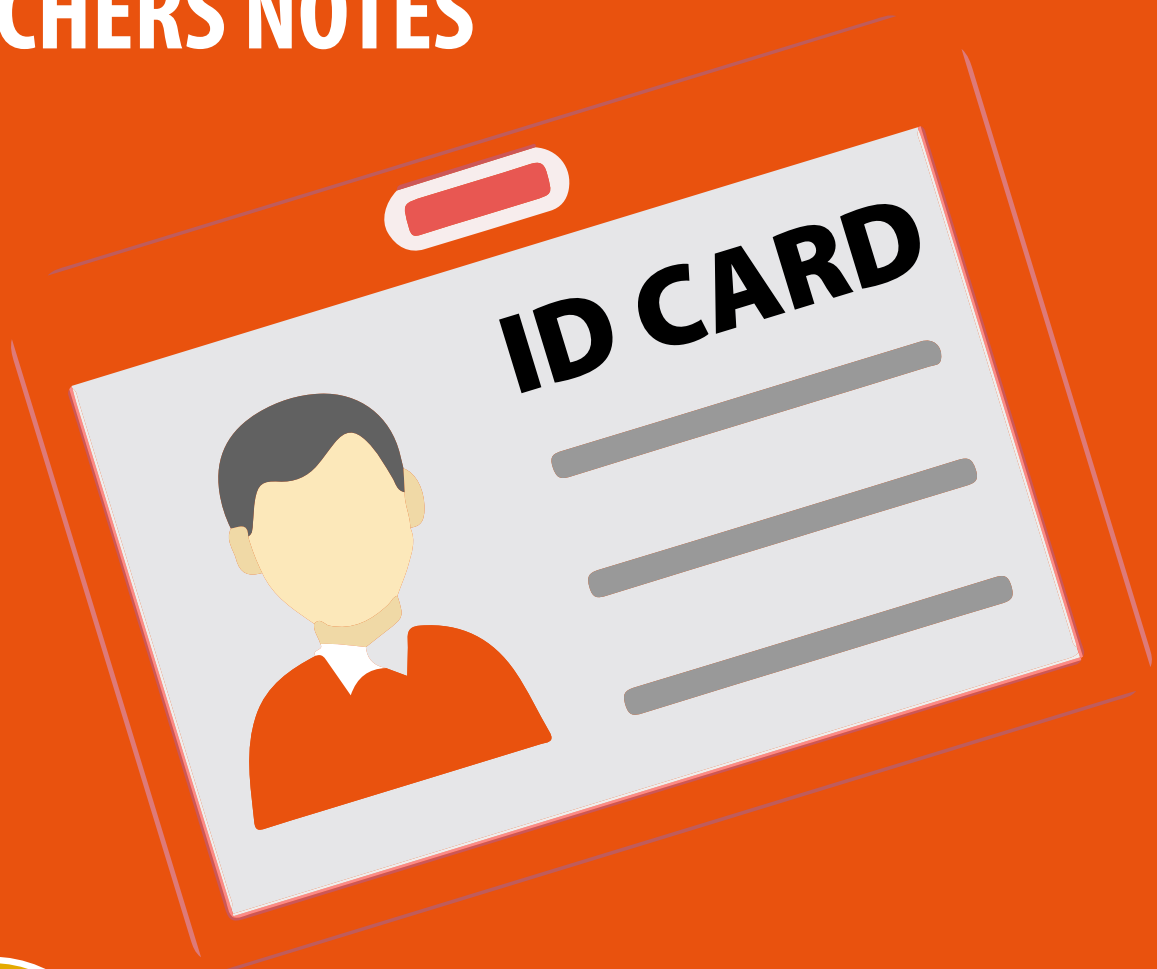


**LIFE SKILLS**

# Age restricted products

**TEACHERS NOTES**



**Easy  
read**



**TRADING  
STANDARDS**

## AGE RESTRICTED PRODUCTS

Consumer laws control the quality and safety of goods and services. In some cases, goods cannot be supplied to anyone below a certain age. These laws exist to safeguard the health of young people. We need to be aware of the legal age at which different rights or responsibilities apply.

### Discussion should include:

- Why we have laws to protect younger people.
- Why your rights and responsibilities change as you get older (so that you can do more and more is expected of you).
- Are any of the laws outdated and should they be scrapped or changed.
- Why shopkeepers ask for 'proof of age'?
- Why 'proof of age' cards are useful to all age groups. Consider travelling by trains, boats and planes, cinema entry, festivals, purchase of some videos and computer games, lottery tickets/scratch cards and night club entry.

### Some facts:

- It is illegal to buy alcohol if you are under 18. You can be stopped, fined or arrested by the Police if you are under 18 and drinking alcohol in public. The police can confiscate the alcohol. The person who sells the alcohol to you can get a criminal record and be fined up to £5,000.
- It is a crime if somebody who is over 18 buys alcohol for a person who is under 18 years old. This is called 'proxy purchasing'. They can receive an £80 on the spot fine or face prosecution with a fine up to £5,000.
- If you work in a shop, you cannot sell alcohol if you are under 18.
- Challenge 25. A shopkeeper should refuse to sell age restricted products to anyone who appears to be under the age of 25 years old and does not have an acceptable form of photo identification (ID), like a PASS card. A shopkeeper can be fined for selling age-restricted products to people who are under age.
- PASS cards have a distinctive PASS logo in the hologram.

The table below shows what age you have to be to legally buy certain things.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Buy and drink alcohol in a licensed premise in Britain  | 18 or over |
| Tobacco products  |            |
| Lighter refills containing butane   |            |
| Volatile substances/solvents (ie paint thinners/some types of glue)   |            |
| Weapons or knives   |            |
| Crossbows   |            |
| Fireworks & sparklers   |            |
| DVDs, videos, video and computer games: Classification 18   | 17 or over |
| Airguns and pellets   |            |
| Aerosol (spray) paint   | 16 or over |
| Lottery tickets / scratch cards   |            |
| Buy a pet   |            |
| Caps, cracker snaps, novelty matches, party poppers, serpents and throwdowns  |            |
| Can drink beer, wine or cider, so long as they are 16 or 17 and accompanied by an adult and is bought the drink with a table meal (ie only a place specifically set aside for meals – not in a bar. The alcohol has to be purchased by an adult |            |
| DVDs, videos, video and computer games: Classification 15   | 15 or over |
| Christmas crackers. DVDs, videos, video and computer games: Classification 12   | 12 or over |

Legislation prohibits the sale, supply, offer to supply, or hire of specified products to persons under the minimum legal age. There are age restrictions (under the age of 18) applicable to tobacco products, offensive weapons (knives and similar), crossbows, adult fireworks, solvents, airguns, lighter refills containing butane, and alcohol.

There are age restrictions (under the age of 16) applicable to low-hazard low-noise fireworks (party poppers and similar products), lottery tickets, and aerosol paint. The age restriction for Christmas crackers is 12. There are different age restrictions on videos, DVDs, and Blu-ray discs (collectively referred to here as 'video recordings' - 12 and over, 15 and over, and 18 and over) and video games (12 and over, 16 and over, and 18 and over).

Legislation also provides requirements for certain warnings and notices to be displayed when selling particular products.

Traders should always ask young people to produce proof of their age, such as the national Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) card, a photocard driving licence or a passport.

## TOBACCO

This area is covered by the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991, the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, and the Protection from Tobacco (Sales from Vending Machines) (England) Regulations 2010.

Under this legislation, it is an offence for any person to sell cigarettes, tobacco products or cigarette papers to anyone under 18 years of age, even if they look older. This is the case whether or not the cigarettes are for the young person's own use. It is also an offence to sell cigarettes unless they are in quantities of ten or more and in their original packaging. This means that packets of cigarettes cannot be split to sell lesser quantities.

## ILLEGAL TOBACCO

Illegal tobacco is usually fake products, smuggled genuine products or brands specifically made for the illegal tobacco market.

Young people are being offered illegal tobacco more than adults, making it easier for them to smoke. Dealers see underage smokers as easy targets.

Illegal tobacco has strong links with crime and criminal gangs, so many of the people smuggling, distributing and selling it are involved in drug dealing, money laundering, people trafficking and even terrorism.

Additionally, fake cigarettes often prove to contain substances that make it even more dangerous than regular tobacco, and criminals avoid paying duty on smuggled imports.

Research shows that illegal tobacco:

- Encourages children to start smoking
- Prevents adult smokers from giving up
- Brings organised crime into our communities

**Selling illegal tobacco is a crime.**

### **Crimestoppers**

Call 0800 555111 for anonymous public reporting.

## TABLE OF PENALTIES FOR SELLERS OF PRODUCTS TO PERSONS UNDER CERTAIN AGES

The following table, showing penalties for selling, supplying, offering to supply and hiring (as appropriate to the legislation) products to persons under certain ages. These penalties are in place to protect young people and a good reason to stop shops selling to those underage.

| PRODUCT   | AGE RESTRICTION                          | MAXIMUM PENALTY                             |
|---|--|---|
| Adult fireworks and sparklers (category 2 [outdoor use - confined areas] and category 3 [outdoor use - large open areas] fireworks)                             | 18 and over                              | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |
| Aerosol paint   | 16 and over                              | £2,500                                      |
| Alcohol   | 18 and over                              | Unlimited fine and forfeit of licence       |
| Christmas crackers  | 12 and over                              | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |
| Crossbows   | 18 and over                              | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |
| Knives / axes / blades  | 18 and over                              | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |
| Lighter refills containing butane   | 18 and over                              | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |
| Lottery tickets / 'instant win' cards   | 16 and over                              | Unlimited fine and two years' imprisonment  |
| Party poppers and similar low-hazard low-noise fireworks (category 1) (except Christmas crackers)   | 16 and over                              | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |
| Petrol  | 16 and over                              | Unlimited fine and 12 months' imprisonment  |
| Tobacco products  | 18 and over                              | £2,500                                      |
| Video recordings: U (universal)   | Unrestricted                             | N/A   |
| Video recordings: PG (Parental Guidance)  | Unrestricted                             | N/A   |
| Video recordings: classification 12   | 12 and over                              | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |
| Video recordings: classification 15   | 15 and over                              | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |
| Video recordings: classification 18   | 18 and over                              | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |
| Video recordings: classification R18  | 18 years and over in a licensed sex shop | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |
| Video games: PEGI rating 3  | Unrestricted                             | N/A   |
| Video games: PEGI rating 7  | Unrestricted                             | N/A   |
| Video games: PEGI rating 12   | 12 and over                              | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |
| Video games: PEGI rating 16   | 16 and over                              | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |
| Video games: PEGI rating 18   | 18 and over                              | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |
| Volatile substances / solvents (offence to supply / offer to supply to under 18s occurs ONLY if the person knows or believes it is to be used for intoxication) | 18 and over (but see left)               | Unlimited fine and six months' imprisonment |

### Resources and links

Trading Standards - selling alcohol  
 Citizens Advice - young people health and personal  
 Talk to Frank  
 Drink Aware  
 Keep it out

# Questions



## Question 1

How old must you be before you can buy cigarettes or alcohol?

- a) 12
- b) 16
- c) 18

## Question 2

How old must you be before you can buy spray paint?

- a) 12
- b) 16
- c) 18

## Question 3

How old must you be before you can buy Christmas crackers?

- a) 12
- b) 16
- c) 18



## Question 4

You may be asked to show proof of your age when you go in to a shop to buy an age restricted product, like alcohol or cigarettes.

How could you prove your age to the shopkeeper?

- a) Tell them your date of birth
- b) Ask them to phone your Mum
- c) Show them your Proof of Age Standards Scheme card (PASS)

## Question 5

Your friend is under 18 and she asks another person who is over 18 to buy her some alcohol.

Is this legal?

- a) No, it is a crime
- b) Yes, it is ok
- c) It is ok, as the person is over 18

## Question 6

Why are there laws around age restricted products?

- a) To spoil young people's fun.
- b) To safeguard the health of young people
- c) To make extra work for the shop manager

# Answers

## Age restricted products

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

| Question   | Answer |
|------------|--------|
| Question 1 |        |
| Question 2 |        |
| Question 3 |        |
| Question 4 |        |
| Question 5 |        |
| Question 6 |        |