

Tekst 5

Sex? Yes. Fight? Yes. Smoke? No.

Mick Hume: Notebook

- 1 The Government's latest wheeze is to raise the legal age for buying cigarettes from 16 to 18. So let me see if I have this straight. You will be able legally to have sex at 16 but the law won't allow you a cigarette until two years later. Not even if you are married (legal age: 16). At 16, you will be old enough to join the Army and train to fight wars. But those teenage squaddies will not be allowed to smoke, because it is a health risk. Soon, 16-year-olds may even be able to vote, choosing who governs the country — but not to choose their brand of cigarettes. This confused and smoky state of affairs confirms that we no longer seem sure just where to slide a cigarette paper between being a child and an adult.
- 2 But of course smoking is bad for you, so who could dispute the benefits of raising the minimum age? Well, there is the Department of Health, whose consultation paper admits there is "little conclusive evidence" that it can stop young people smoking. Or the World Bank, which concludes that attempts to stop teenagers smoking via the law "have not been shown to be successful".
- 3 I don't want more teenagers to smoke, and certainly hope my young daughters never do. But I know that if they want to try it, I am unlikely to be able to stop them — and nor is the Public Health minister (our public health Supernanny) or indeed Superman himself. The smoking thing is a rite of passage and teenagers have to sort it out for themselves, however hard the long arm of the law tries to stub it out.
- 4 Indeed, since official statistics show that fewer under-16s smoke today than a decade ago, why is the Government rushing through a new law now? New Labour looks increasingly like a bored teenage smoker, hanging around aimlessly, looking for something to do that can make it appear smart and important. It's not big, and it's not clever.

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- 1p 18 What do the examples in paragraph 1 (“You ... cigarettes.”) make clear with regard to the proposal to reduce smoking for under-18s?
- A The inconsistencies resulting from the plan.
 - B The medical reasons for supporting the plan.
 - C The political motives for introducing the plan.
- “the benefits ... age” (alinea 2)
Het ‘Department of Health’ en de ‘World Bank’ zijn het eens dat roken slecht is voor jongeren.
- 1p 19 Waarover zijn ze het nog meer eens met betrekking tot het bovenstaande citaat? Begin je antwoord met: ‘Beide’
- “I am unlikely to be able to stop them” (alinea 3)
- 1p 20 Waarom vindt de schrijver dit?
Citeer de eerste twee en de laatste twee woorden van het zinsgedeelte dat dit uitlegt.
- In alinea 4 geeft de schrijver nog een argument dat zijn standpunt over het nieuwe wetsvoorstel ondersteunt.
- 1p 21 In welk zinsgedeelte doet hij dat?
Citeer de eerste twee woorden van dit zinsgedeelte.
- 1p 22 Welke van de volgende citaten bevat **geen** beeldspraak die met roken te maken heeft?
- A “teenage squaddies will not be allowed to smoke,” (alinea 1)
 - B “This confused and smoky state of affairs” (alinea 1)
 - C “to slide a cigarette paper between being a child and an adult” (alinea 1)
 - D “however hard the long arm of the law tries to stub it out” (alinea 3)