

# Decisions, Decisions!! - Session Plan

Time	Action	Description	Resources
5 min	Tutor Input	<p>Welcome and learner outcomes.</p> <p>By the end of this session you will be able to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate different options for resolving a given problem</li> <li>Use the Plus/Minus/Implications Tool for making a decision</li> </ul>	<p>Flipchart/Whiteboard</p> <p>Pens</p>
5 min	Discussion	<p>Explain – When making a decision, it is important not to go straight for the most obvious solution without considering other options. Choosing the wrong solution to a problem can result a waste of time and effort. It could also make the problem worse rather than better.</p> <p>Instead, we should identify as many options as possible before we make a decision – even those which may at first seem ridiculous! And, don't forget, we always have the option to “do nothing”.</p>	<p>Flipchart/Whiteboard</p> <p>Pens</p>
5 min	Tutor Input	<p>One method we can use to evaluate options to resolve a problem is the PMI Diagram (PMI = Plus/Minus/Implications). It's like making a list of Pros and Cons for each option, then taking it a little further by identifying what the implications of each option are. (Example PMI attached).</p> <p>But just identifying Pluses, Minuses and Implications is still quite subjective. So we can take the model further still and give each a numerical scoring (on a scale of 1-5).</p> <p>All of the Pluses will attract a positive score and Minuses will always attract a negative score. The Implications, however, could attract either a plus or minus score depending on whether they are a positive or negative implication.</p> <p>Then all you need to do is add up the scores for each option and the one with the highest number is the most effective option.</p>	<p>PMI Example</p>

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20 min	Group Activity	Break the students into groups of 4-5 and issue the Decision Scenario. They should identify 3 options for resolving the problem. Then identify and score the Pluses, Minuses and Implications. Allow 15 mins.	Flipchart paper & Pens Decision Scenario
15 min	Discussion	<p>Display student's flipcharts; allow time for them to compare their answers. Debrief with the following questions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did the final decision surprise them?</li> <li>• How useful did they find the structure of this method?</li> <li>• What types of decision could they use it for in the future?</li> </ul> <p>It is worth mentioning that although in this case, they took time out to write down the Pros and Cons of each option, often we take this approach and work it out very quickly in our heads. So it isn't necessary for this to take up a lot of time if a quick decision is needed. However, putting it onto paper helps to detach any emotions which may be connected to options and helps us to make a more objective judgment.</p>	Students flipcharts displayed around the room.
5 min	Tutor Input	<p><b>What Next?</b></p> <p>Students to think of opportunities to use this decision making model in the future. For example – when selecting which university to attend, which job they should accept.</p>	
5 min	Tutor Input	Review learner outcomes and close.	

This session meets the following Criteria/Outcomes:- PHSE KS4 NSG – 1a, 1d, 4d & 1g. S.E.A.L. – 5, 6, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29 & 30.

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## PMI – Plus Minus Implications

**Problem** – It's Wednesday afternoon and you've just been invited out to a party on Saturday night but you've got to finish off your coursework by Monday (and there's a lot of it to do!).

Solution	Plus	Minus	Implications	Total Score
1. Don't go to the party, just stay at home and do your coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coursework will be finished and handed in on time (+5)</li> <li>The coursework will be to a high quality (+4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your mates will call you a Geeky Swot (-5)</li> <li>It's THE party of the year, you can't miss it! (-4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You'll get better grades which will help you to get the University Place or Job you wanted (+4)</li> </ul>	+4
2. Go to the party and forget the coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You get to go to a really COOL party! (+4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You'll be in big trouble with teachers &amp; parents (-3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You'll have to think of a REALLY good excuse as to why the coursework is late (-3)</li> <li>You may not get the grade you wanted (-4)</li> </ul>	-6
3. Do your coursework and turn up to the party late	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your coursework will get done on time (+5)</li> <li>You get to go to the party (+5)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You'll have to make your own way to the party and not go with your mate (-3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You get to do what you want to do (+4)</li> <li>You don't get grief from parents and teachers (+4)</li> </ul>	+15
4. Rush your coursework, after all you don't really need an 'A' grade do you? Then go to the party.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You get to go to the party (+5)</li> <li>You get the coursework done (+5)</li> <li>You don't have to spend long on the coursework (+2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coursework won't be as good as you know you can normally achieve (-4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You might fail your coursework (-5)</li> <li>You might not get the Job/ University place you wanted (-5)</li> </ul>	-2
5. Plan to do a bit of coursework each day so you will have time to go to the party.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coursework gets done on time (+5)</li> <li>You get to go to the party on time (+5)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You feel like you're working on the coursework every day (-3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You produce good quality work (+4)</li> <li>You get to do everything you want (+5)</li> <li>You don't get grief from your</li> </ul>	+20

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parents or teachers (+4)

## PMI – Plus Minus Implications

**Problem** – What do you want to do when you leave school in the summer?

Solution	Plus	Minus	Implications	Total Score
1. Get a job and start earning money as soon as possible				
2. Go travelling for a while and decide what you want to do when you get back				
3. Go to University				
4. Go to a Further Education College				
5. Get on a Modern Apprenticeship Scheme so you can earn while you learn.				

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