shine

Maths: teacher notes

25–40 minutes · Supports Gatsby Benchmark 4: linking curriculum learning to careers

Myth

Maths only matters if you want to be an accountant.

Truth

Your first payslip is maths — and so are most skilled jobs.

Learning objectives

- Multiply decimals in a real context (hourly pay).
- Compare amounts and calculate differences.
- Understand how UK minimum wage changes with age.

Lesson plan

5 min	Slide 1–2: myth vs truth. Introduce the three official rates (source: GOV.UK, from 1 April 2026).
15 min	Slide 3: questions 1–2 on the student sheet. Calculators optional.
5 min	Stretch question for faster finishers.
5 min	Slide 4–5: link to jobs; exit question.

Answers and guidance

- Q1 weekly (16 h): £128.00 / £173.60 / £203.36.
- Q2 yearly (1,950 h): £15,600.00 / £21,157.50 / £24,784.50 (before tax).
- Q3: £24,784.50 − £15,600.00 = £9,184.50 more a year.
- Note: these are legal minimums; many employers pay more. Rates usually change each April — check gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates.

Free from Shine (shineai.tech/teacher-resources). Edit and share freely within your school. Pay rates: GOV.UK, from 1 April 2026.

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Pay by age: work it out

Maths · Student sheet

Name _____ Class _____

1. A Saturday job is 16 hours a week. Find the weekly pay on each rate.
2. Full time is 37.5 hours a week for 52 weeks. Find the yearly pay on each rate.
3. Stretch: how much more a year does a 21-year-old earn than a 17-year-old?

Q1 Weekly pay for 16 hours: £8.00 / £10.85 / £12.71

Q2 Yearly pay for 37.5 hours × 52 weeks on each rate

Q3 Stretch: difference between the 21+ and under-18 yearly pay

Exit question: which job uses this maths?

Want a plan for your own route?

Free for 16–24s: shineai.tech/signup

Optional — scan the code if you want to explore.