

WHO DECIDES ABOUT WHAT?

This is a card game [for cards see following pages]. The purpose is to explore the different types of organisations involved in determining our lives, locally to globally. It can be used to support a 'most likely to' matching exercise but very soon young people will realise the complexity of the web. It can be developed to ask 'who is accountable to whom?'. It can be made simpler by taking three or four decisions and looking at them in detail.

A number of possible approaches are suggested below.

Activities

☐ Sorting activities

Before attempting the matching activity it may be useful to try out a number of sorting activities using each set of cards. The aim of these activities would be to encourage students to think about the nature of the activity or organisation and to group it with others of a comparable nature.

For example, either set of cards could be grouped according to scale [eg local, national etc]. A grid, as shown opposite, could support a more sophisticated grouping activity.

Action cards could also be sorted by decision-making process, eg will the action need a one-off decision or a regular review?

A sliding scale for example, illustrating different types of process, could support a more in-depth discussion about decision-making processes.

☐ Matching activity

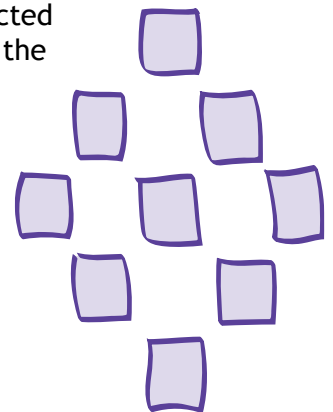
Students to match action cards with a 'most likely to' decision-maker. Some of the decision-maker cards will match to more than one action. Some action cards will require several decision-makers to match with.

Who is managing our lives?			
	Governments and councils	Non-government organizations	Companies
Very local			
Local			
County			
Regional			
National			
European			
Global			

☐ Ranking activities

Students could choose nine action cards that, for example, their local council or National Government could have some responsibility for. They could then rank these actions according to:

- number of people affected by a decision [most at the top]
- financial implications [high budget decisions at the top]
- issue/urgency [issue that might be of highest concern at the top].



TO CENSOR A
FILM

TO CLOSE A
SCHOOL

TO REDUCE
WORLD
POVERTY

TO PREVENT
FLOODS ON A
RIVER

TO SUPPLY
WATER TO
HOUSES

TO FINE A
COMPANY FOR
POLLUTION

TO ALLOW TAX-
FREE TRADE

TO INCREASE
STREET
LIGHTING

MORE POLICE
ON THE
STREETS

TO
INVESTIGATE A
CURE FOR AIDS

TO ALLOW
A NEW
SUPERSTORE

TAKE CARE OF
HURRICANE
VICTIMS

TO REDUCE
GREENHOUSE
GASES

TO SEND IN
PEACEKEEPING
TROOPS
[eg BORDER
DISPUTES]

TO MAKE CHILD
LABOUR LAWS

THE NUMBER
OF BEDS IN A
HOSPITAL

TO CLOSE A
LOCAL POST
OFFICE

MONITOR
EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES

TO BUILD A
MOTORWAY

HOW OFTEN
TO COLLECT
DUSTBINS

THE ROUTES OF
BUSES

TO PROVIDE
HOMES FOR
REFUGEES

TO CLEAN UP
A MAJOR OIL
SPILLAGE

TO ALLOW
EXPERIMENTAL
GM FOOD
CROPS

PROVIDE LOW-
COST HOMES
FOR YOUNG

TO ALLOW
PEOPLE
TO TRAVEL
ABROAD

TO GIVE A
GRANT FOR A
NEW FACTORY

TO DECIDE
WHO PAYS FOR
PRESCRIPTIONS

COUNTY
COUNCIL

EUROPEAN
FREE TRADE
ASSOCIATION

REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

UK NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT

THE
EUROPEAN
UNION

ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY

CHARITIES
[eg OXFAM]

CITY COUNCIL

WATER
COMPANIES
[eg SEVERN TRENT,
SOUTH STAFFS
WATER]

UNITED
NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL
REFUGEE FUND

UNITED
NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL

HIGH STREET
STORES
[eg MARKS &
SPENCER, VIRGIN,
NEXT, BOOTS]

COUNTY
COUNCIL

PARISH
COUNCIL

LOW PAY UNIT

WORLD BANK

INTER-
GOVERNMENT
CONFERENCE
ON
ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL
MOVEMENTS
[eg GREENPEACE,
FRIENDS OF THE
EARTH]

OIL COMPANIES
[eg SHELL, BP,
EXXON]

BUS COMPANIES
[eg ARRIVA, PMT]

NATIONAL
TRUST

DISTRICT
COUNCIL

COUNCIL OF
EUROPE

TRADING
STANDARDS
OFFICE

HEALTH TRUSTS

CHARITIES FOR
HEALTH
[eg NATIONAL
CANCER RELIEF]

SUPERMARKETS
[eg SAFEWAY, TESCO,
ASDA, SAINSBURY]

HOUSING
ASSOCIATION