

Please note: drug laws change regularly. The legal status of drugs in this booklet may have changed by the time you use it: please check a source such as the [UK Government guidance](#) for up-to-date legal status.

The Drugs Wheel Game

Instruction booklet

Version 2.4 (12/06/2024)



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Designed in collaboration with UK and Ireland DrugWatch: an informal association of charities, organisations and individuals who share an interest in establishing a robust early warning system in the UK for all types of drugs.



The Drugs Wheel Game

Thank you for your interest in the Drugs Wheel game. Due to the rapidly changing nature of drugs and drug laws, this instructions sheet is updated regularly. To receive updates e-mail info@thedrugswheel.com to be added to the mailing list.

PLAYING THE GAME

The game can be played on an individual or group basis. Please note that playing the game with all 36 labels can take well over an hour; for shorter games pre-select fewer drugs. The board has an outer and inner ring which allows for drugs to be split into different categories according to your needs: for example legal/illegal, prescribed/non-prescribed etc.

Round 1: Ask your client(s) to place the seven drug group definitions around the wheel and discuss each of the categories (there is a completed version on the following page for reference). **Make sure to highlight/elicit that many drugs overlap between categories.**

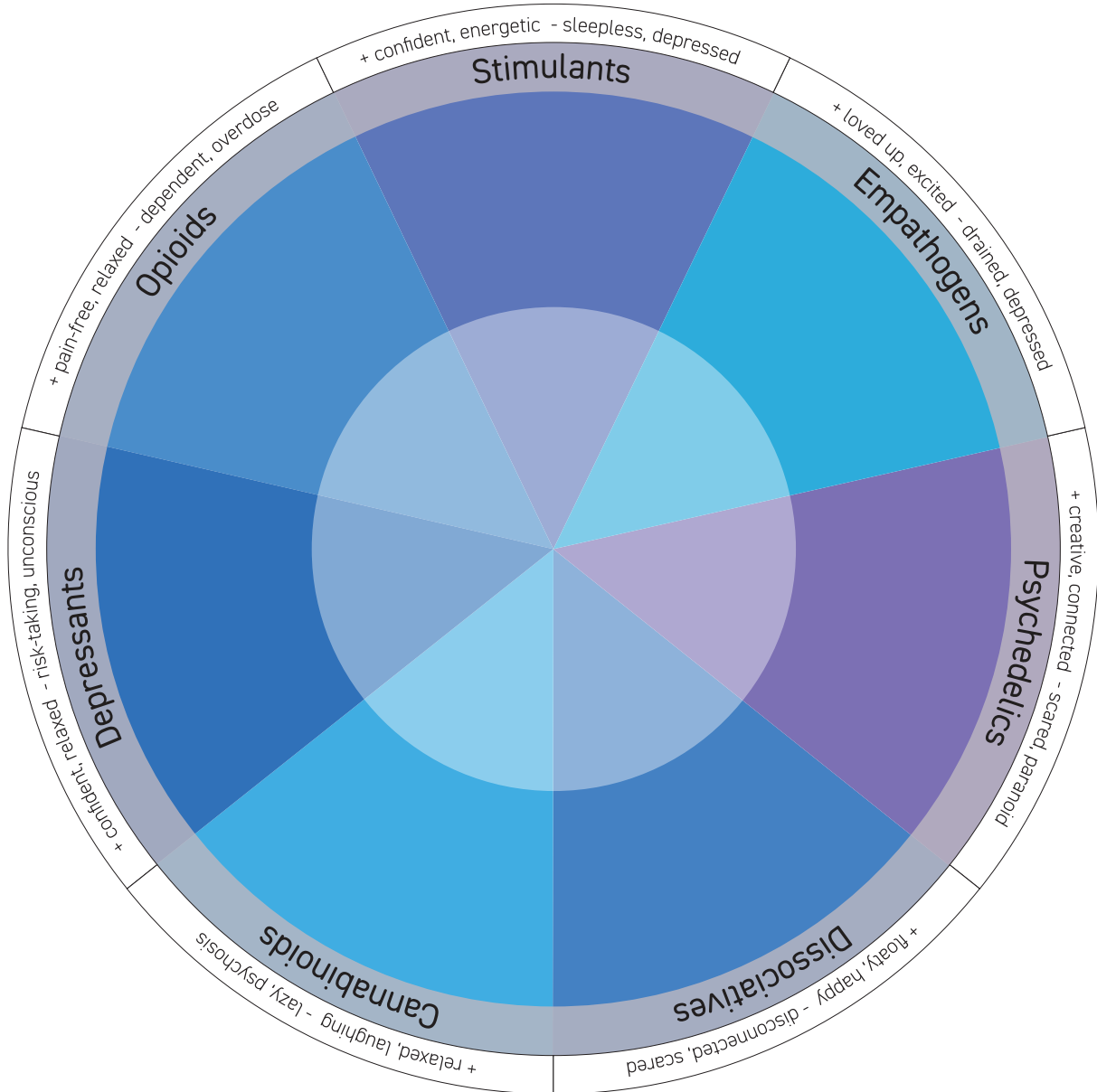
Round 2: Ask your client(s) to stick the drug labels on the wheel, placing them in the correct category, and inner or outer ring for the drug. **Explain/elicit how prescription drugs can be both legal and illegal depending on whether you have a prescription.**

Groups: When conducting this as a group exercise, points can be given to each team; for example one point for placing the drug in the right category, and a second point for placing the drug correctly in the inner or outer ring.

NOTES

Blank labels are included on the last page for you to make your own drug labels. Customised labels can be designed for your organisation: email info@thedrugswheel.com for details.

Reference: board with drug descriptions in place



The Drugs Wheel Game

Please note: drug effects can often cross over multiple categories, and that prescribed drugs can become illegal if you don't have a prescription.

MDA = Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 PSA = Psychoactive Substances Act 2016			
Name	Legislation	Category	Other names/notes
2C- family or 2C-[x]	MDA Class A	Psychedelic	Includes 2C-B, 2C-E, 2C-I. Also known as: Nexus, Bromo.
Alcohol	Legal (controls apply)	Depressant	It is illegal to sell alcohol to someone under 18, for an adult to try to buy it for someone under 18, or for an under 18 to drink alcohol in licensed premises. 16 and 17 year olds accompanied by an adult can drink but not buy beer, wine and cider with a table meal.
Amphetamine	MDA Class B	Stimulant	As all Class B drugs, becomes Class A if prepared for injection. Also known as: speed, fet, billy, whizz, sulphate.
αMT (Alpha-Methyl-tryptamine)	MDA Class A	Psychedelic	AMT is a synthetic psychedelic and euphoriant. It has been sold in powder, tablet or capsule form, and under different names (e.g. Disco Biscuits). As of 07/01/2015, AMT is Class A.
Benzo Fury / Benzofurans	MDA Class B	Empathogen	As of 10/06/2014, 5-APB, 6-APB, 5-MAPB are Class B.
Buprenorphine (Subutex)	MDA Class C	Opioid	Originally released as a painkiller and later also used for the treatment of opiate dependency.
Caffeine	Legal	Stimulant	Available over the counter in products such as ProPlus, caffeine is often used in bodybuilding products, energy drinks and as a cutting agent in other stimulant drugs.
Cannabis	MDA Class B	Cannabinoid	Also known as: grass, green bud, chronic, weed (herbal), or hash, tac, sticky black, squidgy black (resin).
Cocaine	MDA Class A	Stimulant	Also known as: coke, charlie, posh, blow, sniff, flake.

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Name	Legislation	Category	Other names/notes
Codeine	MDA Class B	Opioids	Available as over the counter pain relief (e.g. in Co-codamol) and prescription only (e.g. codeine phosphate). Possession of prescription codeine without a prescription is a Class B offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act.
Diazepam (Valium)	MDA Class C	Depressants	Available in 2mg tablets (white), 5mg (yellow) and 10mg (blue), hence the nickname 'blues'.
Ecstasy	MDA Class A	Empathogen	Ecstasy pills can be mixed with a wide range of substances (e.g. caffeine and PMA). Also known as: pills, e, cowies, eckies, adam, doves, disco biscuits or by the imprint (e.g. defcons, rockstars, mitsubishis).
Formula X	MDA (multiple classes)	Stimulant, Empathogen & Psychedelic	At the time of its appearance on the market Formula X contained a mix of MPA (stimulant), 5-EAPB (empathogen) and 5-MeO-DALT (psychedelic). All these drugs are now controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act.
Gas, glue, solvents	PSA or legal	Depressant	Legal or illegal under the PSA depending on whether deemed to be used for recreational purposes. Can also have hallucinogenic and dissociative properties. Sniffing solvents can be known as huffing or boffing, names vary around the country.
GHB/GBL	MDA Class B	Depressant	Liquid E, Liquid X, G, Juice, Geebs. GHB is a central nervous system depressant, with anaesthetic qualities. As of 07/01/2015 it has been rescheduled from Schedule 4 to Schedule 2 under the Misuse of Drugs Order 2001 Regulations.
Heroin	MDA Class A	Opioid	Diacetylmorphine, also known as: smack, scag, gear, junk, H, brown. When mixed with cocaine: speedball, snowball.
Ketamine	MDA Class B	Dissociative	A powerful dissociative anaesthetic used for animals and humans. Class B as of 10/06/2014.
"Legal high" pill/powder	MDA or PSA Depending on contents	Unknown	'Branded' party pills often do not have the same chemicals inside the packet as are marked on the outside. As the contents are often unknown, the legislation that controls them will also be unclear.

The Drugs Wheel Game

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Name	Legislation	Category	Other names/notes
LSD	MDA Class A	Psychedelic	Lysergic acid diethylamide, also known as: acid, blotter, dots, microdots, mikes, trips or by the imprint (e.g. wicked witches, superman, blue sunshine).
Magic mushrooms	MDA Class A	Psychedelic	Liberty cap mushrooms and those containing psilocybin.
MDMA (crystals)	MDA Class A	Empathogen	3,4 Methylenedioxyamphetamine, also known as: mandy, molly.
Mephedrone	MDA Class B	Stimulant	Also known as: Mkat, bubble, Cat, drone, sniff. In lower doses can have more empathogenic qualities.
Methadone	MDA Class A	Opioid	Used in the treatment of opiate withdrawal.
Methylphenidate (Ritalin, Concerta)	MDA Class B	Stimulant	Drug prescribed for ADHD. Possession without a prescription is a Class B offence.
Mushrooms (other)	MDA or PSA Class A	Psychedelic	Some hallucinogenic mushrooms (e.g. Fly Agaric) will now be covered by the PSA, however any mushroom containing psilocybin is Class A under the MDA.
Nicotine	Legal (controls apply)	Stimulant	Found in tobacco and other plants from the Nightshade family.
Nitrous Oxide	MDA Class C	Dissociative	Legal or illegal under the PSA depending on whether deemed to be used for recreational purposes. Also known as: laughing gas, balloons, whippets.
PMA/PMMA	MDA Class A	Empathogen	Empathogenic stimulant, has been found in ecstasy tablets and linked to some drug-related deaths due partly to long onset of effects.

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Name	Legislation	Category	Other names/notes
Poppers	Legal	Depressant	Used to be made from amyl or butyl nitrate, now most commonly isopropyl nitrite. Was initially proposed to be banned in the Psychoactive Substances Bill, however this was repealed before it became law.
Salvia	PSA	Dissociative	Depending on dosage, experiences can vary from the fairly mild to psychedelic hallucinations.
Sniff (aka bubbles)	MDA or PSA Depending on contents	Unknown, possibly stimulant	Unknown powder, most likely a stimulant, empathogen, hallucinogen or combination of all three. Could possibly contain NPS such as MPA, ethylphenidate etc. which are now controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act, or compounds now covered under the Psychoactive Substances Act.
Steroids	MDA Class C (supply)	Not applicable	Although steroids can have strong effects, they are often not categorised as psychoactive drugs, however they can be likened to having a stimulant effect.
Synthetic cannabinoid (aka Spice)	MDA Class B	Cannabinoid	As from 14/12/2016 all synthetic cannabinoids (or SCRA's) currently known in the UK market are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act. However new SCRA's appear regularly and it will be unclear whether they will be controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act or the Psychoactive Substances Act.
Temazepam	MDA Class C	Depressant	Also known as: temazzies, wobbly eggs (they were initially produced as egg-shaped gelatine capsules and the nickname remains).
Tramadol	MDA Class C	Opioid	Prescription painkiller which also increases serotonin levels. Class C as of 10/06/2014.
Zopiclone (Zimovane)	MDA Class C	Depressant	Prescription sleeping pill. It is a nonbenzodiazepine (this group are also referred to as 'Z-drugs') which affects the brain much like a benzodiazepine but has a different chemical structure. Class C as of 10/06/2014.

Legal status of these drugs are subject to change. To receive regular updates e-mail info@thedrugswheel.com to be added to the mailing list.

The Drugs Wheel Game

UK Misuse of Drugs Act: maximum legal penalties

Drug class	Possession	Supply
Class A	7 years + fine	Life + fine
Class B	5 years + fine	14 years + fine
Class C	2 years + fine	14 years + fine

Temporary Class Drug Orders within the Misuse of Drugs Act ban unlawful importation, production and supply for up to 12 months. Offences committed under a TCDO are subject to the following maximum legal penalties: 14 years' imprisonment + unlimited fine, and 6 months' imprisonment and a £5,000 fine

Psychoactive Substances Act: maximum legal penalties

Offence	Summary (Magistrates Court)	Indictment (Crown Court)
Possession	Not an offence	Not an offence
Possession in a custodial institution	Up to 12 months and/or a fine*	Up to 2 years and/or a fine
Possession with intent to supply Supply/offer to supply Production/importation/exportation	Up to 12 months and/or a fine*	Up to 7 years and/or a fine
Failure to comply with a Prohibition or Premises notice	Up to 12 months and/or a fine*	Up to 2 years and/or a fine

*Summary convictions in Northern Ireland are up to 6 months and/or a fine.

Blank drug labels

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