1. How much does a kilo of heroin cost on a UK street?
2. How much does the farmer get for a kilo of opium poppies (used to make the heroin)?
3. Did the number of cannabis and cocaine users in the world rise or fall between 1998 and 2008?
4. What percentage of US teenagers use cannabis?
5. Do more people die per year from drugs, alcohol or tobacco? What is the percentage difference?
6. What are the 5 most popular drugs in the world? (check your answers on the next slide)
Illegal drugs: THE FACTS

The demand for illegal drugs is solid and the trade in them resilient – in spite of expensive and punitive attempts to stop it.

1. CONSUMERS

- How many?
  - 9% of the world’s adult population is estimated to have used illicit substances at least once in 2010. (That’s around 210 million people aged 15-64)

- Fastest growing drug type is ATS, while opioids are stable and cocaine is declining slightly. Use of ‘legal highs’ or currently unscheduled new drugs is increasing.

2. SUPPLIERS

- Most opium and coca is grown in Asia and Latin America. Cannabis is increasingly grown indoors hydroponically in the countries where it is sold. Synthetic drugs are made in labs across the world, from the US to China.

- Opioids: 
  - Asia: heroin, methamphetamine
  - South America: cocaine

- Cannabis: 
  - Asia: hashish, poppy
  - South America: marihuana

3. PROHIBITION

- $100 billion – what the world spends on prohibition each year includes military attacks, crop eradication, customs seizures and hefty prison sentences. Equal to what rich countries spend on it.

- Mexico: more than $6,000 people have been killed in Mexico drug-related violence since the country’s drug war was launched in 2006.

- Afghanistan: lives lost due to the war on drugs have not been extrapolated from the 13,000 lives lost to coalition forces and at least 10,292 Afghan civilians lost since the 2001 US-led invasion, which had reducing the poppy trade as one of its goals.

4. ALTERNATIVELY...

- Legalization and regulation of drugs could save thousands of lives and billions of dollars.

- In the US alone it is estimated that legalization would reduce annual government expenditure by $41.3 billion (which would have easily wiped out the 2009-2010 federal deficit for 2011).

- In addition, legalization would generate tax revenue at $46.7 billion annually if drugs were taxed at the same rate as alcohol and tobacco.
Now read this to find out more about world drug use and argument for legalizing or decriminalizing drugs:

http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Make_drugs_legal