



## Hinchinbrooke School Science Department

### KS3 Homework Task

#### Drugs HW1 - Smoking harms your hearing

Date set:

Date Due in:

On the following page is information related to the task. You may need to do additional research to achieve the maximum level possible.

- Answer all questions, if you use PowerPoint please print off and stick in your book
- Fill in your details below

Name:	Form:
Teacher:	Science Set:

Feedback from teacher:

Student comment:

## Smoking harms your hearing

A study of over 4000 men and women has shown that smoking and obesity could permanently harm your hearing. Scientists tested volunteers' hearing and then questioned them about their lifestyle. All volunteers were between the ages of 53 and 67 years.

It was found that people who worked in very noisy environments had the highest hearing loss, but people who smoked or were obese also indicated hearing loss. (They were not as good at hearing high-pitched sounds.) Scientists think this is because both smoking and obesity cause less blood flow, and so less oxygen, to the inner parts of the ear. Once the damage is done, the ear does not recover, so the damage is permanent.



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The amount of hearing loss was proportional to the person's body mass index (BMI) and also to how much he or she smoked. So the more overweight you are, the more your hearing may be damaged, and the more you smoke the more your hearing may be damaged. One scientist said that people's hearing gets worse when they have smoked regularly for more than one year.

A spokesperson for the group Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) said she hoped this would be a warning to young smokers. Many of them think they will not suffer the health problems linked to smoking if they give up when they are older, she said. She also said that losing your hearing can make it harder to keep in touch with friends and family.

### QUESTIONS

- 1 How many volunteers took part in the study about hearing loss?
- 2 Which people had the highest hearing loss?
- 3 Name two other groups of people who also showed hearing loss.
- 4 How could the scientists tell that these two other groups had some hearing loss?
- 5 'The amount of hearing loss was proportional to how much the person smoked.' Explain in your own words what this means. You might be able to think of two meanings.
- 6 Why does the spokesperson for ASH hope this study will be a warning to young smokers?

### Challenge

Design a poster to put up in schools and youth clubs that can be used to try to stop young people from taking up smoking.