

Best Buys and Value for Money

Maths

Level 2

Exam-style practice · 11 questions · 35 marks · Calculator allowed

Remember

Unit price: price $\div$ quantity gives the cost of one unit (per gram, per litre, per item). Lowest unit price = best value. Compare in the same units – convert kg to g if the packs are mixed.

Or quantity per pound: quantity $\div$ price. Highest = best value. Either method earns the marks as long as you use it consistently.

Offers: '3 for 2' = pay for 2, get 3 $\rightarrow$ each costs $\frac{2}{3}$ of the price. 'Buy one get one half price' = 2 for $1.5 \times$ price. Work out the actual cost of what you need, not the theoretical saving.

Always finish with a sentence: 'The 2.5 kg bag is best value at 28p per 100 g.'

Section A – Unit prices

1. Washing-up liquid: 500 ml for £1.20, 750 ml for £1.65, 1.2 litres for £2.76. Which is the best value? Show the price per 100 ml for each. (3 marks)

2. Rice: 1 kg for £1.85, 2.5 kg for £4.20, 10 kg for £15.90. Which is best value, and which is worst? (3 marks)

3. Coffee pods: box of 10 for £3.20, box of 16 for £4.99, box of 40 for £11.60. Work out the cost per pod for each and rank them. (3 marks)

Section B – Offers

4. A shirt costs £24. Shop A: '3 for 2'. Shop B: '25% off everything'. Jo needs 3 shirts. Which shop is cheaper, and by how much? (3 marks)

5. Shampoo is £3.60 a bottle. Shop C: buy one get one half price. Shop D: 4 for £11. Priya wants 4 bottles. Where should she buy? (3 marks)

6. A £45 pair of trainers: Shop E takes £10 off; Shop F takes 20% off; Shop G offers 'pay £30 now and £9 next month'. Which is cheapest? (3 marks)

7. Batteries: pack of 4 for £3.99, or pack of 12 for £9.99 with 'buy 2 packs get a third free'. Sam needs 36 batteries. What is the cheapest way to buy them? (4 marks)

Section C – Mixed

8. A café buys milk: 2-litre bottles at £1.45 or 6-pint bottles at £2.10 (1 pint $\approx$ 0.57 litres). Which is better value per litre? (3 marks)

9. Printer paper: a ream of 500 sheets for £4.50, or a box of 5 reams for £19.95. The office uses 3 reams a month. Over a year, how much does buying boxes save? (3 marks)

10. A phone: £399 outright, or £29 a month for 24 months with no upfront cost. How much more does the contract cost, and what percentage more is that? (3 marks)

11. Two garages: A charges £58 an hour plus parts at cost. B charges £45 an hour plus parts at cost plus 10%. A repair needs 2.5 hours and £120 of parts. Which garage is cheaper? (4 marks)

Best Buys and Value for Money – Answers

Level 2 · Working shown so you can check your method, not just the final number.

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Section A

- 500 ml: 24p per 100 ml. 750 ml: 22p. 1.2 L: 23p. **The 750 ml bottle is best value.**
- Per kg: £1.85, £1.68, £1.59. **10 kg best, 1 kg worst.**
- 32p, 31.2p, 29p per pod. Rank: **40-box, 16-box, 10-box.**

Section B

- A: $2 \times 24 = £48$. B: $3 \times 24 \times 0.75 = £54$. **Shop A** is cheaper by **£6**.
- C: two pairs at $3.60 + 1.80 = £5.40$ each pair $\rightarrow £10.80$. D: £11. **Shop C** (by 20p).
- E: £35. F: £36. G: £39. **Shop E.**
- Option 1: 9 packs of 4 = £35.91. Option 2: 3 packs of 12 – pay for 2 = £19.98. **Three 12-packs for £19.98.**

Section C

- 2 L bottle: 72.5p per litre. 6 pints = 3.42 litres: $2.10 \div 3.42 = 61.4p$ per litre. **The 6-pint bottle is better value.**
- 36 reams a year. Singly: £162. Boxes: $36 \div 5 = 7.2 \rightarrow 8$ boxes = £159.60 (with 4 reams spare) – saves £2.40. Or 7 boxes + 1 ream = $139.65 + 4.50 = £144.15$ – saves **£17.85**. Accept either with working; the second is the better answer.
- Contract: $24 \times 29 = £696$. Extra = £297. $297 \div 399 \times 100 = \mathbf{74\% \text{ more}}$.
- A: $2.5 \times 58 + 120 = £265$. B: $2.5 \times 45 + 132 = £244.50$. **Garage B** is cheaper.

Where Level 2 students lose marks on this topic

- Comparing 500 ml with 1.2 litres without converting to the same unit.
- Working out what an offer saves in theory instead of what the shopper actually pays for what they need.
- Listing unit prices but never writing the conclusion – the final mark is for the decision.