

Reading for understanding

Education in Chemistry

September 2017

rsc.li/EiC517-know-your-poison

Read the article 'Know your poison' and answer the following questions.

1. Explain, in terms of the separation process, why chromatography is a good method for analysing drugs.

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2. Why is chromatography not particularly useful for carrying out analysis at festivals?

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3. Give three reasons why the infrared spectrometers used by the Loop were particularly good for use at festivals.

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4. Give one disadvantage of using infrared spectroscopy for analysis of drugs at festivals.

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5. Explain how the reagent tests Guy designed can help identify drug samples.

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6. List some substances used as cutting agents in the drug samples the teams analyse.

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7. Discuss the role of dosage in the dangers posed by legal and illegal drugs.

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