

Describing Social Issues with the Passive Voice

TASK: Read the descriptions below and decide what each section is describing. Drag and drop the labels above to the appropriate boxes below.

SOCIAL ISSUES TOPICS
Nuclear power plants
Gay and lesbian bars/ Gay and lesbian clubs/ Drag bars
Referendums/ Referenda
Cram schools
Domestic violence
National insurance/ Social insurance/ Social security
Nursing homes
Cocaine
Heroin
Marihuana
The upper house (The House of Lords, The Senate, etc)
Snap general elections
E-cigarettes
Supreme Court
Open prisons/ Low security prisons
Consumption tax/ Sales tax/ GST/ VAT
Income Tax
Opium
Amphetamines (speed, crystal meth, etc)
Group homes

1.

Your energy levels **are increased** by them.
Your appetite **is decreased** by them.
They **are** often **imported** from Asia, but they **can** also **be made** from chemicals.
Your health and teeth **can be damaged** by them.

2.

It **is made** from coca leaves.
Most of it **is imported** from Central and South America.
It **is** usually **snorted up** the nose.
It **can be converted** into crack and smoked.

3.

It **is paid** every time you buy something.
Prices **are raised** when it goes up.
It **can be avoided** by going to duty free shops.

4.

They **are** mainly **located** in Asia.
They **are** mainly **attended** in the evening.

In Korea they **are forced** to close at 22:30 but many stay open later.
They **are** mainly **attended** by people who need to pass exams or are weak in one area of study.
The students **aren't** usually **taught** by certified teachers.

5.

It is mainly **committed** by men.
It **is related** to the home or family.
It is often **underreported**.
It **isn't punished** as seriously as it should be.

6.

Their safety **hasn't been proven**.
They **are banned** in quite a lot of countries.
They **are believed** to be safer than normal tobacco.
There is a danger that non-smokers such as young people **will be tempted** by them to start smoking for the first time.

7.

In some, straight people **aren't allowed** in.
The customers can express themselves freely without **being stared out** or **being bothered**.
In the US and UK, they used **to be banned** and often **raided** by the police.
A famous riot started when one called Stonewall **was raided** by the police.

8.

Mentally and physically disabled people **are housed** there.
The residents **are looked after** by care staff.
The residents **are trained** to do as many things for themselves as they can.

9.

Many people **are killed** by it every year.
It is made from opium, which **is made** from a kind of poppy (flower).
It **is injected**.
AIDS **is** often **spread** by people injecting it.
Millions of people **are hooked** on it.

10.

It **is paid** from your salary.
It **has been lowered** in many countries since the 1970s.
It often doesn't need **to be paid** by low income earners.

11.

It **is smoked**.
It **can be put** into food.
Your consciousness **is changed** by it. It is forbidden by international law but it **has been legalised** in some places.
You **can be arrested** for having, using or selling it.
It **is used** to treat pain and other medical symptoms.
It **can be bought** in pharmacies in some places.
It **can be bought** in Amsterdam coffee shops.
Probably no one **has been killed** by it in this country this year.

12.

Welfare **is paid** from it.
In some countries healthcare **is** also **supported** by it.
It **is** usually **paid** to the government directly from your salary.

13.

Lots of radioactive material **is** both **used** and produced there.
No CO2 **is produced**.
It **is opposed** by some local people and **supported** by others.
For some reason, it **is** usually **opposed** by left-wingers.
If accidents occur there, the consequences could be very serious
The waste **has to be processed** and/ or **stored** for a long time.

14.

Old people **are moved** there when they can't look after themselves.
They **are staffed** by care workers and some medical staff.
Stays there **are paid** for by the residents, families and/ or the government.
New ones **are being opened** all the time to cope with the aging population.
More will need **to be opened** in the future.

15.

People **are put** in them for minor and white column crimes.
The inmates **are** sometimes **allowed** to leave for a short time, for example to work or to go to a funeral.
They **are** often **located** in the countryside.

16.

It **is made** from a special kind of poppy (flower).
It **is converted** into morphine and **used** in hospitals.
It **can be converted** into painkillers like ibuprofen.
It **can be converted** into heroin.

17.

All adults of voting age can take part in them.
Sometimes resident non-nationals can also take part in them.
They **can** also be **held** in local areas.
Recently ones related to independence **have been held** in Europe.
The law **can be changed** by them.
In some countries they **are held** very often and in other places they very rarely happen.

18.

They **are** usually **held** once every four or five years, but these **are held** in special circumstances such as after a vote of no confidence.
One **was held** in the UK recently, but it **was regretted** by the ruling party.
MPs **are elected** in them.
They **are held** with quite short notice.

19.

In America, the people on it **are nominated** by the President.
In the US, members **aren't forced** to retire when they reach a certain age.
Many important topics like the legality of abortion **have been decided** by this place.
A lot of controversy **is caused** every time that a new member is chosen.
Laws **are tested** for their constitutionality there.
Its decisions **are** usually **covered** by the national press.

20.

In some countries, the people there **aren't elected**.
Laws **are** double **checked** there and amendments **are made**.
Elections **are held** at different times to the lower house.

Social Issues vocabulary

Nuclear power plant	Planta nuclear
Gay and lesbian bars/ Gay and lesbian clubs/ Drag bars	Bares /clubes de Gays y Lesbianas
Referendums/ Referenda	Consulta popular
Cram schools	Escuelas con cursos intensivos
Domestic violence	Violencia doméstica
National insurance/ Social insurance/ Social security	Seguridad social / prevision social
Nursing homes	Centro de cuidados para personas mayores
Cocaine	Cocaína
Heroin	Heroína
Marihuana	marihuana
The upper house (The House of Lords, The Senate, etc)	Camara Alta / Senado
Snap general elections	Elecciones generales anticipadas
E-cigarettes	Cigarillos electrónicos
Supreme Court	Corte suprema
Open prisons/ Low security prisons	Prisiones de baja seguridad con régimen abierto
Consumption tax/ Sales tax/ GST/ VAT	Impuesto al consumo/ventas / IVA
Income Tax	Impuesto a las ganancias
Opium	opio
Amphetamines (speed, crystal meth, etc)	Anfetaminas (estimulantes/ cristales de metadona)
Group homes	Casas para personas con discapacidades mentales o físicas

Vocabulary

(taken from the sentences 1 - 20)
sacado de las oraciones

Palabras terminadas en (ed) pasado participio (3º columna) pueden ser verbos /adjetivos	Traducción es (ado/ido) Increase (aumentar) / increased (aumentado)
energy levels	niveles de energía
increase (ed) = (ado/ido)	incrementar /subir
them.	a ellos/ por ellos
appetite	apetito
Decrease (d)	bajar / disminuir
chemicals.	químicos
health and teeth	salud física y odontológica
damage (d)	perjudicar
coca leaves.	hojas de coca
snort (ed) up the nose.	inhalar por nariz
convert (ed) into	transformer en
crack	(droga = crack)
something.	algo
prices	precios
raise (d) / goes up.	subir
avoid (ed)	evitar
duty free shops.	libre de impuestos
mainly	principalmente
attend (ed)	atender /asistir
later.	mas tarde
need (ed)	necesitar

weak	flojo / débil
teach / taught	enseñar / enseñó/ado
certify(ed) teachers.	maestros con título habilitante
commit(ed)	comprometerse con algo
relat(ed) to	relacionado a
underreport(ed).	no denunciados
punish(ed)	castigados
as	como
should	debería/n
safety	seguridad
proven	
Bann(ed)	prohibido / expulsado
quite a lot	bastante
believe (d)	creer
countries.	países
safe	seguro
there is	hay
danger	peligro
non-smokers	no fumadores
young people	gente joven
tempt(ed)	tentado/a
straight people	heterosexuales
allow(ed)	permitir
customers	clientes
freely	libremente
without	sin
star(ed) out	mirado/a
bother(ed)	molestado/a
raid(ed)	atacado/a
riot	pelea / disturbio
disabl(ed) people	personas con capacidades diferentes
hous(ed)	alojada/o
residents	residentes
look(ed) after	cuidar
care staff	personal médico
train(ed)	entrenado/a
poppy (flower).	amapola (flor)
spread	propagar/expandir
hook(ed) on	adicto a
AIDS	SIDA
lower	bajar
low income earners.	personas con ingresos (sueldos) bajos
food	comida
consciousness	conciencia
change(ed)	cambiar
forbidden	prohibido/a
international law	ley internacional
legalis(ed)	legalizado/a
treat (ed) pain	tatar dolores
symthoms	síntomas
welfare	bienestar (social)
healthcare	cuidado de la salud
support(ed)	asistido/a – mantenido/a
government	gobierno
radioactive material	haterial radioactivo
CO2	dióxido de carbono
oppos(ed)	opuesto / contrario/ que se opone a
local people	habitantes locales / lugareños
left-wingers.	de izquierda/izquierdistas
waste (ed)	desperdicio/basura
process(ed) and/ or stor(ed)	procesado/a – guardado/a

staff(ed)	atendidos
care workers	trabajadores de la salud
medical staff.	personal medico
stays	estadía
cope with	hacer frente / lidiar / enfrentar/convivir con
aging population	envejecimiento de la población
minor and white column crimes	delitos menores
the inmates	población carcelaria
countryside	campo
painkillers	analésicos
like	como
ibuprofen.	ibuprofeno
voting age	edad para votar
take part	participar
resident non-nationals	extranjeros
held in local areas.	presentarse en zonas locales
no confidence	de no confianza
regrett(ed)	arrepentido/a – (lamentar)
ruling party.	partido gobernante
MPs (members of the parliament)	parlamentarios (diputados)
short notice.	corto plazo
forc(ed) to retire	obligado a jubliarse
reach (ed)	llegar
age	edad
topics	temas
legality of abortion	legalización del aborto
controversy	controversia
constitutionality	constitucionalidad
national press.	prensa nacional
double checked	revisado 2 veces
amendments	reformas / correcciones
the lower house	camara baja