

**Unit 2 Topic 1.2 Page 88**

**Activity: Media  
Legalising drugs**

**Learning objective**

**At the end of this activity you should be able to:**

- use a case study to show how laws change over time.

A. Using the link below, answer the questions that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hvk4grKEPe0>

1. What are the police in Portugal concerned with?
  2. Why has no one been arrested for drug possession in the last 17 years in Portugal?
  3. What are the allowable limits for drug possession in Portugal?
  4. When did Portugal decriminalise drugs and what did it mean?
  5. Why did the decriminalisation happen? Give a brief summary.
  6. What percentage of the population were addicted to heroin by the 1990s?
  7. Why were rates of AIDS infections so high?
  8. What has happened since decriminalisation to:
    - a. drug use
    - b. drug induced death
    - c. AIDS infections and overdoses among addicts?
  9. What does the drug outreach unit provide?
  10. Why has decriminalisation helped reduce drug problems for addicts?
  11. What has decriminalisation meant for casual drugs users?
  12. What did the 2017 report show about drug use in Portugal?
  13. What is the key difference between how those caught with drugs are dealt with in Portugal as compared with the rest of the EU?
  14. What happens at the Commission for the Dissuasion of Drug Abuse (CDDA)?
  15. What age are those who attend the CDDA and what is the main drug they are caught with?
  16. What happens if someone is caught more than once and sent to the CDDA?
  17. Does it seem that the policy prevents the use of drugs? Give reasons for your answer.
  18. Why has this model not been used elsewhere?
- B. Summarise the changes to the drugs laws in Portugal since 2001. How does this show that laws and criminality are socially constructed?