



Where Does the Money Go?

Aim:

'Where Does the Money Go?' is a two part game that highlights to students the cost of university. It also encourages them to think about what are essential and what a luxury items.

Year Range:

Year 11

Number of Participants:

10 - 20

Completion Time:

20 - 30 minutes

Equipment:

- Pens
- Notepaper
- One handout per group

Instructions:

Part One: Get students to note down all their spending for one week - from food and drink to bus fares, clothes or CDs - and do a total for the week. Working in small groups, get them to work out which items were things they wanted and which were things they really needed. Ask the whole group to feedback on the findings.

Instructions:

Part Two: Divide the students into 3 groups and give each group a copy of the 'Where Does the Money Go?' Handout (below). The handout will give details of a student's budget and outgoings. They need to look at how Sam will spend the remaining money for the term, and work out a budget for the week.

Each group then presents their budget to the group, and explains how and why they have spent their money in that way.

Conclusion:

The first part of 'Where Does the Money Go?' will hopefully lead to an interesting discussion on which items are essential and which are luxurious.

The second part will hopefully get the students thinking about their priorities at university and how to create and work out budgets.

Where Does the Money Go? Handout:

Sam has just started at university and is living in a shared student house with three other students. It is Sunday on the final week of the first term and Sam has £50 to last until next Saturday, which is when Sam heads home for the Christmas break. Sam has lectures and seminars every day except Tuesday.

How is Sam going to decide what to spend £50 on?

Travel

- There is a bus to the university that costs £1 return and takes 7 minutes. Walking takes 40 minutes or cycling takes 20 minutes - but Sam's bike needs a new light, which will cost about £10.

Hobbies

- Sam plays hockey for the university team and is training on the university campus on Sunday, and playing a home game on Wednesday. Training costs £2, and the playing the home game costs £3.

Nights out

Since this is the last week of term there are lots of things going on. These are three of the things Sam would most like to do:

- There is a Christmas party on Tuesday at the Student Union club - tickets cost £6, but drinks are on special offer at £1 all night.
- On Thursday one of Sam's favourite bands is playing in town - one of Sam's friends has got a spare ticket, which costs £10.
- On Friday there is a hockey club party, at a friend's house. It is fancy dress and people have to bring drinks - though food is provided. Sam would need £5 to pay for the drinks and £8 to spend on a fancy dress costume.

Food

- Sam only has 1 large (half full) box of cornflakes, 2 cans of beans, a tin of chopped tomatoes, a packet of spaghetti and a packet of cheese slices to last the week.

Other costs

- Sam needs £9 to pay towards the house bills.
- Sam only has enough clean clothes to last till Tuesday - the launderette on campus costs £2, the one in town costs £4.