

FASHION

Q: CAN OUR FASHION CHOICES IMPACT OUR FINANCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To recognise the impact that fast fashion can have on our finances and the environment

To understand the importance of making informed decisions when buying clothing

MATERIALS

You could introduce the topic by using questions 3-7 from the *Responsible Consumerism* quiz.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION PLANNING FRAMEWORK LINKS

I recognise that being a critical consumer can help me make responsible saving and spending choices and that my choices may affect other people (11-14 years)

I can describe how I can exercise both my rights and responsibilities as a consumer of goods and services (14-16 years)

ACTIVITY

Explain that it's important to make informed spending choices to ensure we're making the best decisions for our individual circumstances. It can help to think about both sides of an argument when making decisions.

Debate question: Is 'fast fashion' clothing a sensible investment?

Divide the class in half. One half of the class should research reasons to argue yes. The other half should research reasons for no.

Reasons for 'yes' might include:

- low prices
- keeping up with the latest trends is now affordable - an opportunity to have a new outfit for every occasion without having to save up a lot
- can choose to invest your money in other products and not spend lots of money on clothes
- can buy online and receive by next day delivery so no need to spend money travelling to the shops
- can pass down or give to charity any clothes that you no longer wear

Reasons for 'no' might include:

- poor quality so clothing doesn't last long
- pressure to buy new clothing to always keep up with the trends
- a lot of the clothing is one wear only and then it goes to charity or landfill
- most fast fashion is not recyclable due to the low quality of materials used
- fast fashion is not a good investment for the future of the environment

Then hold a class debate. Following the debate, ask the young people whether they would make different spending choices now they've heard both sides of the argument.

CHALLENGE PORTFOLIO ENTRY OPTION

Task the young people with writing an article or blog, or creating a flyer, to encourage people to make informed spending choices when considering whether to buy fast fashion clothing. What are the financial implications and the environmental implications – does one outweigh the other? Once they've created their campaign material, remind them to complete their *Challenge Summary Sheet* too.