

Alcohol and you Casualty

Age group:	11-16
Duration:	45 minutes – 1 hour
Learning Objectives:	Engage pupils in debate about alcohol and the way it affects them. Raise awareness about the short term and long term effects of alcohol. Discuss and debate topical issues such as alcohol in society.
N.C. links:	KS3 CIT 2a, b, c, 3a PSHE 2b, d, f SC1, SC2.2 – Health KS4 CIT 2a,b, c, 3a PSHE2e SC1, SC2.2 – Health
Resources:	Character cards (x8)
Set-up:	This session is designed as a debate/dialogue activity. The class should be divided into groups, as the teacher deems appropriate. There are eight character cards, which can be duplicated or divided up as needed. The classroom should be arranged for group work.
Introduction:	Debate social and biological issues surrounding alcohol consumption and the resulting injuries and illnesses that can occur. The students are asked to role play as Accident and Emergency staff trying to determine who should be treated first, depending on their severity of illness and the social context. Eight out of ten patients in A&E on a Friday or Saturday night are there because of alcohol. Pupils are encouraged to think critically about the treatment of the patients.
	<i>Alcohol is a sensitive issue and teachers should be aware of the possibility that pupils may be from homes where there are alcohol related problems.</i>
Session:	Students are split into groups and given the following information: It is one o'clock in the morning, you are a member of a team of A&E staff and it is incredibly busy. You have already been working for nine hours straight. 8/10 people in A&E on a Friday or Saturday night are there because of alcohol. You and your team must try to determine which patients should be seen first and why. Please justify your reasons. The students then discuss each of the patients and put them in the order they would treat them.
Plenary:	Summarise by asking one member of each group who should be seen first and last in their opinion and why. Encourage debate with the whole class in an ordered manner with hands raised with comments and questions. Conclude by asking for suggestions to prevent or deal with this social issue.

Other opportunities: The debate could be extended as a whole class activity with students acting out characters - patients and doctors - and arguing their case to be seen first to a panel.

Your ideas:

Characters:

Name: John

Arrival time: 17.20

Injury: Broken arm

John is a rugby player. He was playing for his local team and was tackled badly. He is in a great deal of pain, but is a tough rugby player so is trying not to show it. He has been waiting in A&E for over 5 hours and is tired and hungry.

Name: Freya

Arrival time: 22.50

Injury: Unconscious

Freya had been to her friend's party. She didn't have any dinner and has drunk a lot. She is 15. Freya's friends found her unconscious on a sofa under some coats. They couldn't wake her up even by pinching her. She felt a bit cold and her breathing was slow, so they called an ambulance.

Name: Billy

Arrival time: 00.30

Injury: Broken nose

Billy had been to his friend's party. He was very proud of the cocktail he made and distributed to all the guests. They all seemed to like it. He felt really popular. That's sometimes hard at 16. Trouble is on the way home he insulted some older guys. They answered with a punch.

Name: Agatha

Arrival time: 19.40

Injury: Chronic liver failure

Agatha's husband left her 3 years ago. Her children all left home years ago and now she is all on her own. Agatha has a drink of wine every evening when she gets in from work. Often she finishes the bottle. She takes a little drop of whiskey before bed to help her sleep. Sometimes she needs one in the morning to get her out the door. She was last in hospital 3 months ago. They warned her to stop drinking. She just couldn't face it.

Name: Roderick

Arrival time: 23.20

Injury: Cracked skull, 3 broken ribs, burst lip

Roderick had been watching the football in the pub all afternoon. His team lost 1-0 in the last minute. He has been drinking all day and only eaten a burger from the van. He has probably had 10 pints. Maybe more...? He got in a fight in the burger queue. There was a guy supporting the other team. He made a few sarcastic comments. Roderick was having none of it. You should see the other bloke!

Name: Holly

Arrival time: 20.30

Injury: Serious internal bleeding, broken leg in two places

Holly is a keen cyclist. She wears a helmet, reflective jacket and has lights on her bike. She has just had a quick glass of wine before heading off to meet her friends in town. Unfortunately on the way she meets a motorist on his way home from the pub. He has had 2 ½ pints and felt fine to drive. She came from nowhere.

Name: Carl

Arrival time: 20.35

Injury: Minor head injury, shock

Carl had a hard day at the office. One of his clients pulled out of a big deal and his boss was furious. He only intended to have one drink. But loads of people from work were there and he enjoyed their company. He would normally only have 1 pint, maybe 1 and a half before driving. He only had one more. He felt absolutely fine. He'd been listening to a new CD in the car. The last thing he remembers is the bang and watching the bike fly into the air.

Name: Mel

Arrival time: 19.40

Injury: Painful burn on right arm

Mel was having some friends round for dinner. She is 5 months pregnant so doesn't go out as much and was really looking forward to it. She wasn't paying enough attention and dropped a pan of boiling water on her. She feels ok; it's not too serious. She's just feeling tired. And upset she had to cancel her dinner party.