

Bridging Unit Tasks: Finance 2020

Bridging Unit Challenge Points	Tasks
20	<p>Article for consideration: Read the article “Debit card payments more popular than cash” from the BBC website - https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-44496513. Having read the article, write some comments on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the use of debit cards on the rise? • What advantages do debit cards have over cash? • What disadvantages to debit cards have compared to cash?
20	<p>Research Task: What is money?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think “money” is? Write your own definition of what you think money is. What does the word money mean to you? • Research - What are the key characteristics of money? What does money have to be/what key features does it have to have to gain acceptance in modern society?
30	<p>Current Affairs Research:</p> <p>Research the answers and provide evidence for the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the current rate of inflation? • What types of things does inflation affect? • What is the current interest rate set by the Bank of England? • How might interest rates affect both SAVERS and BORROWERS? • What is meant by an economic boom and what types of things happen within the economy when there is a boom? • What is meant by the word recession and what types of things happen within the economy when there is a recession?
40	<p>Using sources: Using the source below, explain in your own words what “bartering” is. Why would someone using bartering?</p> <p>Source - Bartering in early history (https://study.libf.ac.uk)</p> <p>Consider an example from California in 1841. A farmer needs nails to be able to mend the wooden roof of his home. This need is important to him because winter is approaching and without the nails the roof will let the rain in and the heat out. The farmer specialises in growing wheat and producing flour. He can spare some flour to offer in exchange for nails. He therefore travels to the local blacksmith.</p> <p>The blacksmith makes nails. He does not grow wheat himself and therefore does not produce his own flour. He needs flour to be able to make bread. When the farmer arrives at the forge, the blacksmith is willing to give him nails in exchange for flour. Now they must decide how much flour each nail is worth. The farmer has brought a wooden jug with him to measure out the flour. He starts by offering the blacksmith enough flour to fill the jug once for each nail. The blacksmith does not agree. Each nail took him an hour to make using skills he has built up over 15 years. He asks for four jugs of flour for each nail. After discussing the relative value of flour and nails for nearly an hour, the farmer and the blacksmith agree on two jugs of flour per nail and exchange their goods.</p>
60	<p>Essay writing:</p> <p>Write an essay - “Can we survive without the use of money?” In the essay you need to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using money in modern society.</p>
60	<p>Research/Essay writing/Referencing:</p> <p>There are many newspaper articles which highlight the fact that bills, in particular utility bills – gas and electric, are rising much faster than income. Using and referencing some articles you have researched on this topic, write an essay on the reasons for this. Focus on the essay question - “What problems are caused by bills going up faster than income?”</p>