Best buys: fact sheet

Planner week 11 · Learn these facts

Price for one

4 for £1.80

180p ÷ 4 = 45p each

Divide the price by the amount

Lowest price for one wins

Amount for £1

400 g for £5

400 ÷ 5 = 80 g per £1

Divide the amount by the price

Most for £1 wins

Same amount

2 bags = 40 litres

3 bags = 120 litres

compare per litre

Or scale both to the same size

e.g. both to 120 litres

Offers

3 for the price of 2

3 bottles for 2 × 75p

Work out what you actually pay

Then the price for one

% off

20% off £5

£5 × 0.8 = £4

Find the new price first

Then compare

Extra free

400 g plus 30% extra

400 × 1.3 = 520 g

Find the new amount first

Price stays the same

Two currencies

7.20 francs, £1 = 1.25 fr

7.20 ÷ 1.25 = £5.76

Change to the same currency

Same units too: litres or gallons

Which wins?

Price for 1	lowest wins
Amount for £1	most wins
Same amount	cheapest wins

Key words

- **Value for money** the most for your money
- **Unit price** the cost of one item, 1 g or 1 litre
- **Offer** a deal such as 3 for 2
- **Exchange rate** how many of one currency for 1 of another

Exam tips

- Always compare the **same thing**: price per gram, per litre or per item.
- Change to the same units first (pence or pounds, litres or gallons).
- Work out offers carefully: what do you pay, what do you get?
- Show every division: “you must show how you get your answer”.
- Write a sentence at the end: “The 8 pack, because 40p < 45p”.
- Keep the decimals until the end, then compare.

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Worked example

QUESTION

Rolls are sold in three pack sizes.

4 rolls for £1.80 8 rolls for £3.20 12 rolls for £6.00

Which pack is the best value? You must show your working.

ANSWER

1. Change to pence and find the price of one roll:
2. 4 for 180p: 180 ÷ 4 = 45p each
3. 8 for 320p: 320 ÷ 8 = 40p each
4. 12 for 600p: 600 ÷ 12 = 50p each

The pack of 8 (40p each is the cheapest)

Find the price for one of each, then compare.

How to do it

1. Work out any offer first: the price you pay and the amount you get.
2. Change to the same units (pence, grams, litres).
3. Divide price ÷ amount for each option.
4. Smallest price for one is the best value.
5. Write your answer with the numbers that prove it.

Model answer:

The pack of 8 (40p each is the cheapest)

Watch out

- Comparing totals for different amounts.
- Mixing pence and pounds.
- Giving an answer with no working.