

Lesson 3 What does the government spend?

Starter

Ask students to rank the following areas of government spending.

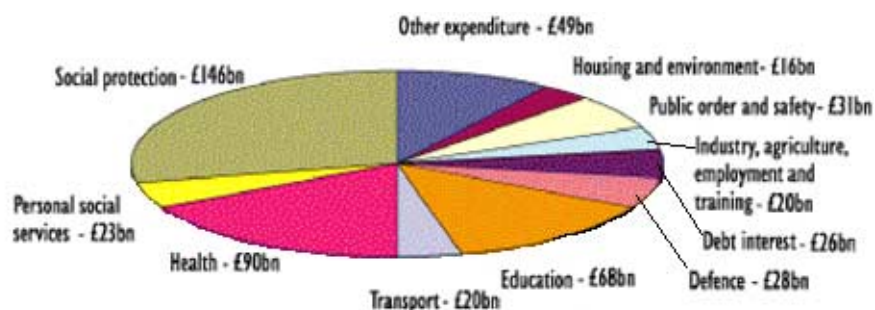
1 – most important
10 – least important

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|--|
| Health |
| Social protection |
| Housing and environment |
| Public order and safety |
| Debt interest |
| Transport |
| Defence |
| Education |
| Personal social services |
| Industry, agriculture, employment and training |

Main activity

Students use R4 – How does the government spend its money? to consider their own and the governments priorities.

The pie chart below shows how the money is actually allocated. The information will be useful in the discussion following group decisions about how they think the money is spent.



Source: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk 2005

Plenary

Give students actual figures and compare with their expectations. What are the differences and similarities?

Did their ideas differ? If so why? What are the government's motives?