

Making decisions

What is most important?

Teacher's guide

Aim

To learn how to allocate funds fairly and to justify budgetary decisions.

Objectives

- To encourage pupils to consider the views of others.
- To introduce the idea of budgeting.
- To begin to get a feel for a difficult decision making process.
- To practice presenting the results of a difficult decision.
- To encourage pupils to think through and justify the decisions they make.

Tasks

In pairs or groups work through each of the eight proposals. Click on the proposals they want to choose. The money bar at the right hand side will allocate the funds available. If the group overspend, a warning screen will appear.

Once they have made their decisions, the group can print out their results.

Suggested Follow-up / Extension Activities

- Once the online part has been completed, pupils could complete the worksheet, giving reasons for their decisions.
- hold a class discussion on how difficult it was to decide which projects to fund.
- compare which projects each group decided to fund and why:
- hold a class vote
- produce a graph

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Worksheet

1

The Scottish Parliament makes a lot of important decisions. MSPs have lots of ideas about how to make Scotland better. They discuss these ideas in the debating chamber and in committees.



There is not always enough money to pay for all of the ideas that the MSPs have. MSPs have to think about how much money there is and what is the best way to spend it.

Before MSPs agree to anything, they have to work out how much it will cost, and decide if Scotland can afford it.

Activity

You are an MSP. Here are some good ideas that other MSPs have had about what to do. They will cost different amounts.

The finance minister has said that nothing costing more than £13,000 can be afforded.

Look at the eight ideas below. Choose the project or projects you think are most important. You will also need to think about best use of money. Do you want to:

- (a) give the money to one very important project
- (b) use the money to pay for more than one project



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Worksheet
2

Remember: You do not have to spend the full £13,000
cannot spend more.



Environment

£ 5,000 for a recycling scheme for every school

☐ Yes ☐ No



Education

£ 10,000 for free school buses for all pupils

☐ Yes ☐ No



Health

£ 3,000 for an anti-smoking campaign

☐ Yes ☐ No



Sports

£8,000 for free after-school sports clubs

☐ Yes ☐ No

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Farming

£7,000 for help for farmers who want to grow organic food

☐ Yes ☐ No



Crime

£4,000 for a project to stop racist and sectarian abuse at football matches

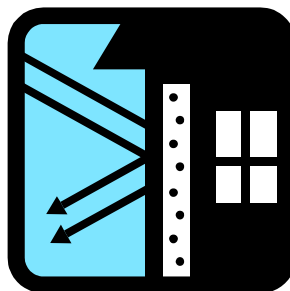
☐ Yes ☐ No



Transport

£12,000 for free travel for children under 10 on trains and buses in Scotland

☐ Yes ☐ No



Housing

£9,000 for grants to help people insulate their houses

☐ Yes ☐ No

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Worksheet 3

What is most important?

Idea	Are you going to give this idea money?	Why?
 recycling scheme		
 school buses		
 anti-smoking		
 sports clubs		
 organic farming		
 abuse at football matches		
 under 10s travel free		
 home insulation		
total spent		£

I chose

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because

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