

Sex and the Law Quiz

(Information correct when quiz was created in July 2018)

Thanks to Andrew Wilson and Public Health for this quiz.

1. **It is illegal for young people under 16 to buy condoms.**
- True
 - False

False – there is no law prohibiting under 16s buying condoms

2. **Under the Sexual offences act of 2003, it is an offence for a person aged 18 or over to have sexual activity with a boy or a girl who is under *what* age?**
- 18
 - 16
 - 13

16 - It an offence for a person aged 18 or over to intentionally engage in sexual activity with a child under 16. A person may claim in their defence that they believed the young person to be over 18 / met in nightclub which was an over 18 venue etc. The intention of the law is to protect young people from predatory adults rather than to criminalise young people for having early sexual relations

3. **Under the Sexual offences act of 2003, what age does the law state a child cannot give consent to engage in sexual activity, even if the child thinks they can or have?**
- Under 18
 - Under 16
 - Under 13

Under 13's are deemed unable to consent to sex. So, it's irrelevant whether or not the child consented to the act - it is still an offence.

4. **If a person under the age of 18 were found guilty of committing a sexual offence, what is the maximum prison sentence they could be given?**
- 5 months
 - 5 years
 - 15 years
 - Life

5 years. Sentences are often shorter than people think, given the possibly life altering experience of the victim.

5. It is a criminal offence for a person in a position of trust (for example, a carer, teacher, youth worker or social worker) to engage in any sexual activity with a person who they are working with under the age of 18, even if the basis for their relationship is consensual.

- a. True
- b. False

True - the main purpose of this law is to provide protection for young people aged 16 and 17, who are considered to be particularly vulnerable to exploitation by those who hold a position of trust or authority.

6. The age of consent for gay men and women is:

- a. 14
- b. 16
- c. 18
- d. 21

16 for both. From January 2001 the age of consent became equal for gay men, lesbians and heterosexuals. The age of consent for all is 16 in England, Wales and Scotland, Northern Ireland (from 2009). In 1967 the age of consent for gay men was set at 21 and in 1994 lowered to 18. During this time there was no age of consent relating to lesbians

7. In April 2015 a new law was brought in to help tackle revenge porn. What prison sentence could someone convicted now face.

- a. Up to 2 years
- b. Up to 5 years
- c. Up to 10 years

Up to 2 years.

8. Schools have a legal duty to inform parents of their policy on relationships and sex education.

- a. True
- b. False

True - all schools must have an up-to-date relationship and sex education policy, drawn up by the governing body, and available to parents for inspection.

9. Which of these legal rights do 16 year olds have?

- a. To marry without parental consent.
- b. To change their doctor.
- c. To decide their own medical treatment without parental knowledge
- d. To enter into sexual relationships.

All except 'a' – to marry at 16, parent consent is required

10. Which of these do under 16's need their parents / carers permission for?

- a. To get advice on contraception
- b. To get information on contraceptive and sexual health services
- c. To get contraception

They do not need parental / carer permission for any of them. It is lawful for doctors to provide contraceptive advice and treatment to under 16s without parental consent providing certain criteria are met. These criteria, known as the Fraser Guidelines, were laid down by Lord Fraser in the House of Lords' case and require the professional to be satisfied that:

- The young person will understand the professional's advice;
- The young person cannot be persuaded to inform their parents;
- The young person is likely to begin, or to continue having, sexual intercourse with or without contraceptive treatment;
- Unless the young person receives contraceptive treatment, their physical or mental health, or both, are likely to suffer;
- The young person's best interests require them to receive contraceptive advice or treatment with or without parental consent.

11. A young woman under 16 can have a legal abortion:

- a. On demand
- b. If two doctors agree that she has good reason
- c. Provided that the father of the baby agrees

If two doctors agree that she has good reason. In England, Wales and Scotland a woman of any age can have an abortion if two doctors agree she has good reasons and provided that she satisfies certain statutory grounds and is less than 24 weeks pregnant. It must be carried out by a registered practitioner in an NHS hospital or a location that has been approved by the Department of Health. The Abortion Act does not apply to Northern Ireland or the Isle of Man.

13. Youth workers, residential staff, support staff and social workers can

- a. Talk to young people about contraception and abortion
- b. Give young people information on contraception and abortion services
- c. Send or accompany a young person to sexual health clinics or services
- d. All of the above

All of the above. The Children's Act 1989 states that the experience of being cared for should also include the sexual education of a young person, including practical issues such as contraception.

14. Which of these is illegal?

- a. Owning pornography that shows adults
- b. Owning pornography that shows children
- c. Owning pornography that shows adults who look like children
- d. Looking at internet pictures of pornography that show children

Everything but 'a. Owning pornography that shows adults' is illegal.