The background is a solid purple color with several out-of-focus, light purple pills scattered across it. On the right side, there is a bright green sticky note with a white border.

# **IS A PHARMACIST JUST A DRUG DEALER WITH A SHOP?**

**PHARMACY  
DEBATE PACKS**

## SOME ARGUMENTS FOR:

To be a pharmacist, you have to train for a minimum of 5 years, so that you are knowledgeable and competent to advise the public.

Medicines dispensed by pharmacists have been through a rigorous process of testing and licensing to make sure that they are as safe as possible.

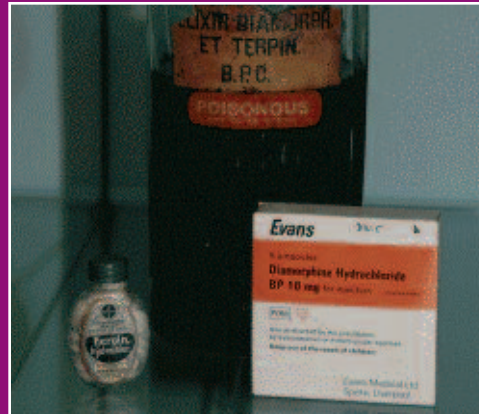
Pharmacists and their premises have to be registered with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in order to dispense medicines.

Drugs sold by drug dealers are illegal, and those selling them are breaking the law. If a pharmacist breaks the law, they will probably lose their job.

## SOME ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

Both pharmacists and drug dealers sell substances that affect your body.

Many of the illegal drugs today were legally used to treat patients in the past.



PHARMACY  
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## SOME THINGS FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT

Brainstorm words and pictures that you associate with 'pharmacist' and 'drugdealer'.

**What are the stereotypes?**  
**Are they true?**

In 2004, a survey of pharmacists found that 38% thought that they should wear a white coat to work. Only 2% thought it they should wear jeans and a T-shirt. 2% said what they wore wouldn't matter.

**What do you think?**

What is a pharmacist?  
What do you have to do to work as one?

Is there a difference between a medicine and a drug?

Do pharmacists and drug dealers sell the same products?



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## WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE...

### **'Illegal Medicines' and 'Legal Drugs'**

Information sheet.

### **'The control of harmful substances'**

Information sheet.

It might help to find the definitions of 'pharmacist', 'drug', 'drug dealer' and 'medicine' in a dictionary.

Have a look in the newspapers this week to see if there are any news articles about drugs. They're often in the headlines.

### **[www.rpharms.com/careers](http://www.rpharms.com/careers)**

This is the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's careers website.

### **[www.mindbodysoul.gov.uk](http://www.mindbodysoul.gov.uk)**

Click on drugs to find out more about the law and types of drugs.



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