



Societal and Governmental Priorities

Part 1

A. Read the explanation of priorities. Then look at Sam’s list of tasks for the week, which she numbered in order of priority. What are possible reasons for the way she numbered them?

When you organize tasks in order of priority, you organize them in order of importance. You can do this in two ways: you can make a list of tasks you need to do and then rewrite your list in order of most to least important tasks. You can also make a list and number the tasks in order of importance. When you order the tasks on your list, think about the importance of each one, when you have to do it, and how much time you need to do it.

Tasks for this Week

5. Buy a present for Kaya's birthday party next week
2. Make a dental appointment for next month
3. Finish my history essay – due on Thursday
6. Buy new jeans
1. Take out garbage – garbage collection day is tomorrow
4. Plan math project – due in two weeks

B. List your tasks for the week. Consider the importance of each task, when it has to be done, and how much time you need to do it. Then share your list with a partner.

Tasks for this Week



Secondary

Part 2

A. Work in groups. Look at the chart of proposed projects for a city. Different people want the city government to start these projects in the next year. Number the projects in order of importance. Consider the time and the cost of each project.

Priority	Proposed Project	Reason	Taxpayer Cost	Time
_____	Change all large buildings to solar energy.	Solar energy is cleaner and cheaper than fossil fuel energy.	\$400 million	5 years
_____	Build a new high school and middle school.	Residents on west side of city want schools closer to their neighborhoods.	\$30 million	2 years
_____	Change garbage landfill to recycling plant and playground.	Landfills pollute air and water and are unattractive. Children in low-income neighborhoods play near landfills.	\$800 million	4 years
_____	Build a large dog park.	Many people want a safe place for their dogs to run and play.	\$500,000	6 months
_____	Plant trees along Main Street.	The city would be more beautiful and the street would look more eco-friendly.	\$800,000	4 months
_____	Paint all the houses in low-income neighborhoods and housing projects.	Neighborhoods would look better and houses would have more value.	\$300,000	2 months
_____	Fix old bridges.	Old bridges may be dangerous.	\$8 million	1 year
_____	Build an amusement park.	It would help the economy because visitors would come from other towns.	\$4 million	2 years



middle school
Main Street
neighborhood



the first half of secondary school
the high street
neighbourhood



Secondary

Part 3

A. As a class, look at the map and brainstorm other projects you think your city government should do to make your city a better place to live.



B. Work in groups. Choose the five most important projects from activity A and organize them in order of priority. Include reasons for your choices.

Proposed Projects	Reasons
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	



Extension

- A. Work in groups. Look at the example of a proposal by a national government. Read what some people who are *for* and *against* the proposal think. Number the reasons in each list from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important). Decide how your group would vote on a proposal like this for your country.**

Government Decentralization Policies

Situation

Government offices and institutions need to be decentralized from Capital City in order to expand working opportunities and continued economic growth.

Proposed Solution

Government will move some offices and institutions to other cities helping current officials to relocate in order to activate economies of smaller cities. This will generate an immediate impact in local real estate, commerce, and schools, among other benefits.

In Support

People in favor of the proposal think:

- _____ Living in the capital city has become increasingly more expensive. Relocating to smaller cities will help workers find a good home spending less money.
- _____ Jobs will open for local people since not everyone will want or be able to relocate. This will help reduce unemployment in smaller cities or towns.
- _____ More people moving into smaller cities will help economy because they will pay taxes locally and spend money in local stores and businesses.
- _____ Having more people and a better economy will attract external investors and large companies, so better services and/or products will be available.
- _____ People who relocate will bring new ideas and practices to their new homes, which can bring new food, art, and customs. Town's own customs and traditions can be expanded and preserved.

Potential Obstacles

People against the proposal think:

- _____ Public services from smaller towns may get saturated quickly if many people move into town at the same time.
- _____ Some people won't agree or be able to relocate, which may cause them to lose their jobs.
- _____ People who relocate will bring their "big city" mentality to town and some local customs may get affected.
- _____ People from "big cities" sometimes don't want to become part of local culture.
- _____ A better local economy may attract criminals from bigger cities to smaller ones.

- B. In groups, read a proposal by a national government. List reasons for and against the proposal. Number the reasons in each list from most important to least important. Discuss how you would vote on a proposal like this for your country.**

Conversion to Electric Cars

Situation

The country needs to change from gas-fueled cars to electric cars to save the environment and fight high gas prices.

Proposed Solution

The government plans to ban all non-electric cars in two years. The automobile factories will start making only electric cars. The government will put charging stations in major cities and along highways. Oil companies will have to change from oil production to solar or wind production in five years.