Researching Chemistry

Higher

**Alcohol**

 <http://login.greatbignews.com/UserFiles/184/images/wineBottles_000.jpg>

Media items

# Alcohol

# This alcohol investigation has been presented as an area of topical chemistry as alcohol has been used and abused for centuries. However, it has become a hot political topic in Scotland with cries for higher prices, lower alcohol % and crackdowns on under-age drinking. The chemists’ role for this investigation is one of quality control: how do we find out how much ethanol/SO2/sugar is in an alcoholic beverage? Without this information, we cannot pass laws or monitor what companies are producing.

As a general introduction to the problems of alcohol in society, the following video clips could be used to stimulate discussion. The links for SO2 and sugar in alcopops should also be used to introduce the investigations.

1. Health education board Scotland alcohol advert <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymfImBMQWVQ&feature=related>

2. Binge drinking boy education advert

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuowE1SXNkA&feature=related>

3. Alcohol news item on alcohol abuse in Scotland

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLJkTjvp-9g>

4. Scheme in England to cut strength of alcoholic drinks

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/player/nol/newsid_7260000/newsid_7263200/7263275.stm?bw=bb&mp=wm&news=1&ms3=6&ms_javascript=true&nol_storyid=7263275&bbcws=2>

5. Cider maker to cut alcohol level

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/hereford/worcs/7952713.stm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/3650248.stm>

6. Buckfast ban? <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/10164507.stm>

# Sulphur dioxide in wine

1. Link to allergies: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6348001.stm>

2. Sulphites as preservatives in foods and drinks <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYKJyEqYCEU&feature=related>

3. Do sulphites cause headaches? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VnxoOOHVag&feature=related>

**Alcopops and sugar**

1. BBC video clip on conservative plans to curb sales of alcopops

<http://search.bbc.co.uk/search?q=alcopops&tab=av&uri=%2F&go=toolbar&scope=all>

2. Daily mail news articles on alcopops <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/search.html?pageOffset=&pageSize=&orderBy=relevDesc&searchPhrase=alcopops&dateupdated=&dateFrom=&dateTo>=

3. Alcopops ad <http://cspinet.org/alcopops/AlcopopAd.pdf>