

Ok I may as well say it straight up i am a cannabis user and could you please read on and give me the time of day before dismissing me as a useless wasteful drug addict. Of course cannabis has its risks which i will also point out. I started smoking weed when I was thirteen 20 years ago and have smoked on a pretty much weakly basis for all of these years, now what do i do am i a tramp, do i steal, do i get benefits no i am a responsible hard working member of society who enjoys, after a stressful day at work to have a smoke. Now you will probably tell me that "cannabis wasn't as strong back then" well i would have to disagree totally with that in fact i would say in recent years cannabis has got weaker let me explain. There are three types of cannabis, Imported grass which has been pollinated by a male plant and is the weakest form of cannabis rarely seen now(with around %5-THC) . Then you have sensimilla (wrongly called skunk) It is grown without the presence of male plant so the plant focuses on resin(THC) production instead of seeds this contains around %15 THC and is the commonest form of cannabis on the streets today So yes Herbal cannabis has increased in strength by about three times. But onto our third type of cannabis Hashish or cannabis resin, This is a solid form of cannabis made by sieving the THC and other psychoactive Oils from the cannabis plant then compressing it into a block This is by far the strongest form of cannabis and in a pure form is rarely seen on the streets today and surprisingly contains %20 to %90 THC. Never has any 'Skunk' even come close to this potency because there is so much plant material. When i started smoking this was the most common type we could have bought imported grass but it was far too weak and not very different in price (20 years ago cannabis cost only a fraction of what it does today). So what I'm trying to say is when me and my friends started smoking It was stronger and cheaper. One thing that surprises me is that none of the anti drugs groups want cannabis legalized. If i were tough on drugs I would legalize them. Try to think of legalization not as giving up but a different approach, You say that you think it is good that the government upgraded it to a class B, well it could cause more problems than it solves if cannabis, far less harmful than amphetemene which is highly addictive and causes violence if young people are told that it's no more dangerous than cannabis they may start experimenting. I also saw you mentioned the class B was a good thing because you hope young people will get the message it's dangerous well I couldn't imagine one young person saying "no i will not smoke the joint as usual now it's class B" it just aint going to happen if you want young people not to use it then why not legalize, Remember dealers do not ask for ID. The dutch drugs model is very interesting i remember visiting a coffee shop and seeing a couple of kids walk in before they had set foot in the place they were asked for ID not possessing any were asked to leave. If a young person goes to a dealer what do they get not only do they get it sold to them no questions ask but are also offered heroin and crack alongside their cannabis. In holland since legalization of soft drugs heroin use has not risen, Now in holland there are an aging population of junkies left from the prohibitionist days. I really can't stress enough that prohibition makes things worse, I've seen it first hand friends moving onto harder drugs not because of cannabis or any gateway effect but because their dealer pressured them into taking harder drugs or offered free cannabis in exchange for trying heroin. If drugs were legal as holland has shown drug use drops the police can spend their time on better things. Wheater you are pro or anti drugs legalization/decriminilazation is the way to sort it out you will never stop everone using drugs and for the good of our children and our friends we need to legalize. Now cannabis does have its bad sides mild short term memory loss, over eating, lung problems but compared to nearly ever other drug in the world included paracetamol or alcohol it is safer. I also have read a huge amount of research Into cannabis and mental problems and many of the studies do not offer concrete evidence that cannabis is the cause, But CBD(the other component of cannabis) has proved conclusively to reduce psycotic sypptoms in scizophrenics. Also please do not forget the medical uses of cannabis they really are extrodinary. I can see where people think it's addictive well it's more like food or gambling than heroin or cocaine because it is not 'physically' addictive unlike alcohol or heroin. Please publish this as I've really tried to give a balanced view i am in no

way supporting use of drugs i just believe everyone has a choice of what they can put into there bodies and that prohibition causes more problems than the drug itself. By the way one question, supporting as you do cannabis being moved from a c to b could you justify the hard working father of three children(i never smoke infront of them even ciggarettes), Someone who pays his taxes and gives money to charity you are honestly telling me i deserve five years in prison for something god gave us. Please push for legalization it's the right thing to do.