

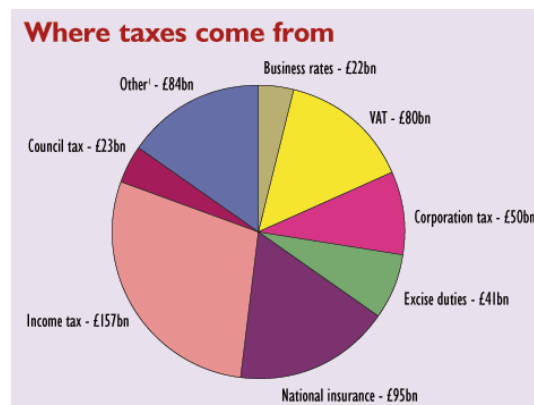
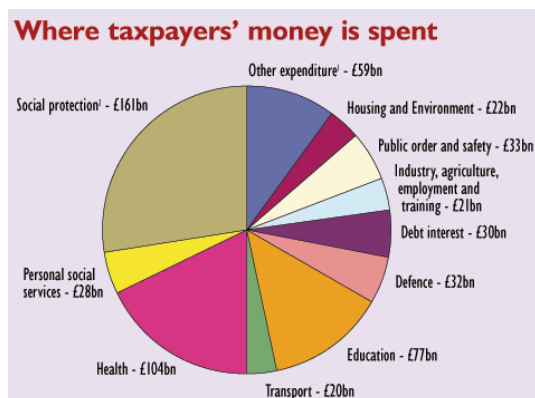
Government Spending – warm up activity

Notes

- This is an activity which I found generated a lot of discussion and helps increase confidence in manipulating and discussing large numbers.
- It can be adjusted for any level – but for Entry Level 1 and 2 the government charts and numbers would probably have to be simplified.
- It is good for around budget time but also works well before doing payslip activities (e.g. **Skills for Life – Explore Numeracy – Making Ends Meet, Entry 3 Unit 2**).

Materials needed

- 2007 Pre-budget Report – a summary of government spending and tax collection. This is available at <http://budget2007.treasury.gov.uk/>. Go to page 9 (or page 8 of the downloadable PDF leaflet) 'Where Taxpayers' Money is Spent', where there are two pie charts showing government spending and tax collection.



This is how it went

- Introduce and discuss the topic of government spending (I chose health as a starting point).
- Students then name other things the government funds – make list on board (use pie chart as a guide - but don't hand this out to students yet).
- Students write down the list two times, and cut them up. Ask them to arrange one of them how they would allocate the money if they were the Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- Now give out the government figures (as on pie chart). Students use this to arrange their second list according to government priorities.
- Discuss.
- You can then look at how the money is raised (second pie chart on the page)

It is also interesting to look at council spending. For example, people in Oxfordshire can get very user friendly leaflets about council spending by visiting www.oxfordshire.gov.uk