

Best Buys

KS3 Maths · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Coffee: 500 g for £2.00 or 1 kg for £3.60. Which is better value?

Step 1 · Use the same unit: 1 kg = 1000 g

500 g for £2.00 and 1000 g for £3.60

Step 2 · Cost per 100 g of each

$£2.00 \div 5 = 40\text{p}$ and $£3.60 \div 10 = 36\text{p}$

Step 3 · Compare

$36\text{p} < 40\text{p}$

Answer: The 1 kg bag is better value

Check: Two 500 g bags would cost £4.00, more than £3.60 ✓

2. Now try one with the steps

6 cans of beans for £3.30 or 4 cans for £2.40. Which is better value?

Step 1 · Price per can, pack of 6

Step 2 · Price per can, pack of 4

Answer:

3. Practice

Show your working. The marks tell you how much is expected.

1. 4 apples cost £1.20. What is the cost of one apple? [1]

2. A 2 kg bag of rice costs £3.40. What is the cost per kilogram? [1]

3. A 400 g pack costs £2.80. What is the cost per 100 g? [1]

4. Which is better value: 5 pens for £2 or 8 pens for £3? [2]

5. Which is better value: 1 litre of juice for £1.50 or 1.5 litres for £2.10? [2]

6. A 300 g bag of nuts costs £1.50. How many grams do you get for each £1? [1]

7. Cereal: 500 g for £2.25 or 750 g for £3.30. Which box is better value? [2]

8. Water: a pack of 6 × 500 ml bottles costs £1.80, or a 2-litre bottle costs 70p. Which is better value? [2]

9. Sandwiches cost £2.50 each, with 'buy one get one free'. How much do 4 sandwiches cost? [1]

10. Tins of soup cost £1.80 each, with '3 for 2'. How much do 6 tins cost? [2]

11. Batteries: a 12-pack costs £6.60 and a 4-pack costs £2.40. What is the cheaper price per battery, in pence? [2]

12. A game costs £40 in Shop A with 15% off, and £38 in Shop B with £3 off. Which shop is cheaper? [3]

13. Washing powder: 1.2 kg (24 washes) costs £4.20 and 2 kg (40 washes) costs £6.80. What is the lower cost per wash, in pence? [3]

14. A large pizza 30 cm across costs £12 and a medium pizza 20 cm across costs £7. Which gives more pizza per pound? (Compare areas.) [3]

15. Give one reason why the better-value pack is not always the best choice. [1]

4. Before you hand it in

Assuming the biggest pack is always the best value

Always work out a unit price. Supermarket shelf labels show the price per 100 g or per litre — use them to check.

Comparing 500 g for £2 with 1.2 kg for £4.50 by looking at 500 and 1.2

Change both to the same unit first: 1.2 kg = 1200 g. Then compare price per 100 g: 40p and 37.5p.

Working out grams per £1 and then choosing the SMALLER answer

Pence per gram: smaller is better. Grams per pound: bigger is better. Say what your number means before you choose.

Thinking '3 for 2' saves money if you only need one

If you buy one item you pay full price. A multi-buy is only a saving if you would use all the items.