

**Numbers 1 to 5 engage in the Socratic Discussion on the following argument:**

**People who are convicted of drinking and driving should be charged with assault or attempted assault with a deadly weapon; i.e. a weapon that can kill and not with drink driving.**

**The vehicle can be considered as a deadly weapon being used to threaten or cause fear and with the possibility to cause death; and therefore an offence committed in dangerous circumstances. The starting Point for sentencing in this case is a custodial sentence in excess of 6 months sentenced in the Crown Court.**

### **Some Facts on present legislation:**

The term 'motor vehicle' is defined in section 185(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and section 136(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as "a mechanically propelled vehicle, intended or adapted for use on roads".

Drink drivers are disqualified for a minimum of 12 months may get a £5000 fine and 6 months in prison. The endorsement on the licence lasts for 11 years. If the accident has killed someone, the fine, prison sentence and driving ban are all higher. These hefty penalties are the reason for the decrease in drink drive road deaths since 1980. He is also likely to lose his job if it involves driving.

A harsh sentence — but killing someone due to thoughtless behaviour is murder. On average, 3000 people in Britain are killed or seriously injured each year in drink-drive collisions. 15% of all road deaths are due to drink driving.

In the UK the legal limit is as below, but in most EU countries the limits are lower.

- 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood
- 107mg alcohol in 100 ml of urine
- 35 micrograms (µg) of alcohol in 100 ml of breath

A milligram is a thousand times smaller than a gram. A microgram is a thousand times smaller than a milligram.

### **Science**

An enzyme, *alcohol (ethanol) dehydrogenase*, in the liver breaks down 91% of the alcohol in the body. It breaks down the ethanol,  $C_2H_5OH$  in two stages into acetate which our bodies can use as a fuel. However, the breakdown can only occur at a certain rate, which is different for each person. Generally, less than 1 unit can be broken down in 1 hour although hepatitis greatly reduces the rate of breakdown.

Alcohol progressively affects different brain areas. Alcohol first affects the part of the brain that controls inhibitions, which can produce a feeling of elation and arouse senses during the early stages of alcohol intoxication, but alcohol is a depressant. Alcohol depresses the central nervous system slowing reactions, slurring speech, and ultimately can lead to unconsciousness; their nervous system is slowing down.

Some people think that strong coffee or a cold shower will help to speed up the breakdown of alcohol. This is not true — nothing you can do makes any difference.

#### **Person 6**

- 1. Does anyone try to dominate the discussion? How do they do this? How do others respond?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. Make a note of the language speakers' use that demonstrates confidence and certainty.**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3. Make a note of the main points made during the discussion. What does the inner circle think are the main points?**

#### **Person 7**

- 4. Make a note of the language speakers' use that helps the discussion to develop. What kind of things do they say? Make a note of common ideas used by the group? Do the arguments proposed support or oppose those ideas?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5. Make a note of the extent to which the whole group contributes. When do they do this? Which people are left out of the discussion? What are they doing when everyone else is talking?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6. Select an individual and make a note of how they influence the group. What kind of things do they say to influence them?**

## **Person 8**

- 7. Make a note of language that speaker(s) use that is hesitant or shows exploratory thinking. What kind of things do they say?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8. Make a note of the language speaker(s) use that stops the discussion developing. How does this happen?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 9. Make a note of who invites others to speak. How do they do this?**

## **Person 9**

- 10. Make a note of who supports what a previous speaker has said. How do they do this? Notice how people disagree with each other and how they put forward a good counter argument. Note down two or three examples.**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 11. Make a note of who invites others to speak. What kind of things do they say?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 12. Make a note of examples of literary language that speakers use, e.g.: metaphor; simile; imagery; idiom; slang**

### Person 10

- 13. Make a note of comments that show a good understanding of the language of the topic. Listen out for some key words: How were they used during the discussion?**
- 14. Make a note of time when speakers use humour. How does this help the discussion?**
- 15. Make a note of something unexpected and interesting that is said. How did this affect the discussion? How was it useful?**