

## The ban of smoking in public places.

In this essay I will be explaining my opinions on the U.K Smoking ban in public places and if I support or disagree with it the smoking ban started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2007 and made it illegal to smoke in public places some people think this a good idea because it stops passive smoking & lung cancer, but some people think it's a bad idea because it takes there right away to smoke. The idea to stop people from smoking come from the BMA when they released research proving that smoking kills.

Cigarette and cigars come from, the tobacco plant that provides the tobacco to make these products. The tobacco plant is native to the America's and was first imported to England in the 1560's. Tobacco was not very popular in Europe, and throughout the 16th and 17th centuries harsh punishments were imposed on those caught smoking in public places. Smoking became increasingly popular with Europeans in the 18<sup>th</sup> century with the first UK based cigarette factory opening in 1856 in Walworth. Smoking Changed in social opinion because smoking had become an annoying problem for some people before the smoking ban was enforced.

In source A it gives you evidence from the BMA (British medical association) and HSC (Health and safety commission) posted on the "Internet news company" to support the smoking ban it tells you about the harmful affects second-hand smoke is to workers in the workplace which is also the worst offender for second hand smoke with three million people and 1 in 3 of all pregnant workers been exposed to second hand smoke in the UK. Passive smoking kills 30 people each year in Scotland from just lung cancer alone. Second hand smoke contributes to other long-term conditions including heart disease and asthma. Restricting smoking in the work place protects people in the workplace from second hand smoke and also help people cut down on the amount they smoke or stop all together. The benefits of stopping smoking in the work place are mostly economic and health costs with the smoking ban they is less money been spent on maintained and cleaning the building which costs quite a lot, and reduces the risk of fires and accidents and explosions in some cases which also results in a lower fire insurance premium because the is less chance of there been a fire when no ones smoking in the workplace. The main argument in this source is to enforce an outright ban on smoking in public would save the NHS some of the millions it spends each year on the treating of smoking and passive smoking related diseases. In a similar vein, it is maintained by many that a ban on smoking in public places would encourage smokers to quit as well as deter non-smokers. This source is reliable because it is made by a reliable source because they have researched the information and are in charge in looking for this information the may be slightly biases because they want people to stop smoking to reduce the cost of having to care for smoking related illnesses.

In source B it gives you evidence from FOREST (Freedom organisation for the right to enjoy smoking tobacco) website. Which gives you reasons against the smoking ban, it tells you that the ban is unnecessarily political and despite the fact that the cigar terrace at Boisdale has been a huge success they have

still enforced the ban. Since the ban many clubs and pubs have been forced to close in older communities there is hardly any where to go for them any more due to business closing and the way of living has been changed from when they used to be able to enjoy a cigarette and a drink. When they used to be able to go out to the bingo hall or worker's man club or their local pub due to this many of them are choosing to stay at home instead to smoke and drink which is causing lots of business relying on the older people, to close down. It also affects the young generation as they see many of their favourite places to go on a Saturday night closing down because people aren't going because they want to be able to smoke without having to go outside and are also choosing to stay at home which is also affecting public surfaces like the fire service because there is more risk of fires and more pressure on police force because of having to check public places and issue fines for littering from people smoking outside and the ambulance service because they are on a higher risk of people being severely ill or sick at home. If the smoking ban was not a law there would be less work for public services because the problems would all be in one place and there could be resources in place for emergencies. It goes on to say that prohibition doesn't work and the latest results show a 2% increase in the smoking rate in Ireland. They also regard research claiming passive smoking is damaging to health as untrue, based on the fact that there have been almost 150 studies on passive smoking and overall the results are widely considered inconclusive. The lack of certainty on the effect of passive smoking gives good reason to protest against the smoking ban. They also argue that the ban is often too extreme and that an alternative to a smoking ban in restaurants and some clubs would be satisfactory. Also they say that smoking in the workplace, claim that a large number of people claim that a cigarette or cigar can help them relax or concentrate in what is an increasingly stress-filled society and is therefore argued that banning smoking in public places could damage staff morale, leading to poor productivity in the workplace. This source is very biased as it doesn't use any facts or figures it only uses opinions and it was written by smokers who seem to strongly disagree with the smoking ban this source is quite good because it does give you some strong arguments against the smoking ban like that smoking helps people calm down whilst at work which improves productivity which is good for any business.

In my opinion I support the smoking ban in public places because of the effects which second hand smoke has such as contributing to lung cancer and asthma, and because you can now go to pubs and restaurants without having to come back smelling of smoke and because it saves the NHS lots of money which could be invested in other areas like schools. But I do disagree with the complete ban and I think it should be up to the bar club or restaurant owner if you can smoke or not and that there is not conclusive evidence that second hand smoke kills. I understand that smokers don't want to be treated like second-class citizens by being made to go outside to smoke or having to pay fines when caught stamping out their cigarettes on the floor but they have to understand that most people don't like the smell or the effects of it and that we need to find a way which we can meet in the middle.

By Josh Buckle