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Level 5

Uruguay to legalise marijuana trade

14th December, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131214-marijuana-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131214-marijuana-5.html>

Uruguay has become the first country to legalise the production and distribution of marijuana. It is the only nation where the government has total control of the commercialisation of marijuana (also called cannabis). Uruguay's President Jose Mujica said he wants to stop the activities of drug traffickers and put them out of business. He hopes that his legalisation and the monitoring of marijuana sales by the state will reduce dependence on the drug and drug-related crime. Mr Mujica said he knew that it was "an experiment" which had no guarantee of being successful.

The legalisation goes against an international treaty on drug control. Uruguay signed the 1961 Convention on Narcotic Drugs. This limits the use of cannabis "to medical and scientific purposes". The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) was surprised that Uruguay had decided to break the agreement, which is supported internationally. The INCB warned the move could backfire and not protect young people. It could have the opposite effect and encourage younger people to try drugs. There might contribute to more addiction and other problems among Uruguay's youth.

Sources: <http://en.mercopress.com/2013/12/11/first-obstacle-for-uruguay-s-marijuana-bill-it-violates-international-convention-on-drug-control>
<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2013-12-11/uruguay-oks-first-national-market-for-legal-pot>
<http://www.economywatch.com/features/uruguay-legalises-marijuana-trade.12-12.html>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131214-marijuana-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. the production and distribution | a. of business |
| 2. the government has | b. related crime |
| 3. stop the activities of drug | c. total control |
| 4. put them out | d. being successful |
| 5. reduce dependence | e. of marijuana |
| 6. drug- | f. "an experiment" |
| 7. he knew that it was | g. on the drug |
| 8. no guarantee of | h. traffickers |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The legalisation goes against | a. of cannabis |
| 2. drug | b. internationally |
| 3. This limits the use | c. agreement |
| 4. medical and | d. control |
| 5. break the | e. effect |
| 6. supported | f. an international treaty |
| 7. the move could | g. scientific purposes |
| 8. It could have the opposite | h. backfire |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131214-marijuana-5.html>

Uruguay has become the first country (1) _____ production and distribution of marijuana. It is the only nation where the government has (2) _____ commercialisation of marijuana (also called cannabis). Uruguay's President Jose Mujica said he wants to stop the activities (3) _____ and put them out of business. He hopes that his legalisation (4) _____ of marijuana sales by the state will (5) _____ the drug and drug-related crime. Mr Mujica said he knew that it was "an experiment" (6) _____ of being successful.

The legalisation goes against an international (7) _____. Uruguay signed the 1961 Convention on Narcotic Drugs. This limits the use of cannabis "to (8) _____ purposes". The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) was surprised that Uruguay had decided to (9) _____, which is supported internationally. The INCB warned the (10) _____ and not protect young people. It could have (11) _____ and encourage younger people to try drugs. There might contribute (12) _____ and other problems among Uruguay's youth.

THE WAR ON DRUGS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131214-marijuana-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the War on Drugs in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

