



EduTrend Contents

P4C · HAPPINESS AND THE GOOD LIFE · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Can Money Buy Happiness?

Money, things and a good life

Ages 11–13

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· up to 30

Activity 03

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 03 · AT A GLANCE

Can Money Buy Happiness?

Students rank twelve cards showing things people might want: money, friends, health, a big house, fame, family, free time, learning, helping others, the latest phone, nature and being respected. In groups they explain their top three and bottom three. They create questions and enquire into whether money can buy happiness.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- rank and justify values;
- distinguish needs and wants;
- reason about money and happiness;
- respect different views.

KEY WORDS

money · wealth · want · need · value
· good life

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: financial wellbeing.
Geography: quality of life. Maths:
ranking data.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to
think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose
a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree,
add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Good-life ranking cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Keep discussion general. Do not compare
families' money or possessions.

ACTIVITY 03 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Share the twelve good-life cards for ranking.	<i>“What did you notice?”</i>
8–20 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>“Which question is most interesting to talk about?”</i>
20–44 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other’s ideas.	<i>“Can money buy happiness?”</i>
44–50 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>“Has your thinking changed?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Argue whether money can buy happiness, with an example.

ACTIVITY 03 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Research on wellbeing suggests that relationships and meaning matter a great deal for happiness, alongside having enough to meet basic needs.

The difference between having enough and having more is central to the question.

Common ideas to listen for

- “More money always means more happiness.” The link is not simple.
- “Money doesn’t matter at all.” Having enough matters.
- “Everyone ranks things the same way.” Values differ.

Adapting the activity

Support

Rank six cards.

Stretch

Compare your ranking with how adverts rank things.

WORKSHEET 1

Good life ranking

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Rank.

Good life ranking

Rank	Card	Reason

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

What makes a life a good life? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Can Money Buy Happiness? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Happiness and the Good Life programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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