

Teaching Plan

Title	Budget Balancing Game
Instructional Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To know the major issues and policies raised/discussed in this year's Budget ➤ To illustrate the budget negotiation process
Keywords and Concepts Illustrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Budget deficit ➤ Balanced budget ➤ Policy Area Groups
Needed Time	➤ 80 minutes
Pre-Game Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Group students into groups of 4 and study the following before attending this lesson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Analysis of Recurrent Public Expenditure by Policy Area Group (http://www.info.gov.hk/fb/estimates/2001-02/english/efile2.htm) ➤ Commentary on the Changes in Recurrent Public Expenditure in 2001-02 (http://www.info.gov.hk/fb/estimates/2001-02/english/efile3.htm) ➤ Growth in Recurrent Public Expenditure in 2001-02 in Major Policy Area Groups (http://www.info.gov.hk/fb/estimates/2001-02/english/efile4.htm) ➤ Analysis of Total Public Expenditure by Policy Area Group (http://www.info.gov.hk/fb/estimates/2001-02/english/efile5.htm)

Sessions	Details	Time Spent
Activity/ Announcement	<p>1 T: From the materials you have read, you should have an idea about the 2001-02 Budget. You should be able to see there are several policy area groups involved in the Budget. Can you name the policy area groups?</p> <p>2 Teacher writes students' answers on board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Community & External Affairs 2.2 Economic 2.3 Education 2.4 Environment & Food 2.5 Health 2.6 Housing 2.7 Infrastructure 2.8 Security 2.9 Social Welfare 2.10 Support <p>Refer to: http://www.info.gov.hk/fb/estimates/2001-02/english/efile8.htm for the key to classification of Expenditure.</p> <p>3 T: Now, I would like each group of you to be a policy area group and debate on the Budget. Are you satisfied with the budget, especially the part on your policy area? Do you want the Government to spend more on your area? However, as we know that the Basic Law requires the Government to "follow the principle of keeping expenditure within the limits of revenue of drawing the</p>	20 mins

	<p>budget, to strive to achieve a fiscal balance, avoid deficits and keep the budget commensurate with the growth rate of its gross domestic product”, you need to suggest ways for the Government to finance your request(s). There are two aims for this debate:</p> <p>3.1 To improve this budget; 3.2 To reduce the budget deficit.</p> <p>4 T: Our Financial Secretary (can invite the other Economics teacher to act as the Financial Secretary) will decide which proposal(s) he/she will take after the debate. But before his/her final decision, you will have a say to vote.</p> <p>5 T: There will be points given to the policy area group for every dollar spent on its favorite projects; but deducted for every dollar spent on other projects.</p> <p>6 T: If the revised budget results in a smaller deficit, each group will receive an extra 100 points. At the end of this game, the group that earns the highest point will be rewarded a prize.</p> <p>7 Teacher distributes flip-chart paper and marker(s) to each group for them to write their proposal. T: I will give you 10 minutes for discussion and planning. After 10 minutes, the debate will commence and you will have 30 minutes for your debate.</p> <p>8 After 10 minutes, teacher(s) facilitate(s) the debate.</p> <p>9 After the debate, vote for the proposal and the Financial Secretary discloses his/her choice. Reward students accordingly.</p> <p>10 Discussion & Teaching: 10.1 Do you know what are the other major issues raised in this Budget? 10.2 Can you suggest the reasons behind the government effort to keep the budget balanced? What would happen if our budget has deficit every year? 10.3 When will the government plan for a deficit budget?</p>	<p>10 mins</p> <p>30 mins</p> <p>20 mins</p>
Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prize for the winning group. ➤ Flipchart papers ➤ Markers enough for each group 	
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Budget deficit – if government expenditures exceed tax revenues (Parkin, 1996: 713). ➤ Balanced budget –if government expenditures equal tax revenues (Parkin, 1996: 713). 	
Roles of Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Financial Secretary 	
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Murphy, E. 1994, “A Budget Balancing Game”. <i>Classroom Experiments</i>, 3(1), Spring, Pp. 7 – 8. ➤ Leung, Man Por, 1994, <i>Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination Macroeconomics</i>, Hung Fung Book Company Ltd. ➤ Lam, Pun Lee, 1998, <i>Advanced Level Macroeconomics</i>, Macmillan Publishers (China) Ltd. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Key to Classification of Expenditure http://www.info.gov.hk/fb/estimates/2001-02/english/efile8.htm➤ Draft Estimates (English): http://www.info.gov.hk/budget01-02/draftf.html➤ Draft Estimates (Chinese): http://www.info.gov.hk/budget01-02/draftfc.html➤ Budget Highlight (Chinese): http://www.info.gov.hk/budget01-02/bgtligfc.html➤ Budget Highlight (English): http://www.info.gov.hk/budget01-02/bgtligf.html➤ Principles: http://www.info.gov.hk/fb/budget/budget02-03/budget-consultation/pdf/e_budget_principles.pdf	
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