

Needs and Wants



Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions: No answer bank: show your working for the money maths. Number the steps in order, answer the case study questions, explain the key terms, then write full-sentence answers and plan the extended answer.

1. Money maths (show your working)

Question	Working and answer
£20 – £3 – £7 – £6 = savings of...	
€60 budget, food €48.50: amount left	
Cinema £8 a week for 4 weeks costs...	
A €45 game is how many weeks of €9 savings?	
Basic trainers £25, designer £85. The 'want' part costs...	

Did you know?

- Economists say scarcity is the basic economic problem.
- Opportunity cost was described by economists in the 1800s.
- Supermarkets study where shoppers walk so they can place items carefully.
- Marketing often tries to make wants feel like needs.

Background

A need is something you must have to live safely and healthily: food, clean water, a home, clothes for the weather, heating, and health care. Families also need things like school supplies and transport to get to work. Needs come first in any plan for money, because life gets very hard without them.

2. Steps in order

Number the steps 1 to 6 (1 = first).

1	Ask: Is it a need or a want?
2	Wait: For wants, wait a day or a week
3	Compare: Look for a cheaper version that does the job
4	Decide: Buy, save or skip
5	Stop: Pause before you buy
6	Think: What is the opportunity cost?

4. Key terms

Key term	What does it mean? Give an example.
Need	
Want	
Scarcity	
Opportunity cost	
Priority	

3. Case study

Tayo earned €30 at his stall. His mum reminds him he needs new school shoes (€22 for a basic pair). A friend says the stall next door sells limited-edition stickers for €10 and 'everyone has them'.

Case study: Tayo's choice

1. Which item is the need and which is the want?

2. What is the opportunity cost if he buys the stickers first?

3. How is the friend using pressure to make a want feel urgent?

5. Think it through

1. Explain two reasons people buy wants they had not planned.

2. Explain one consequence of spending needs money on wants.

6. Longer answers (full sentences)

1. Explain scarcity and why it forces choices.

2. Give an example of a grey-area item and split it into need and want.

3. Describe a decision process for buying a want.

4. Explain in your own words: Why can't we have every want? Use the word 'scarcity'.

7. Extended answer

Extended answer: 'Wants are a waste of money.' How far do you agree?

Plan: introduction · point for (example) · point against (example) · conclusion with your judgement.
