- 1. <u>Psychological wellness & healthy lifestyle choices</u> <a href="https://www.healthforteens.co.uk">https://www.healthforteens.co.uk</a> <a href="Risk">Risk</a>: Why take risks? What is a "risk"? <a href="Assessing risk">Assessing risk</a> ("Lies, damned lies, statistics")- <a href="perceptions">perceptions</a> & <a href="realtities">realities</a>? Which risks are worthwhile; which are foolish?
- Cost/ Benefit Analysis (Eg. driving; swimming; sports; alcohol, & other drugs; gambling)
- ➤ Absolute risks Relative risks Short, & Long-term ("deferred") risks (Eg. smoking)
- <u>Life is risky</u> knowing how to evaluate risks (physical, social, personal) key "life skill".
- Who can be trusted? Reliable sources of info? NB Not only politicians selectively reveal what's to their advantage "Social Media" / powerful organisations do likewise -> Key point: Are we getting the full picture? Agendas?
- > Think critically! Beware preconceptions assumptions prejudice bias "Group Think"
- ➤ A widely held/ popular view is not necessarily correct beware "the herd". Beware extremist/ radical groups, esp on-line/ social media.

  "Confirmation Bias" → tendency to notice only that which confirms preconceived views.

  "Cognitive Dissonance" → denial of anything contradicting preconceptions/ prejudices.
- Anxiety: normal prompts planning/ preparation; only a problem if overwhelming. Sources of anxiety? –> think/ plan to minimise them rational pragmatism. Stop Think- Check Facts- Plan (checklists; priorities; realism). "Wisdom of psychopaths" -> apply if necessary.
- 2. Coping Strategies [Move briskly for 30 mins/ day in open air. Talk with real people.]
- "Wisdom of Boxers" Archie Moore, "The Old Mongoose": died happy & wealthy he was realistic/ planned/ prepared /played to his strengths/ looked after his money.
- "Belly Breathing" (In 2, 3; out 5, 4, 3, 2, 1). "Visualisation" "feet on ground". Assertiveness
   buying time; "fogging"; "broken record"; saying no. "Refuge places" find/ use.
- <u>Hobbies/ interests/ exercise/ sport</u> <u>faith/ spirituality</u> <u>social interactions</u> <u>friendship</u> <u>humour</u>: invaluable to psychological wellbeing. <a href="https://www.youngminds.org.uk">https://www.youngminds.org.uk</a>; <a href="https://www.headspace.com">https://www.headspace.com</a>
- Rule of Ps Preparation & Planning Prevent Poor Performance. KISS Keep It Simple, Stupid!
- 3. <u>Danger Zones</u> Eg. <u>drugs</u> "<u>County Lines</u>" <u>know the signs! Coercive/ controlling relationships</u> respect others. <u>Sexual harassment</u> unacceptable.
- "Social Media" -> distorted self-perceptions "body image" issues -> body dysmorphia.
- > -> striving for "peak perfection" -> obsessive diet/ training regimes. Risks pschol. well-being, and possibly use of "training supplements", skin tanning, teeth whitening etc.
- Porn, Fashion not real! Distorted perceptions of "normal" –> implications?
- Alcohol & other drugs: Alcohol = dangerous drug (kills 30K/yr in UK) -> huge range of problems. Acute alcohol poisoning. Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. https://www.talktofrank.com
- "Recreational" drug use -> health, legal, & other implications? No drug is "harmless"!
- On the street/ out & about: stop look listen think. <u>Trust instincts</u>. <u>Common sense</u>.
  <u>Situational Awareness</u>. <u>If in doubt</u>, <u>get out!</u> <u>Car safety</u> (seat belts/ texting/ speeding/ drink).
- Water/ Sea/ beaches/cliffs/ rivers hazards (currents; tides; rip-tides; freak waves; cliff edges; rock falls etc). Alcohol & swimming not a good mix.
- <u>Domestic Dangers</u>: kitchen ("sharps", boiling water) stairs (don't run) electrical overloads (multi-sockets) toxic/ caustic substances (safe storage) heating systems (carbon monoxide!) baths/ showers (slipping) Stopcocks & Trip-switches Fire (risks & escapes).
- Money matters: Mr Micawber; Budgets; Shopping/ Unit Costs; Loans; APRs; Credit cards; Compound Interest; Notice Accounts; Pay Day Loans; Crypto currencies. (CRH, 2022)