Value for money

Cheapest is not always best. How do you spot a good deal?

Answers and teaching notes

For the teacher

- **Aim:** Pupils compare prices fairly by finding the price per item and per 100g, test multi-buy offers, and see that quality and how long something lasts matter as well as price.
- **Curriculum links:** Financial Education Planning Framework, ages 9 to 11: becoming a critical consumer (value for money, comparing prices and offers). PSHE: economic wellbeing. Citizenship: being a careful shopper. Maths: dividing and multiplying money, comparing amounts.
- **Starter:** Show two packs, real or drawn: 4 for £2 and 6 for £2.40. Vote on the better deal before any working out. Come back to the vote after activity 2.
- **Support:** Change pounds into pence before dividing (£2.40 is 240p). Pupils can use a calculator for activity 3.
- **Stretch:** Pupils find the small "price per 100g" print on a real shelf label or receipt. Be sensitive: families shop in different ways, and the lowest price today can be the right choice.
- **Total:** 40 points. Suggested answers are shown in red; accept any answer that is well reasoned.

I can...

- [ ] I can work out the price of one item in a pack.
- [ ] I can check whether an offer really saves money.
- [ ] I can explain why the cheapest is not always the best value.

Key words

Value for money: getting something good for the price you pay.

Price per item: what one thing in a pack costs.

Multi-buy: an offer for buying more than one, like 3 for £1.

Quality: how well something is made and how long it lasts.

1 True or false?

5 points

Circle True or False.

The cheapest thing is always the best value. **Not always. Quality and how long it lasts matter too.**	True	**False**
Value for money means getting something good for the price you pay.	**True**	False
A bigger pack always costs less for each item. **Not always. You have to work it out.**	True	**False**
The price of one item helps you compare packs of different sizes.	**True**	False

An offer is not a bargain if you buy things you will never use. **True** False

2 How much for one?

8 points

Change pounds into pence first. Show your working in the box.

a) 4 yoghurts cost £2. How much is one yoghurt?

Working
£2 = 200p
200p ÷ 4 = 50p

Answer: 50p

b) 6 yoghurts cost £2.40. How much is one yoghurt?

Working
£2.40 = 240p
240p ÷ 6 = 40p

Answer: 40p

c) 6 pencils cost £1.20. How much is one pencil?

Working
£1.20 = 120p
120p ÷ 6 = 20p

Answer: 20p

d) 10 pencils cost £1.50. How much is one pencil?

Working
£1.50 = 150p
150p ÷ 10 = 15p

Answer: 15p

3 Price for each 100g

7 points

Ayesha is choosing cereal with her dad. Work out what 100g of each cereal costs. A 200g box is 2 lots of 100g, so divide the price by 2.

Cereal	Box size	Price	Price for 100g
Wheat Wheels	200g	£1.60	80p
Choco Moons	400g	£2.80	70p
Oat Stars	500g	£3.00	60p
Golden Flakes	1,000g	£5.00	50p

a) Which cereal costs the least for each 100g? 1 mark

Golden Flakes (50p for each 100g).

b) Wheat Wheels has the lowest price on the shelf. Is it the best value? Explain. 2 marks

No. It costs only £1.60, but that is 80p for each 100g, the most of the four.

4 Odd one out

4 points

Circle the odd one out in each row. Say why.

4 for £2	6 for £3	5 for £3	10 for £5

Why? 5 for £3 is 60p each. The others are all 50p each.

Price	Quality	How long it lasts	A cartoon on the box

Why? A cartoon does not change the value. The others help you judge it.

5 Does the offer save money?

6 points

Work out what the items would cost if you bought them one at a time. Then write each offer in the right box.



Penny says: A real bargain costs less than buying one at a time, AND you will use everything you buy.

- Juice: £2 each or 2 for £3
- Crisps: 40p each or 5 for £2.50
- Socks: £3 a pair or 2 pairs for £5
- Pens: £1 each or 3 for £3.50
- Apples: 50p each or 3 for £1
- Buns: 30p each or 4 for £1.50

The offer saves money	The offer costs more
Apples: 50p each or 3 for £1	Pens: £1 each or 3 for £3.50
Juice: £2 each or 2 for £3	Crisps: 40p each or 5 for £2.50
Socks: £3 a pair or 2 pairs for £5	Buns: 30p each or 4 for £1.50

6 Cheapest is not always best

6 points

Read the story, then answer the questions.



Ayesha needs school shoes. **Pair A** costs **£15** and usually lasts about **3 months**. **Pair B** costs **£30** and usually lasts about **12 months**.

a) How many of Pair A would Ayesha need for one year? What would they cost altogether? 2 marks

> 12 months ÷ 3 months = 4 pairs. 4 × £15 = £60.

b) Which pair is better value over the year? By how much? 2 marks

> Pair B. It costs £30 for the year and Pair A costs £60, so Pair B saves £30 (£60 – £30 = £30).

c) What would you do, and why? Can you think of a good reason to choose Pair A? 2 marks

> Pupil's own answer with a reason. Good reasons for Pair A: there is only £15 to spend today, or her feet are growing fast so she will need a new size soon anyway.

7 Best value first

Challenge · 4 points

Work out the price of one sticker in each pack. Then number the packs from 1 (best value) to 4 (worst value).



Penny says: Bigger packs often cost less for each one, but not always. Work it out every time!

4	2 stickers for £1
1	10 stickers for £1
2	5 stickers for £1
3	4 stickers for £1.20

8 Before you go

One thing I learned today

_____

_____

One question I still have

_____

_____

How sure do I feel?

Not yet · Getting there · Got it



Take it home

Next time you are in a shop with a grown-up, find the small print on a shelf label that shows the **price per 100g** or **per item**. Which of two packs is better value?

© Penny Explains · pennyexplains.com · Free to print and copy for teaching.

Education, not financial advice.