulatory apparatus, cannot be ignored. A successful transition to a legalized drug market would require a carefully crafted policy that balances the potential for economic gain with the need to mitigate social harm. The debate is likely to continue as more jurisdictions around the world experiment with different models of drug policy, providing a richer body of evidence to inform future decisions.

### **Questions 1-13**

**Questions 1-6** Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1? In boxes 1-6 on your answer sheet, write

- **TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information
- **FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information
- **NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this\*

1. The economic debate over drug legalization is a straightforward issue with a clear consensus.
2. The Cato Institute report suggests that legalizing drugs could both increase government revenue and decrease government spending.
3. The creation of a legal drug industry is expected to have a negative impact on employment.
4. The Office of Justice Programs predicts a decrease in the number of drug addicts if drugs are legalized.
5. A legal drug market would automatically eliminate the black market.
6. The passage suggests that the economic impact of drug legalization is the only factor to consider.

**Questions 7-10** Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**. Write the correct letter in boxes 7-10 on your answer sheet.

1. According to the passage, what is one of the main economic arguments in favor of drug legalization? A. It will lead to a decrease in drug use. B. It will generate tax revenue and reduce law enforcement costs. C. It will eliminate the need for drug education programs. D. It will simplify the criminal justice system.
2. The Cato Institute report estimated that drug legalization could reduce government spending by approximately: A. 15.6 billion B. 25.7 billion C. 41.3 billion D. 100 billion
3. What is a primary concern raised by opponents of drug legalization? A. A decrease in tax revenue. B. A surge in drug addiction. C. A decline in the quality of drugs. D. A lack of interest from the private sector.
4. According to the passage, what is a potential challenge in regulating a legal drug market? A. A lack of drugs to regulate. B. The cost of establishing a new government bureaucracy. C. The refusal of the black market to participate. D. The difficulty in taxing drugs.

**Questions 11-13** Complete the summary below. Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in boxes 11-13 on your answer sheet.

The economic implications of drug legalization are a subject of intense debate. Proponents argue that it could lead to significant financial benefits, such as increased

11. \_\_\_\_\_ and reduced government spending. However, opponents worry about the potential for increased 12. \_\_\_\_\_, such as a rise in addiction rates. A successful transition to a legalized market would require a 13. \_\_\_\_\_ that balances economic gain with social harm.

## Reading Passage 2

**A** The social consequences of drug legalization are as hotly debated as the economic ones. Proponents argue that legalization can lead to a reduction in crime, a shift in focus from punishment to public health, and an increase in personal freedom. They contend that the current system of prohibition has created a dangerous and violent black market, and that by bringing the drug trade into the light, society can better control it. This perspective emphasizes the potential for a more just and equitable society, where resources are redirected from a failed war on drugs to education and treatment.

**B** One of the most significant arguments in favor of legalization is the potential for a dramatic reduction in crime rates. The illegal drug trade is a major driver of crime, from low-level street dealing to large-scale organized crime. By making drugs legal, the argument goes, the black market would be dismantled, and the violence associated with it would decline. A study from the University of California, Irvine, found that the closure of medical marijuana dispensaries was associated with an increase in crime in the surrounding areas, suggesting that the presence of legal dispensaries can have a crime-reducing effect.

**C** Furthermore, legalization allows for a shift in focus from a criminal justice approach to a public health approach. Instead of punishing drug users, the government can focus on providing education, prevention, and treatment. This approach recognizes that drug addiction is a medical issue, not a moral failing. Organizations like the Drug Policy Alliance advocate for a public health-centered approach, arguing that it is more effective and humane than the current system of criminalization. This shift could lead to better outcomes for individuals struggling with addiction and a more compassionate society as a whole.

**D** However, opponents of legalization raise serious concerns about the potential for negative social consequences. A primary worry is that legalization will lead to an increase in drug use, particularly among young people. The normalization of drug use, they argue, could lead to a public health crisis. The National Institute on Drug Abuse has reported that in states that have legalized recreational marijuana, there has been

an increase in marijuana use among young adults. This raises concerns about the potential for long-term health problems, including addiction and impaired cognitive development.

**E** Another concern is the potential for an increase in drugged driving. If more people are using drugs, it is logical to assume that more people will be driving under the influence. This could lead to an increase in traffic accidents and fatalities. A study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that after the legalization of recreational marijuana in Colorado, Washington, and Oregon, collision claim frequencies were about 3% higher than would have been expected without legalization. This suggests that legalization could have a negative impact on public safety.

**F** In conclusion, the social implications of drug legalization are complex and far-reaching. While the potential for reduced crime and a more public health-oriented approach is appealing, the risks of increased drug use and drugged driving cannot be ignored. As with the economic debate, the social debate is likely to continue as more data becomes available from jurisdictions that have chosen to legalize drugs. A successful policy will need to carefully balance the potential benefits of legalization with the need to protect public health and safety.

### Questions 14-26

**Questions 14-19** *Reading Passage 2 has six paragraphs, A-F. Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below. Write the correct number, i-viii, in boxes 14-19 on your answer sheet.*

### List of Headings

- i. The potential for a public health crisis ii. A shift in focus from punishment to treatment
- iii. The economic benefits of legalization iv. The impact of legalization on crime rates
- v. The challenges of regulating a legal market vi. The social debate surrounding drug legalization
- vii. The impact of legalization on traffic safety viii. The role of the black market in the drug trade

1. Paragraph A
2. Paragraph B
3. Paragraph C
4. Paragraph D

5. Paragraph E

6. Paragraph F

**Questions 20-23** Choose the correct letter, **A, B, C or D**. Write the correct letter in boxes 20-23 on your answer sheet.

1. According to the passage, what is a major argument in favor of drug legalization?  
A. It will lead to a decrease in the price of drugs. B. It will reduce crime and allow for a public health approach. C. It will increase the number of people in the criminal justice system. D. It will make it easier for young people to access drugs.
2. The University of California, Irvine, study suggested that: A. Legalizing drugs leads to an increase in crime. B. The presence of legal dispensaries can reduce crime. C. The black market is not a major driver of crime. D. Drug users are more likely to be victims of crime.
3. What is a primary concern of opponents of drug legalization? A. A decrease in personal freedom. B. An increase in drug use, especially among young people. C. A decline in the quality of drugs. D. A lack of government regulation.
4. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety study found that: A. Drug legalization has no impact on traffic safety. B. Drugged driving is not a major problem. C. Collision claim frequencies increased after marijuana legalization. D. More people are driving under the influence of alcohol.

**Questions 24-26** Complete the sentences below. Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in boxes 24-26 on your answer sheet.

1. Legalization could lead to a shift from a criminal justice approach to a \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The normalization of drug use could lead to a \_\_\_\_\_.

3. A successful policy will need to balance the potential benefits of legalization with the need to protect \_\_\_\_\_.

### Reading Passage 3

The health implications of drug legalization are a critical component of the broader debate, encompassing a wide range of potential benefits and risks. Proponents argue that a regulated market can lead to improved public health outcomes through quality

control, harm reduction strategies, and increased access to medical treatments. However, opponents voice significant concerns about the potential for a surge in addiction rates, a rise in mental health disorders, and other negative health consequences associated with increased drug use. A thorough analysis of the available evidence reveals a complex and often contradictory picture.

A key argument in favor of legalization from a public health perspective is the potential for improved product safety. In an illegal market, there is no oversight of drug production, leading to products that can be contaminated with dangerous substances or have unpredictable potency. A regulated market, by contrast, would allow for quality control measures, ensuring that consumers know what they are ingesting. This could significantly reduce the risk of accidental overdose and other adverse health events. Furthermore, legalization would facilitate the implementation of harm reduction strategies, such as providing clean needles and supervised consumption sites, which have been shown to reduce the spread of infectious diseases like HIV and hepatitis C.

Another potential health benefit of legalization is the expansion of access to medical treatments. Many illicit drugs have therapeutic potential. For example, marijuana has been shown to be effective in treating chronic pain, nausea, and other symptoms associated with various medical conditions. Legalization would make it easier for patients to access these treatments under the guidance of a healthcare professional. It would also stimulate further research into the therapeutic applications of other currently illicit substances, potentially leading to new and innovative treatments for a range of diseases.

Despite these potential benefits, there are significant health risks associated with drug legalization that cannot be overlooked. A primary concern is the potential for an increase in addiction rates. The principles of supply and demand suggest that if drugs become cheaper, more available, and more socially acceptable, consumption will increase. This, in turn, could lead to a higher prevalence of substance use disorders. The public health consequences of a spike in addiction could be severe, placing a heavy burden on healthcare systems and leading to a wide range of social problems.

In addition to addiction, there are concerns about the potential for an increase in mental health disorders. There is a well-established link between the use of certain drugs, such as cannabis, and an increased risk of psychosis and other mental health problems, particularly in adolescents and young adults. If legalization leads to an increase in drug use among these vulnerable populations, it could result in a

corresponding increase in the incidence of mental illness. This would have long-term consequences for the individuals affected, their families, and society as a whole.

Ultimately, the health effects of drug legalization are likely to be a mixed bag. While a regulated market could lead to improved product safety and expanded access to medical treatments, it could also result in a higher incidence of addiction and mental health disorders. The overall impact on public health will depend on the specific details of the regulatory framework that is put in place. A successful policy would need to include robust public health measures, such as comprehensive prevention and treatment programs, to mitigate the potential harms of increased drug use.

### Questions 27-40

**Questions 27-32** Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 3? In boxes 27-32 on your answer sheet, write

- **YES** if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer
- **NO** if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer
- **NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this\*

1. The health implications of drug legalization are the most important aspect of the debate.
2. A regulated drug market would eliminate all health risks associated with drug use.
3. Legalization would make it more difficult for patients to access medical treatments.
4. The writer believes that the link between drug use and mental health is a significant concern.
5. The writer is confident that drug legalization will have a net positive impact on public health.
6. A successful drug legalization policy would not need to include prevention and treatment programs.

**Questions 33-36** Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**. Write the correct letter in boxes 33-36 on your answer sheet.

1. What is a key public health argument in favor of drug legalization? A. It will lead to a decrease in the price of drugs. B. It will improve product safety and allow for

- harm reduction strategies. C. It will increase the number of people in the criminal justice system. D. It will make it easier for young people to access drugs.
2. According to the passage, what is a potential therapeutic use of marijuana? A. Treating infectious diseases like HIV and hepatitis C. B. Curing addiction. C. Treating chronic pain and nausea. D. Improving cognitive function in adolescents.
3. What is a primary health concern raised by opponents of drug legalization? A. A decrease in the quality of drugs. B. A surge in addiction rates. C. A decline in the number of healthcare professionals. D. A lack of interest from the pharmaceutical industry.
4. The passage suggests that the overall impact of drug legalization on public health will depend on: A. The price of legal drugs. B. The specific details of the regulatory framework. C. The level of public support for legalization. D. The number of people who use drugs.

**Questions 37-40** Complete the notes below. Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in boxes 37-40 on your answer sheet.

### Health Implications of Drug Legalization

#### Potential Benefits:

- Improved product safety through 37. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Implementation of 38. \_\_\_\_\_ strategies.
- Expanded access to medical treatments.

#### Potential Risks:

- An increase in 39. \_\_\_\_\_.
- A rise in 40. \_\_\_\_\_ disorders.

### LISTENING SECTION (40 questions)

#### Section 1: Questions 1-10

Complete the form below. Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

## Community Meeting on Drug Legalization

Name	Occupation	Main Concern
Sarah	1. _____	Rise in crime
David	2. _____	3. _____
Emily	Student	4. _____ on young people
Michael	5. _____	Economic benefits
<b>Date of next meeting:</b>	6. _____	
<b>Time:</b>	7. _____	
<b>Location:</b>	8. _____	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	9. _____	
<b>Contact Number:</b>	10. _____	

## Section 2: Questions 11-20

**Questions 11-15** Choose the correct letter, **A, B, C or D.**

1. The speaker is a representative from which organization? A. The local police force  
B. A public health organization C. A pro-legalization advocacy group D. A community neighborhood watch
  
2. What is the main purpose of the talk? A. To argue for stricter drug laws B. To provide information about the potential impacts of drug legalization C. To recruit volunteers for a new campaign D. To share personal stories of addiction
  
3. According to the speaker, what is a potential benefit of drug legalization? A. A decrease in the number of drug users B. An increase in public safety C. A reduction in the burden on the criminal justice system D. A decline in the price of illegal drugs
  
4. The speaker suggests that revenue from legal drug sales could be used to fund: A. More prisons B. Tax cuts for the wealthy C. Public health and education programs D. Law enforcement agencies

5. What is one of the main concerns the speaker addresses? A. The potential for a rise in drug-related tourism B. The difficulty of regulating the quality of legal drugs C. The impact of legalization on international relations D. The risk of increased addiction and public health costs

**Questions 16-20** *What is the speaker's opinion on the following aspects of drug legalization? Write the correct letter, **A**, **B**, or **C**, next to questions 16-20.*

**A** Positive impact **B** Negative impact **C** Uncertain impact

1. Crime rates
2. The economy
3. Public health
4. Young people
5. The black market

### **Section 3: Questions 21-30**

*Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.*

1. The discussion is between: A. Two students and a professor B. A journalist and a politician C. A doctor and a patient D. Two police officers
2. What is the main topic of their discussion? A. The history of drug prohibition B. The ethical implications of drug legalization C. The effectiveness of current drug policies D. The role of the media in shaping public opinion on drugs
3. Dr. Evans argues that the “war on drugs” has been: A. A resounding success B. A costly failure C. A necessary evil D. A minor inconvenience
4. Sarah believes that legalization would lead to: A. A more just and equitable society B. A complete breakdown of social order C. A significant increase in government revenue D. A decline in the quality of healthcare
5. Tom is concerned that legalization would: A. Be too difficult to implement B. Not be supported by the public C. Send the wrong message to young people D. Be a violation of international law
6. Dr. Evans suggests that a public health approach to drugs would focus on: A. Punishment and incarceration B. Prevention, education, and treatment C.

Increased border security D. Stricter penalties for drug dealers

7. What is Sarah's main argument for the regulation of drugs? A. It would make drugs more expensive. B. It would ensure product safety and quality control. C. It would make it easier for children to access drugs. D. It would eliminate the need for drug education.
8. Tom is worried that legalization would lead to an increase in: A. Employment rates B. Academic performance C. Drugged driving and other public safety issues D. The number of people seeking treatment for addiction
9. Dr. Evans compares the potential regulation of drugs to the regulation of: A. Firearms and tobacco B. Alcohol and tobacco C. Prescription drugs D. The food industry
10. At the end of the discussion, the students decide to: A. Write a letter to their local representative B. Organize a protest on campus C. Conduct further research for their assignment D. Drop the topic and choose a new one

#### **Section 4: Questions 31-40**

*Complete the notes below. Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.*

#### **Lecture: The Portuguese Model of Drug Decriminalization**

##### **Background:**

- In 2001, Portugal decriminalized the use and possession of all illicit drugs.
- The policy was a response to a major 31. \_\_\_\_\_ crisis in the 1990s.
- The focus shifted from criminalization to a 32. \_\_\_\_\_ approach.

##### **Key Features of the Policy:**

- Possession of small amounts of drugs is no longer a 33. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Instead, individuals are referred to a “dissuasion commission.”
- The commission is made up of a lawyer, a doctor, and a 34. \_\_\_\_\_.
- The goal is to assess the individual’s situation and offer support and treatment.

##### **Outcomes of the Policy:**

- A significant decrease in drug-related deaths.

- A reduction in the number of new 35. \_\_\_\_\_ infections.
- An increase in the number of people seeking 36. \_\_\_\_\_ for drug addiction.
- No major increase in drug use.

### **Criticisms and Challenges:**

- Some argue that the policy has not been as successful as claimed.
- There are concerns about the long-term 37. \_\_\_\_\_ of the policy.
- The policy may not be transferable to other countries with different 38. \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Lessons Learned:**

- A public health approach to drugs can be more effective than a 39. \_\_\_\_\_ one.
- Decriminalization is not the same as legalization.
- The Portuguese model offers a valuable 40. \_\_\_\_\_ for other countries to consider.

## **WRITING SECTION**

### **WRITING TASK 1**

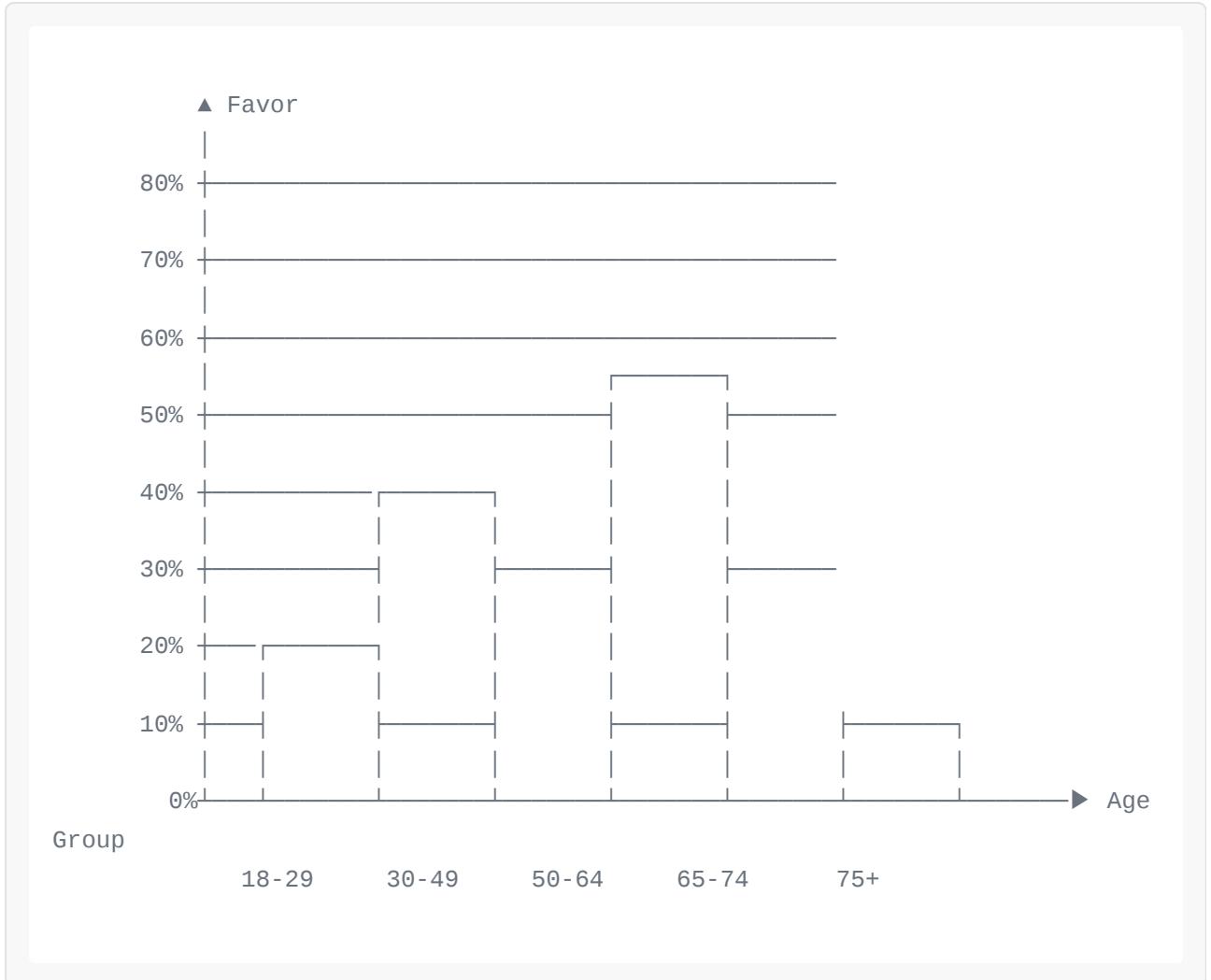
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

*The chart below shows the results of a survey on public opinion on the legalization of marijuana in the United States in 2025, broken down by age group.*

*Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.*

Write at least 150 words.

### **Public Opinion on Marijuana Legalization by Age Group (2025)**



## WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

*Some people argue that the legalization of drugs would lead to a more just and effective drug policy. Others believe that it would create a public health crisis.*

*Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.*

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

## SPEAKING SECTION

### Part 1: Introduction and interview (4-5 minutes)

*The examiner will ask you some general questions about yourself and then move on to the topic of drug legalization.*

1. What are your views on the current drug laws in your country?
2. Do you think that the legalization of some drugs would have a positive or negative impact on society?
3. What are some of the potential benefits of legalizing drugs?
4. What are some of the potential risks of legalizing drugs?
5. Do you think that drug addiction should be treated as a criminal issue or a health issue?

### **Part 2: Cue Card (2-3 minutes)**

*You will have 1 minute to prepare your talk. You can make notes if you wish.*

Describe a time when you heard a news report or read an article about drug legalization.

You should say:

- what the report or article was about
- where you heard or read it
- what the main arguments were

and explain your own opinion on the issue.

### **Part 3: Discussion (4-5 minutes)**

*The examiner will ask you some more abstract questions related to the topic in Part 2.*

1. To what extent do you think the media influences public opinion on drug legalization?
2. Some people argue that the “war on drugs” has been a failure. What is your opinion?
3. What are the most effective ways to reduce the harm caused by drugs in society?
4. Do you think that the legalization of drugs would lead to an increase or decrease in crime?
5. What role should the government play in regulating legal drugs?

## GRAMMAR SECTION (20 questions)

### Questions 1-5: Error Correction

*Identify the error in each sentence and correct it.*

1. The legalization of drugs have been a contentious issue for many years.
2. If I would have known about the risks, I would have been more careful.
3. He is one of the people who is in favor of drug legalization.
4. The number of people using drugs have increased in recent years.
5. Despite of the potential benefits, there are also significant risks.

### Questions 6-10: Sentence Transformation

*Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given.*

1. The government should regulate the sale of drugs. **be** The sale of drugs \_\_\_\_\_ by the government.
2. It is possible that legalizing drugs will lead to an increase in addiction. **could** Legalizing drugs \_\_\_\_\_ to an increase in addiction.
3. They are discussing the pros and cons of drug legalization. **is** The pros and cons of drug legalization \_\_\_\_\_ discussed.
4. “I think you should reconsider your position,” he said to me. **advised** He \_\_\_\_\_ my position.
5. She started campaigning for drug policy reform ten years ago. **been** She \_\_\_\_\_ for drug policy reform for ten years.

### Questions 11-15: Fill in the blanks

*Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in brackets, or a suitable article or preposition.*

1. If the government \_\_\_\_\_ (legalize) drugs, it would have a significant impact on society.
2. He has been addicted \_\_\_\_\_ drugs for many years.

3. The debate over drug legalization is \_\_\_\_\_ complex issue.
4. She is interested \_\_\_\_\_ the economic consequences of legalization.
5. By the time the new law is passed, many people \_\_\_\_\_ (suffer) from the effects of the current policy.

### Questions 16-20: Word Formation

*Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.*

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of drugs is a controversial topic. (LEGAL)
2. There are many \_\_\_\_\_ arguments for and against drug legalization. (COMPEL)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a legal drug market would require careful planning. (CREATE)
4. It is important to consider the \_\_\_\_\_ implications of any new policy. (SOCIETY)
5. The government needs to find an \_\_\_\_\_ solution to the drug problem. (EFFECT)

## LISTENING SCRIPTS

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### Section 1

**Sarah:** Hello everyone, and welcome to our community meeting. My name is Sarah, and I'm a teacher at the local primary school. I've called this meeting because I'm becoming increasingly concerned about the discussions around drug legalization. I'm particularly worried about the potential for a rise in crime. I've seen what drugs can do to a community, and I don't want to see that happen here.

**David:** I understand your concerns, Sarah. My name is David, and I'm a local business owner. I'm worried about the economic impact. I've heard that legalization could bring in a lot of tax revenue, but I'm also concerned about the potential for increased healthcare costs. I'm not sure the economic benefits outweigh the risks.

**Emily:** Hi, I'm Emily. I'm a student at the university. I'm worried about the impact on young people. I think if drugs are legal, it sends the message that they're safe, and I'm

concerned that more young people will start using them. I think we need to be doing more to educate young people about the dangers of drugs, not making them more accessible.

**Michael:** My name is Michael, and I'm a retired accountant. I have to say, I see things a bit differently. I've been looking at the numbers, and the potential economic benefits are significant. We're spending a fortune on the war on drugs, and it's not working. If we legalize and regulate drugs, we could not only save that money but also bring in a substantial amount of tax revenue. That's money we could be using to fund schools, hospitals, and other public services.

**Sarah:** I see your point, Michael, but at what cost? Are we willing to sacrifice the safety of our community for a bit of extra cash?

**David:** I agree with Sarah. It's a big risk. We need to be sure that we have a robust regulatory system in place before we even consider legalization.

**Emily:** And what about the message we're sending to our children? I just don't think it's worth it.

**Michael:** I understand your concerns, but I think you're underestimating the potential benefits. And I think you're overestimating the risks. We can learn from other places that have legalized drugs and put in place policies that protect public health and safety.

**Sarah:** Well, it's clear that we have a lot to discuss. I think we should schedule another meeting to continue this conversation. How about next Tuesday, the 15th of March?

**David:** That works for me.

**Emily:** Me too.

**Michael:** I'll be there.

**Sarah:** Great. Let's meet at 7:00 PM in the community hall. I'll be the contact person for the meeting. You can reach me at 07700 900123. I look forward to seeing you all there.

## Section 2

Good evening, everyone. My name is Dr. Eleanor Vance, and I'm a public health researcher from the Institute for Health and Social Policy. I've been invited here tonight to talk to you about the potential impacts of drug legalization. This is a

complex issue with a lot of strong opinions on both sides, and my goal tonight is not to tell you what to think, but to provide you with a balanced overview of the evidence.

First, let's talk about the potential benefits. One of the most significant is the potential to reduce the burden on our criminal justice system. We spend a vast amount of money and resources on arresting, prosecuting, and imprisoning people for drug offenses. Legalization could free up those resources to be used in more productive ways. Furthermore, the tax revenue generated from legal drug sales could be used to fund public health and education programs, including drug prevention and treatment services.

However, we also need to consider the potential risks. A major concern is the potential for an increase in addiction and other public health costs. If drugs are more readily available and socially acceptable, it's likely that more people will use them, and some of those people will develop problems. We also need to think about the impact on public safety. For example, there are concerns about an increase in drugged driving.

So, what does the evidence say? Well, it's mixed. In terms of crime rates, some studies have shown a decrease in crime after legalization, while others have shown no significant change. The economic impact is also uncertain. While there is potential for tax revenue, there is also the potential for increased healthcare costs. The impact on public health is perhaps the most contentious issue. Proponents of legalization argue that it allows for better regulation and quality control, while opponents worry about the impact of increased use. The impact on young people is a particular concern, with some studies showing an increase in use among young adults after legalization. Finally, while legalization would likely lead to a reduction in the black market, it may not eliminate it entirely.

As you can see, there are no easy answers. The impact of drug legalization is likely to be complex and multifaceted. It's a trade-off between potential benefits and potential risks. The key is to have a robust regulatory framework in place to mitigate those risks and to ensure that public health and safety are protected. Thank you.

### **Section 3**

**Dr. Evans:** So, for your next assignment, you've chosen to focus on the ethical implications of drug legalization. That's a very timely and important topic. Sarah, Tom, what are your initial thoughts?

**Sarah:** Well, Dr. Evans, I've been doing some reading, and I'm starting to think that the so-called "war on drugs" has been a costly failure. It's led to mass incarceration, particularly of minority communities, and it hasn't really done much to reduce drug use. I think a more just and equitable society would be one that treats drug use as a public health issue, not a criminal one.

**Tom:** I see your point, Sarah, but I'm not so sure. I'm concerned that legalization would send the wrong message to young people. It would normalize drug use and make it seem like it's not a big deal. I think we have a responsibility to protect young people from the harms of drugs, and I'm not sure legalization is the way to do that.

**Dr. Evans:** Those are both very valid points. It's a classic debate between individual liberty and social responsibility. Sarah, you mentioned a public health approach. What would that look like in practice?

**Sarah:** I think it would mean focusing on prevention, education, and treatment. Instead of spending billions on law enforcement and prisons, we could be investing in programs that help people make informed choices and that provide support for those who are struggling with addiction. And if we were to regulate drugs, we could ensure product safety and quality control, which would reduce the risk of overdose and other harms.

**Tom:** But what about the public safety issues? I'm worried about an increase in things like drugged driving. And what about the impact on the healthcare system? If more people are using drugs, that's going to put a strain on our hospitals and clinics.

**Dr. Evans:** That's a key concern, Tom. Any move towards legalization would have to be accompanied by a robust regulatory framework. We can look to the regulation of other legal but potentially harmful substances, like alcohol and tobacco, for guidance. It's about finding a balance between respecting individual autonomy and protecting the public good.

**Sarah:** Exactly. It's not about a free-for-all. It's about smart regulation.

**Tom:** I'm still not convinced. It just seems like a huge risk.

**Dr. Evans:** It's a complex issue with no easy answers. That's why it's such a good topic for your assignment. I suggest you both do some more research on the different models of legalization and regulation that have been implemented around the world. Look at the evidence and see what conclusions you can draw.

**Sarah:** That's a good idea. I think we need to look at this from all angles.

**Tom:** Agreed. I'm willing to keep an open mind.

**Dr. Evans:** Excellent. I look forward to reading your essays.

## Section 4

Good morning. In today's lecture, we're going to be looking at a fascinating case study in drug policy: the Portuguese model of drug decriminalization. In 2001, Portugal took the radical step of decriminalizing the use and possession of all illicit drugs, from cannabis to heroin. This was a bold and controversial move, and it's one that has been closely watched by policymakers and researchers around the world.

So, why did Portugal take this step? Well, in the 1990s, the country was in the grip of a major heroin crisis. It had one of the highest rates of drug-related deaths and HIV infection in Europe. The government realized that its traditional approach of criminalization was not working. It was simply filling up the prisons and not addressing the root causes of the problem. So, it decided to try something different. The focus shifted from criminalization to a public health approach.

What does this mean in practice? Well, under the new policy, the possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use is no longer a criminal offense. Instead of being arrested and sent to court, individuals are referred to what's called a "dissuasion commission." This commission is made up of a lawyer, a doctor, and a social worker. The goal is not to punish the individual, but to assess their situation and offer support and treatment. If the person is found to have a drug problem, they are offered a place in a treatment program. If they are not, they may be given a small fine or a warning.

The results of this policy have been remarkable. There has been a significant decrease in drug-related deaths and a dramatic reduction in the number of new HIV infections. The number of people seeking treatment for drug addiction has increased, and there has been no major increase in drug use. In fact, in some age groups, drug use has actually declined.

However, the policy is not without its critics. Some argue that the policy has not been as successful as claimed, and that it has simply moved the problem from the criminal justice system to the healthcare system. There are also concerns about the long-term sustainability of the policy, and whether it is transferable to other countries with different cultures and social contexts.

So, what can we learn from the Portuguese experience? I think there are two key lessons. First, a public health approach to drugs can be more effective than a criminal justice one. And second, decriminalization is not the same as legalization. The Portuguese model does not make drugs legal. It simply treats their use as a health issue rather than a criminal one. It's a model that offers a valuable case study for other countries to consider as they grapple with the complex challenge of drug policy. Thank you.

## ANSWER KEY

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### Reading Section

1. FALSE
2. TRUE
3. FALSE
4. FALSE
5. FALSE
6. NOT GIVEN
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. B
11. tax revenue
12. social costs
13. carefully crafted policy
14. vi
15. iv
16. ii
17. i
18. vii
19. F

- 20. B
- 21. B
- 22. B
- 23. C
- 24. public health approach
- 25. public health crisis
- 26. public health and safety
- 27. NOT GIVEN
- 28. NO
- 29. NO
- 30. YES
- 31. NO
- 32. NO
- 33. B
- 34. C
- 35. B
- 36. B
- 37. quality control
- 38. harm reduction
- 39. addiction rates
- 40. mental health

## **Listening Section**

- 1. Teacher
- 2. Business owner
- 3. Economic impact
- 4. Impact
- 5. Retired accountant
- 6. 15th March

7. 7:00 PM

8. Community hall

9. Sarah

10. 07700 900123

11. B

12. B

13. C

14. C

15. D

16. C

17. C

18. B

19. B

20. C

21. A

22. B

23. B

24. A

25. C

26. B

27. B

28. C

29. B

30. C

31. heroin

32. public health

33. criminal offense

34. social worker

35. HIV

36. treatment
37. sustainability
38. social contexts
39. criminal justice
40. case study

## Grammar Section

1. has
2. had known
3. are
4. has
5. Despite
6. should be regulated
7. could lead
8. is being
9. advised me to reconsider
10. has been campaigning
11. legalized
12. to
13. a
14. in
15. will have suffered
16. LEGALIZATION
17. COMPELLING
18. CREATION
19. SOCIETAL
20. EFFECTIVE

# TUTOR GUIDE

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## Model Answer for Writing Task 1

The bar chart illustrates public support for the legalization of marijuana in the United States in 2025, with a breakdown by five different age demographics. Overall, the chart indicates that support for legalization is inversely proportional to age, with younger generations showing significantly more approval than older ones.

The highest level of support is seen in the 18-29 age group, where approximately 65% of individuals are in favor of legalization. This is followed by the 30-49 age group, which shows a slightly lower but still strong level of support at around 55%.

As age increases, support for marijuana legalization steadily declines. In the 50-64 age bracket, the approval rating drops to 45%. This downward trend continues with the 65-74 age group, where only 35% of people are in favor. The lowest level of support is found among those aged 75 and over, with only a quarter of this demographic supporting the legalization of marijuana.

In summary, the data clearly shows a generational divide in attitudes towards marijuana legalization in the US, with younger people being far more likely to support it than their older counterparts.

## Model Essay for Writing Task 2 (Band 9)

The debate over the legalization of drugs is one of the most contentious and polarizing issues of our time. Proponents argue that it represents a pragmatic and just approach to a complex social problem, while opponents warn of a potential public health catastrophe. This essay will explore both perspectives before offering a concluding opinion.

On one side of the argument, it is contended that the current prohibitionist stance on drugs has been an unmitigated disaster. The “war on drugs” has incurred enormous financial costs, led to the mass incarceration of non-violent offenders, and fueled the growth of dangerous criminal organizations. By legalizing and regulating drugs, governments could not only generate substantial tax revenue but also redirect law enforcement resources to more pressing matters. Furthermore, a regulated market would ensure product safety and quality control, thereby reducing the risk of overdose and other harms associated with contaminated illicit substances. From this

perspective, legalization is not about condoning drug use, but about adopting a more effective and humane policy.

Conversely, those who oppose legalization raise legitimate concerns about the potential for a significant increase in drug use and addiction. They argue that making drugs more readily available and socially acceptable would inevitably lead to a public health crisis. The social costs of such a crisis, including increased healthcare expenditure, lost productivity, and a rise in drug-related accidents, could far outweigh any potential economic benefits. There is also the concern that legalization would normalize drug use among young people, potentially leading to long-term cognitive and developmental problems. These arguments are rooted in a precautionary principle, which prioritizes the protection of public health and safety above all else.

In my view, while the concerns of opponents are not without merit, the arguments in favor of a regulated and legalized system are more compelling. The evidence from countries that have decriminalized or legalized drugs, such as Portugal and Canada, suggests that the fears of a public health crisis are often overstated. A carefully crafted policy that combines legalization with robust public health measures, including comprehensive prevention, education, and treatment programs, offers the most promising path forward. It is a pragmatic approach that acknowledges the failures of the past and seeks to build a more just and effective drug policy for the future.

## **Speaking Part 2 Sample Response**

I remember reading an article in The Guardian online a few months ago about the ongoing debate surrounding drug legalization in the UK. The article was a feature piece that explored the various arguments for and against a change in the law. It was a very balanced and well-researched article, and it really made me think about the issue in a more nuanced way.

The article presented the main arguments from both sides of the debate. On the one hand, it featured interviews with law enforcement officials and public health experts who argued that the current system is not working. They pointed to the high costs of the “war on drugs,” the rise of organized crime, and the fact that criminalizing users often prevents them from seeking help. They argued that a regulated market would allow the government to control the quality and sale of drugs, and to generate tax revenue that could be invested in public health services.

On the other hand, the article also gave a voice to those who are opposed to legalization. They were mainly concerned about the potential for an increase in addiction and other health problems, especially among young people. They argued that legalization would send the wrong message and that it would lead to a more permissive society. They also raised concerns about the potential for an increase in drug-related accidents, such as drugged driving.

My own opinion on the issue is that I tend to agree with the arguments for legalization. I think the current system is causing more harm than good. It's not stopping people from using drugs, but it is creating a whole host of other problems. I think a regulated system, combined with a strong focus on education and treatment, would be a much more sensible and effective approach. It's not a perfect solution, but I think it's the best way forward.

## Key Vocabulary List

1. **Legalization (n.)** - The act of making something that was previously illegal, legal.
2. **Decriminalization (n.)** - The act of removing criminal penalties for a particular act.
3. **Prohibition (n.)** - The act of forbidding something by law.
4. **Illicit (adj.)** - Forbidden by law, rules, or custom.
5. **Contentious (adj.)** - Causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial.
6. **Multifaceted (adj.)** - Having many different aspects or features.
7. **Proponent (n.)** - A person who advocates a theory, proposal, or project.
8. **Opponent (n.)** - A person who disagrees with and expresses opposition to a proposal or theory.
9. **Expenditure (n.)** - The action of spending funds.
10. **Revenue (n.)** - Income, especially when of a company or organization and of a substantial nature.
11. **Incarceration (n.)** - The state of being confined in prison; imprisonment.
12. **Recidivism (n.)** - The tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend.
13. **Harm reduction (n.)** - Policies, programs and practices that aim to minimize negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use, drug policies and drug laws.

14. **Substance use disorder (n.)** - A medical condition in which the use of one or more substances leads to a clinically significant impairment or distress.
15. **Prevalence (n.)** - The fact or condition of being prevalent; commonness.
16. **Cognitive (adj.)** - Relating to the mental processes of perception, memory, judgment, and reasoning.
17. **Nuanced (adj.)** - Characterized by subtle shades of meaning or expression.
18. **Pragmatic (adj.)** - Dealing with things sensibly and realistically in a way that is based on practical rather than theoretical considerations.
19. **Polarizing (adj.)** - Dividing or causing to divide into two sharply contrasting groups or sets of opinions or beliefs.
20. **Unmitigated (adj.)** - Absolute; unqualified.