



## VCE GLOBAL POLITICS – UNIT 2, AREA OF STUDY 1 GLOBAL THREADS AND DRUG POLICY: UNIT OUTLINE

### FOCUS

- UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME  
2016 UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION (UNGASS) ON THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM
- RESPONSE OF GOVERNMENTS TO USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS INCLUDING ALCOHOL

### CURRICULUM RESOURCES

- Outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the UN General Assembly, *Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem* (<https://www.unodc.org/documents/postungass2016/outcome/V1603301-E.pdf>).
- *Smarter About Drugs: A conversation pack* - Australian Lions Drug Awareness Foundation Inc. and Australia21. (<https://australia21.org.au/product/smarter-drugs-conversation-pack/>).

### CURRICULUM LINKS

Unit 2, Area of Study 1 of the VCE Global Politics course is called *The Global Citizen*, which focuses on the contemporary international community. Students explore the ways in which their lives are affected by globalisation. The major case study is drug policy across different countries and the ways in which nations are dealing with drug use and trafficking. The nations that have been selected for this study are Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Mexico, Guatemala and Norway. The non-state actor that will be the focus of this unit is the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs and the 2016 UN General Assembly on the World Drug Problem.

### CURRIUCLUM FOCUS

- The financial, physical, emotional, psychological, political and social impact of drug use (including alcohol)
- Policing and crime prevention strategies
- Punitive approach (including capital punishment) versus harm minimisation approach
- Treatment of Australian nationals convicted of drug offences in overseas jurisdictions.

### KEY QUOTES ON DRUG POLICY

“So far, the solutions [to control drugs and crime] implemented by the international community have been frankly insufficient... We must move beyond prohibition to effective prevention.”  
(Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto)

“People – not substances – [should be] at the centre of these policies.” (Guatemalan president Jimmy Morales)

“This UNGASS has provided a critical opportunity at a critical moment to build more comprehensive... understanding of the challenge we face together. The emphasis on the health and welfare of humankind – that is the founding purpose of the international drug control conventions.” (Yury Fedotov, executive director of the UN’s office on drugs and crime)

“Do the lives of 10 of these criminals really matter? If I am the one facing all this grief, would 100 lives of these idiots mean anything to me?” (Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte)