

Can it be done? Should it be done?

Activity sheet – Can we? Should we?

Discuss the suggested scientific or technological developments that scientists might make. For each suggestion, put a tick in the grid to show what you decide.

| Suggestions | Can it be done? Do you think the suggestion is: a possible b impossible? | | How sure are you? Are you: a certain b uncertain or not sure? | | Should it be done? Do you believe: a yes, this should be done b no, this should not be done c it depends on the balance of benefits and risks? | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| | a | b | a | b | a | b | c |
| 1 Discover a drug that is a powerful painkiller but is not addictive. | | | | | | | |
| 2 Produce a chemical that allows you to drink as much alcohol as you like without getting a hangover. | | | | | | | |
| 3 Develop a chemical that helps athletes improve their performance but which cannot be detected in blood or urine. | | | | | | | |
| 4 Make and sell a harmless substitute for tobacco. | | | | | | | |
| 5 Make a medicine that stops people feeling depressed without any side effects. | | | | | | | |
| 6 Develop over-the-counter genetic tests to find out if a person is likely to get cancer if they smoke. | | | | | | | |
| 7 Invent sensors which immobilise a car if the driver has been drinking or taking drugs. | | | | | | | |
| 8 Make a chemical that stops the police detecting alcohol on a driver's breath. | | | | | | | |
| 9 Develop a type of chocolate that uses up more energy when it is digested than the chocolate contains. | | | | | | | |
| 10 Develop a food that reduces the risk of heart disease by removing fat from inside arteries. | | | | | | | |