

Jobs and salaries – a budgeting activity

Main Curriculum References

Level 1

MSS1/L1.1 – Add, subtract, multiply and divide sums of money

N2/L1.5 – Add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals up to two places.

N2/L1.7 – Approximate decimals by rounding to nearest whole number and to two decimal places

Extension activities

Level 1

N2/L1.9 – Find simple percentage parts of quantities and measurements

Level 2

N2/L2.2 – Identify equivalencies between fractions, percentages and decimals

N2/L2.8 – Find percentage parts of quantities and measurements

N2/L2.9 – evaluate one number as a percentage of another

Contributor's notes

Background

This activity was developed for a group of diverse students all of whom experienced some difficulties in motivation and concentration for a range of reasons: autism, ADD, dyslexia and behavioural. Depending on the level of detail you work to this activity could be spread over several weeks. There is plenty opportunity for wider discussions so it could also be linked to literacy work.

Explanation and instructions

The object of the activity is for students to get a reasonable idea (rather than realistic) of what is involved in managing money. Obviously it needs a good deal of pre-discussion. I went for a weekly budget to ensure lots of calculating was done. It was surprising how willing they were to do it!

Stage 1 - Each student should have an Earnings and budgets worksheet (p5). Using the salary cards (p3) each then selects an example of an annual salary and uses this to start their sheet off. (This caused a lot of discussion especially as I also gave students an idea of how much additional funds they might get from benefits if they were on a low income). From this they must calculate how much this would give them to spend each week. We did a simplified calculation. Salary \div 50 and didn't deduct tax. Enter this on the sheet to use for weekly budget. Website link for benefits entitlement:

<http://www.taxcredits.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/Qualify/DIQHousehold.aspx>

Stage 2 - Students then need to select somewhere to live. Again I used the cards (p4) and each student just picked one at random. Monthly rent had to be turned into a weekly amount - you might want to discuss calendar months and weeks - we divided by 4. They then add this to the sheet and work out the balance.

Stage 3 - The remaining sections were then completed and the balance calculated after each step.

- *Council Tax* - using the internet you can find the council tax for any house so I based the council tax on the students' addresses. An average for area tax could be given instead.
- *Food* - I made up 4 choices to give an idea of how much more it costs if you buy ready meals rather than cook your own.
- *Bills* - I asked students to discover what their household bills came to and they used this. Quarterly bills had to be turned into weekly costs and again we divided by 4. For items 7 and 8 use the supplementary cards (page 6) to give an idea of how all budgets must make allowance for the unexpected or irregular extras.

Extension

Two sheets (p7-8) that I used to finish off the work and review Level 1 and 2 percentages.

Resource notes

- **Salary Cards** - these could be adapted to match the type of student in your class.
- **Rent Cards** - as rents will depend on your location these should be altered to suit your area. Alternatively, use local newspapers with adverts for rented accommodation.
- **Earnings and budgets** – see page 1.
- **Supplementary Cards** - a collection of cards giving examples of situations that put pressure on managing a budget. These cards provide a great opportunity to focus discussion about 'needs' and 'wants' and planning ahead as well as contingency savings. Once again they should be adapted according to audience.
- **Calculating Percentages 1 and 2** – two sheets for extension work on percentages.

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Salary Cards

<p>Health professional</p> <p>51, 375</p>	<p>Administrator</p> <p>14, 775</p>	<p>Teaching / Research professional</p> <p>27, 085</p>
<p>Secretarial</p> <p>13, 820</p>	<p>Skilled construction worker</p> <p>20, 830</p>	<p>Skilled electrician</p> <p>23, 255</p>
<p>Sales</p> <p>8, 675</p>	<p>Caring services</p> <p>10, 725</p>	<p>Customer services</p> <p>11, 855</p>
<p>Transport / mobile machine drivers</p> <p>8, 785</p>	<p>Catering: waitress / waiter</p> <p>8, 000</p>	<p>Experienced carpet fitter</p> <p>20, 500</p>

Rent Cards

<p>Henley 1 bed flat £650pcm</p>	<p>Reading Earley 1 bed within house £325pcm</p>	<p>Reading town centre unfurnished top floor flat inc. Council tax and bills £500pcm</p>
<p>Didcot 1 bed ground floor flat £565pcm</p>	<p>High Wycombe unfurnished flat £525pcm</p>	<p>Wallingford apartment £600pcm</p>
<p>Maidenhead 1 bed studio flat £550pcm</p>	<p>Slough 1 bed apartment £575pcm</p>	<p>London 1 bed shared flat £137pw</p>
<p>Marlow 1 bed studio flat £550pcm</p>	<p>Sonning 1 bed studio flat £550pcm</p>	<p>Shiplake 1 bed studio flat £550pcm</p>

Earnings and budgets

Annual Earnings

Weekly earnings:

Other income

Total

Spending for a week:	Balance
1. Rent	
2. Food /Toiletries	
3. Council tax	
4. Bills	
5. TV licence	
6. Travel costs	
7.	
8.	

Supplementary Cards

<p>You have to buy a present for a friend or relative</p> <p>£?</p>	<p>You buy a packet of cigarettes</p> <p>£?</p>
<p>You have a nasty cold and buy medication</p> <p>£2</p>	<p>You go out with friends for a drink</p> <p>£10</p>
<p>You get your hair cut</p> <p>£10</p>	<p>You top up your mobile phone</p> <p>£5</p>
<p>You want to save towards learning to drive so put money away each week</p> <p>£5</p>	<p>Your shoes need replacing</p> <p>£? 14.99 / 65.99</p>

Calculating Percentages

Work out the weekly earnings rounded to the nearest £10 and enter on the sheet. Then using the percentages below work out how much would be paid for each item listed.

<h2>Annual Earnings</h2>		£20,000
Weekly earnings: _____		
Spending for a week:	Amount spent	Balance
1. Rent 30%		
2. Food /Toiletries 10%		
3. Council tax 20%		
4. Bills 4%		
5. TV licence 2%		
6. Travel costs 4%		
	Total spending money	

Calculating Percentages 2

Use the salary from your previous work, rounded to the nearest £10, and enter this on box on the sheet. Work out what percentage of the total is spent on each category listed.

Money available each week <input type="text"/>			
Category	Amount spent	% of total	Balance
1. Rent			
2. Food /Toiletries			
3. Council tax			
4. Bills			
5. TV licence			
6. Travel costs			

How much would you have left to spend on other things?