finly

FOR TEACHERS

Teacher Guide

A curriculum sequence for classrooms and afterschool programs, ages 13–17

82 lessons in sequence	**2** core tracks	**10** questions in the pre/post check

TWO WAYS THROUGH

Essentials
48 lessons · 7 hr 58 min of lesson time
Both core tracks plus the recommended Foundations and Application lessons.

Full sequence
82 lessons · 13 hr 20 min of lesson time
Every lesson in all four sections.

CONTENTS

SECTION 1

Introduction

This guide puts Finly's lesson library into a teaching order. It is built for teachers running a full course, a unit inside another class, or an afterschool pilot.

Every lesson listed here already exists on Finly and can be assigned to a class. The guide doesn't add lesson content. It tells you what to teach, in what order, and which parts you can trim when time is short.

How to use this guide

1. Give the pre-assessment before the first lesson.
2. Choose your Foundations lessons, then teach the Economics Track and the Personal Finance Track in full.
3. Add General Application lessons as time allows.
4. Give the identical post-assessment after the last lesson and compare scores.

The core of the curriculum

The Economics Track and the Personal Finance Track form the core of the curriculum. Complete both in full, or as close to it as your schedule allows. Foundations and General Application are recommended but flexible: pick from them based on the time you have.

What students will learn

Foundations	Explain opportunity cost, separate needs from wants, and split take-home pay with a simple budget.
Economics	Explain how every economy answers what, how, and for whom to produce; use supply and demand to predict price changes; read GDP, unemployment, and inflation figures; describe how fiscal and monetary policy respond to the economy; explain why countries trade.
Personal Finance	Compare bank accounts and financial institutions, calculate simple and compound interest, explain what builds a credit score, weigh the costs and benefits of borrowing, and describe how risk, return, and diversification shape investing.
Application	Build and critique a spending plan, read a pay stub and a basic tax return, and plan for costs after high school such as college, rent, and insurance.

Pacing

Minutes are each lesson's own reading estimate. They don't include the lesson quiz or class discussion.

SECTION	TYPE	ESSENTIALS	FULL SEQUENCE
Foundations	Flexible	4 lessons · 31 min	8 lessons · 1 hr 1 min
Economics Track	**Core**	14 lessons · 2 hr 39 min	14 lessons · 2 hr 39 min
Personal Finance Track	**Core**	20 lessons · 3 hr 6 min	20 lessons · 3 hr 6 min
General Application	Flexible	10 lessons · 1 hr 42 min	40 lessons · 6 hr 34 min
Total		**48 lessons · 7 hr 58 min**	**82 lessons · 13 hr 20 min**

Setting up your class

1. Create a free teacher account at learnfinly.com.
2. Open My Classes, choose New class, and select Ages 13–17.
3. Share the six-character class code. Students join at learnfinly.com/join.
4. Open the class and use Assign a lesson for each lesson you teach. A due date is optional.
5. Check the class page to see how many students have completed each assigned lesson.

How completion is recorded

A lesson counts as complete only when a student finishes its quiz and answers at least half of the multiple-choice questions correctly. Reading the lesson isn't enough on its own: students should open the lesson quiz (the "Open full quiz mode" link at the end of each lesson) before moving on.

Pre- and post-assessment

Give this assessment before the first lesson, and give the identical version after the last lesson. Don't go over the answers with students in between. Score one point per question and compare each student's two totals.

The student pages follow this section and are repeated at the end of the guide. The answer key, with a short explanation and source for each question, is on the last pages so it isn't copied with the student pages.

FINANCIAL LITERACY CHECK

Pre-assessment

Name ____________________ Class ____________ Date ________

Circle the letter of the best answer. This is not graded. It helps your teacher see what the class already knows.

1. Priya has a free Saturday afternoon. She could babysit for $60, watch her cousin's soccer match, or practice piano. Her first choice is the match, her second choice is babysitting, and her last choice is piano. She picks the game. Which of these is Priya's opportunity cost?

- (A) Nothing, because watching the match didn't cost her any money
- (B) The $60 she could have earned babysitting
- (C) The $60 from babysitting plus the piano practice
- (D) The fun she had watching the match

2. Marcus takes home $2,400 a month after taxes. Which way of dividing that money matches the 50/30/20 rule of thumb for budgeting?

- (A) Needs $1,200, wants $720, savings and debt payoff $480
- (B) Savings and debt payoff $1,200, wants $720, needs $480
- (C) Needs $800, wants $800, savings and debt payoff $800
- (D) Needs $1,200, wants $480, savings and debt payoff $720

3. In the country of Norvale, private businesses decide what to make and what to charge, and people choose their own jobs. The government also runs public schools, builds highways, and sets workplace safety rules. Which term best describes Norvale's economy?

- (A) Traditional economy
- (B) Command economy
- (C) Pure market economy
- (D) Mixed economy

4. Suppose a hailstorm destroys much of this year's apple harvest, while about as many shoppers as usual still want to buy apples. How will apple prices most likely change?

- (A) It rises, because the supply fell while demand stayed the same
- (B) It falls, because farmers need to sell the apples that are left quickly
- (C) No change, since demand didn't change
- (D) It rises, because more people now want apples

5. **A news report says the Consumer Price Index rose 3% over the past year. What does this figure mean?**
   - (A) Average wages went up by 3%
   - (B) On average, the things consumers regularly buy cost about 3% more than they did a year earlier
   - (C) The country produced 3% more goods and services
   - (D) Every item in stores now costs exactly 3% more

6. **The Federal Reserve decides to nudge its main short-term interest rate target upward. Which change is a household most likely to notice in the months that follow?**
   - (A) An automatic cut in federal income tax rates
   - (B) Prices of everything in stores falling right away
   - (C) Banks no longer being allowed to make car loans
   - (D) Higher interest rates on variable-rate loans and credit cards, so borrowing costs more

7. **You put $1,000 into each of two accounts and make no withdrawals. Account A pays 10% simple interest per year. Account B pays 10% interest compounded once per year. How much is in each account after 2 years?**
   - (A) A: $1,200 and B: $1,200
   - (B) A: $1,200 and B: $1,210
   - (C) A: $1,210 and B: $1,200
   - (D) A: $1,100 and B: $1,210

8. **Alex just got a first credit card. Which habit will do the most to build a strong FICO Score over time?**
   - (A) Checking the score every week
   - (B) Leaving part of the balance unpaid each month to show the card is being used
   - (C) Making each payment by its due date, month after month
   - (D) Applying for several new cards at the same time

9. **Productive debt is borrowing that can build future income or value. Which of these fits that description best?**
   - (A) Putting concert tickets and takeout on a credit card you can't pay off this month
   - (B) Taking out a payday loan to buy new sneakers
   - (C) Borrowing to finish a certificate program that qualifies you for a higher-paying job
   - (D) Paying for a vacation in monthly installments over two years

10. **Jordan wants to invest $500 and not touch it for many years. Which choice does the most to limit the damage if one company does badly?**
   - (A) Buying shares of one well-known company
   - (B) Splitting the money between two technology companies
   - (C) Buying a broad stock index fund that holds shares of hundreds of companies
   - (D) Putting all of it into a single cryptocurrency

SECTION 2

Foundations

FLEXIBLE · CHOOSE BY TIME

The on-ramp: money, choices, and first budgeting and saving ideas. Choose the lessons your students need before the core tracks.

8 lessons · 1 hr 1 min in total · 4 recommended · 31 min

> Making Choices with Money is written for ages 8–12. It's included because it is the best treatment of opportunity cost in Finly's library, even though it is tagged for a younger age band. No lesson for ages 13–17 covers the idea in the same depth.

MONEY & CHOICES

3 lessons · 21 min

☐	1	What Is Money? learnfinly.com/learn/what-is-money WRITTEN FOR AGES 8–12	OPTIONAL	7 min
☐	2	Needs vs Wants learnfinly.com/learn/needs-vs-wants WRITTEN FOR AGES 8–12	OPTIONAL	7 min
☐	3	Making Choices with Money learnfinly.com/learn/making-choices-with-money WRITTEN FOR AGES 8–12	RECOMMENDED	7 min

INCOME & BUDGETING BASICS

3 lessons · 24 min

☐	4	Understanding Your Income learnfinly.com/learn/understanding-your-income	RECOMMENDED	8 min
☐	5	The 50/30/20 Rule learnfinly.com/learn/the-50-30-20-rule	RECOMMENDED	8 min
☐	6	Tracking Your Money learnfinly.com/learn/tracking-your-money	OPTIONAL	8 min

SAVING BASICS

2 lessons · 16 min

☐	7	Short vs Long-Term Goals learnfinly.com/learn/short-vs-long-term-goals	OPTIONAL	8 min
☐	8	Emergency Funds learnfinly.com/learn/emergency-funds	RECOMMENDED	8 min

SECTION 3

Economics Track

CORE · COMPLETE IN FULL

From scarcity and markets to the whole economy, government policy, and global trade.

14 lessons · 2 hr 39 min of lesson time

Core track

The Economics Track and the Personal Finance Track form the core of the curriculum. Complete both in full, or as close to it as your schedule allows. Foundations and General Application are recommended but flexible: pick from them based on the time you have.

North Carolina classrooms can add North Carolina in the US and World Economy after Economic Organizations.

SCARCITY, INCENTIVES & MARKETS

6 lessons · 1 hr 7 min

- [ ] 9 **Types of Economies: How Societies Answer Three Big Questions** — 12 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-e11-types-of-economies
- [ ] 10 **Incentives and Profits: Why People and Businesses Do What They Do** — 10 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-e14-incentives-and-profits
- [ ] 11 **Supply and Demand: The Engine Behind Every Price** — 12 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-e13-supply-and-demand
- [ ] 12 **Market Structures: Who Really Controls the Price?** — 12 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-e12-market-structures
- [ ] 13 **Microeconomic Indicators: Reading the Numbers Behind Individual Markets** — 10 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-e22-microeconomic-indicators
- [ ] 14 **Consumer Impact on the Economy: Your Spending Is Economic Policy** — 11 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-cc13-consumer-impact-on-economy

INSTITUTIONS & THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

2 lessons · 22 min

- [ ] 15 **Legal Structure and Property Rights: The Foundation of Economic Growth** — 11 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-e31-legal-structure-and-property-rights
- [ ] 16 **Regulation: When Government Steps Into the Market** — 11 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-e32-regulation

THE WHOLE ECONOMY

4 lessons · 47 min

- [ ] 17 **Macroeconomic Indicators: Taking the Economy's Vital Signs** — 12 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-e21-macroeconomic-indicators
- [ ] 18 **Inflation: Why $100 Today Isn't $100 Tomorrow** — 10 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/inflation-explained
- [ ] 19 **Fiscal and Monetary Policy: How Government Steers the Economy** — 13 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-e23-fiscal-and-monetary-policy
- [ ] 20 **Taxes and Government Services: Where the Money Goes** — 12 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-e33-taxes-and-government-services

TRADE & THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

2 lessons · 23 min

- [ ] 21 **Trade and Interdependence: Why Countries Don't Do Everything Themselves** — 12 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-e41-trade-and-interdependence
- [ ] 22 **Economic Organizations: The Institutions That Shape Global Trade** — 11 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-e24-economic-organizations

SECTION 4

Personal Finance Track

CORE · COMPLETE IN FULL

Banking, interest, credit, debt, and the basics of investing.

20 lessons · 3 hr 6 min of lesson time

Core track

The Economics Track and the Personal Finance Track form the core of the curriculum. Complete both in full, or as close to it as your schedule allows. Foundations and General Application are recommended but flexible: pick from them based on the time you have.

BANKING

3 lessons · 27 min

- [ ] 23 How Banks Make Money — 8 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/how-banks-make-money
- [ ] 24 Types of Accounts — 8 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/types-of-accounts
- [ ] 25 Using Financial Services: Choosing the Right Institution for Your Money — 11 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-mcm21-using-financial-services

INTEREST

3 lessons · 27 min

- [ ] 26 Savings Accounts and Interest — 8 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/savings-accounts-and-interest
- [ ] 27 Compound Interest — 8 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/compound-interest
- [ ] 28 Interest and Fees: What Financial Institutions Actually Charge You — 11 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-mcm22-interest-and-fees

CREDIT

4 lessons · 35 min

- [ ] 29 Payment Methods: Cash, Cards, and Digital: Choosing the Right Tool — 10 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-mcm23-payment-methods
- [ ] 30 How Credit Scores Work and Why They Matter — 9 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/how-credit-scores-work
- [ ] 31 Credit Cards: How They Work — 8 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/credit-cards-how-they-work

- [ ] 32 **Building Credit as a Teen—Legally** — 8 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/building-credit-as-a-teen

DEBT

4 lessons · 42 min

- [ ] 33 **What Is Debt?** — 8 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/what-is-debt
- [ ] 34 **Credit Sources: Where Borrowing Comes From and What It Costs** — 11 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-mcm31-credit-sources
- [ ] 35 **Debt Pros and Cons: When Borrowing Makes Sense and When It Doesn't** — 11 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-mcm33-debt-pros-and-cons
- [ ] 36 **Debt Management: Strategies for Getting Out and Staying Out** — 12 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-mcm32-debt-management

INVESTING BASICS

6 lessons · 55 min

- [ ] 37 **What Is Investing?** — 8 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/what-is-investing
- [ ] 38 **Risk and Return** — 8 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/risk-and-return
- [ ] 39 **Stocks, Bonds, and Funds** — 8 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/stocks-bonds-and-funds
- [ ] 40 **Index Funds Explained for Beginners** — 9 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/index-funds-for-beginners
- [ ] 41 **Investing Strategies: Growing Wealth Beyond a Paycheck** — 13 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-fp11-investing-strategies
- [ ] 42 **What a 401k Is and Why to Start at 18** — 9 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/what-is-a-401k

SECTION 5

General Application

FLEXIBLE · CHOOSE BY TIME

Real-world practice that draws on both core tracks. Start with the recommended lessons and add units that fit your students.

40 lessons · 6 hr 34 min in total · 10 recommended · 1 hr 42 min

BUDGETING IN PRACTICE

4 lessons · 39 min

☐	43	Creating a Spending Plan: Your Money With Intention learnfinly.com/learn/epf-mcm11-creating-a-spending-plan	RECOMMENDED	12 min
☐	44	Critiquing Spending Plans: Finding the Leaks and Fixing the Logic learnfinly.com/learn/epf-mcm12-critiquing-spending-plans	RECOMMENDED	11 min
☐	45	Irregular Income learnfinly.com/learn/irregular-income	OPTIONAL	8 min
☐	46	Budgeting for a Goal learnfinly.com/learn/budgeting-for-a-goal	OPTIONAL	8 min

SAVING & INVESTING STRATEGIES

4 lessons · 31 min

☐	47	The Pay Yourself First Method learnfinly.com/learn/the-pay-yourself-first-method	RECOMMENDED	8 min
☐	48	What Net Worth Means and How to Track Yours learnfinly.com/learn/net-worth-and-tracking	OPTIONAL	7 min
☐	49	Starting to Invest as a Teen learnfinly.com/learn/starting-to-invest-as-a-teen	OPTIONAL	8 min
☐	50	How to Invest Your First $100 learnfinly.com/learn/how-to-invest-your-first-100	RECOMMENDED	8 min

PAYCHECKS & TAXES

5 lessons · 47 min

☐	51	Reading Your First Pay Stub learnfinly.com/learn/reading-your-pay-stub	RECOMMENDED	9 min
☐	52	Tax Form Preparation: Filing Your First Return learnfinly.com/learn/epf-ie23-tax-form-preparation	RECOMMENDED	13 min
☐	53	Federal vs State Taxes Explained Simply learnfinly.com/learn/federal-vs-state-taxes	OPTIONAL	8 min

- [ ] 54 **Side Hustles: Taxes and Tracking Income** — OPTIONAL — 9 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/side-hustles-taxes-and-income
- [ ] 55 **Negotiating Your First Salary** — OPTIONAL — 8 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/negotiating-your-first-salary

EVERYDAY BANKING

2 lessons · 16 min

- [ ] 56 **Opening Your First Bank Account** — OPTIONAL — 8 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/opening-your-first-bank-account
- [ ] 57 **Digital Banking and Fintech** — OPTIONAL — 8 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/digital-banking-and-fintech

PAYING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

6 lessons · 1 hr 7 min

- [ ] 58 **Education, Income, Career, and Lifestyle: How Your Choices Compound** — OPTIONAL — 12 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-ie11-education-income-career-lifestyle
- [ ] 59 **Career and Education Options: Finding the Path That Fits** — OPTIONAL — 12 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-ie12-career-education-options
- [ ] 60 **Postsecondary Costs and Income: Calculating What College Actually Costs** — RECOMMENDED — 12 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-ie13-postsecondary-costs-and-income
- [ ] 61 **Minimizing Education Costs: Every Dollar You Don't Borrow is a Dollar You Keep** — OPTIONAL — 12 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-ie14-minimizing-education-costs
- [ ] 62 **Scholarships vs Loans: The Math** — OPTIONAL — 9 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/scholarships-vs-loans-the-math
- [ ] 63 **Student Loans: What You're Actually Signing** — RECOMMENDED — 10 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/student-loans-what-youre-signing

LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

4 lessons · 40 min

- [ ] 64 **Repaying Student Loans After Graduation** — OPTIONAL — 10 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/repaying-student-loans-after-graduation
- [ ] 65 **Filing Taxes on Your Own for the First Time** — OPTIONAL — 10 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/filing-taxes-on-your-own
- [ ] 66 **Living on Your Own: Roommates, Utilities, and Repairs** — OPTIONAL — 10 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/living-on-your-own-roommates-utilities-repairs

- [ ] 67 **Your First Benefits Enrollment** — OPTIONAL — 10 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/your-first-benefits-enrollment

HOUSING & INSURANCE

7 lessons · 1 hr 11 min

- [ ] 68 **Renting Your First Apartment: What to Expect** — OPTIONAL — 10 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/renting-your-first-apartment
- [ ] 69 **Renting, Leasing, and Owning: The True Cost of Where You Live** — OPTIONAL — 13 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-mcm13-renting-leasing-owning
- [ ] 70 **How Mortgages Work** — OPTIONAL — 9 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/how-mortgages-work
- [ ] 71 **Renters Insurance: Do You Need It?** — OPTIONAL — 7 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/renters-insurance
- [ ] 72 **Car Insurance Explained** — OPTIONAL — 9 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/car-insurance-explained
- [ ] 73 **How Health Insurance Actually Works** — RECOMMENDED — 10 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/how-health-insurance-works
- [ ] 74 **Insurance and Estate Planning: Protecting What You Build** — OPTIONAL — 13 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-mcm34-insurance-and-estate-planning

SMART, PROTECTED CONSUMERS

6 lessons · 1 hr 2 min

- [ ] 75 **Advertising and Consumer Decisions: Recognizing the Persuasion Around You** — OPTIONAL — 11 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-cc11-advertising-and-consumer-decisions
- [ ] 76 **Information for Consumer Decisions** — OPTIONAL — 11 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-cc12-information-for-decisions
- [ ] 77 **Consumer Protection Laws: The Rights You Already Have** — OPTIONAL — 11 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-cc21-consumer-protection-laws
- [ ] 78 **Financial Scams Targeting Teens: How to Spot Them** — RECOMMENDED — 9 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/financial-scams-targeting-teens
- [ ] 79 **Consumer Self-Protection: Using Your Rights Before and After a Problem** — OPTIONAL — 11 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/epf-cc23-consumer-self-protection
- [ ] 80 **Cryptocurrency: What It Is and the Real Risks** — OPTIONAL — 9 min
  learnfinly.com/learn/cryptocurrency-real-risks

PLANNING & GIVING

2 lessons · 21 min

FINANCIAL LITERACY CHECK

Post-assessment

Name ______________________ Class ____________ Date ________

Circle the letter of the best answer. This is not graded. It helps your teacher see what the class already knows.

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3. **In the country of Norvale, private businesses decide what to make and what to charge, and people choose their own jobs. The government also runs public schools, builds highways, and sets workplace safety rules. Which term best describes Norvale's economy?**

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FOR TEACHERS

Answer key

Every question tests a concept from the core tracks or Foundations using new wording, so students can't answer by recognizing a lesson quiz item.

1

Opportunity cost · Foundations

B. The $60 she could have earned babysitting

Opportunity cost is the value of the next-best alternative given up: her second choice, babysitting. It is not every option she passed on, and a choice can have an opportunity cost even when no money is spent.

Lessons: Making Choices with Money

Source: CEE National Content Standards in K-12 Economics, 3rd ed. (2025), Standard 2: Decision-Making

2

50/30/20 budgeting · Foundations

A. Needs $1,200, wants $720, savings and debt payoff $480

The guideline splits after-tax income into 50% needs ($1,200), 30% wants ($720), and 20% savings and debt repayment ($480). It is a starting point, not a rule every budget must match.

Lessons: The 50/30/20 Rule

Source: Elizabeth Warren and Amelia Warren Tyagi, All Your Worth: The Ultimate Lifetime Money Plan (Free Press, 2005)

3

Mixed economies · Economics

D. Mixed economy

Markets make most decisions in Norvale, but the government also provides services and sets rules. Combining market and government decision-making is what makes an economy mixed.

Lessons: Types of Economies: How Societies Answer Three Big Questions

Source: NC Department of Public Instruction, Economics and Personal Finance Standards, objective EPF.E.1.1

4

Supply and demand · Economics

A. It rises, because the supply fell while demand stayed the same

A smaller supply with unchanged demand means more buyers competing for fewer apples, so the price rises. The last choice gets the direction right but names the wrong cause: demand didn't change, supply did.

Lessons: Supply and Demand: The Engine Behind Every Price

Source: CEE National Content Standards in K-12 Economics, 3rd ed. (2025), Standard 4: Markets

5

Consumer Price Index · Economics

B. On average, the things consumers regularly buy cost about 3% more than they did a year earlier

The CPI measures the average change over time in prices consumers pay for a representative basket of goods and services. Because it is an average, some prices rose more than 3% and some rose less or fell.

Lessons: Macroeconomic Indicators: Taking the Economy's Vital Signs; Inflation: Why $100 Today Isn't $100 Tomorrow

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index: Questions and Answers, https://www.bls.gov/cpi/questions-and-answers.htm

6 Federal Reserve interest rates · Economics

D. Higher interest rates on variable-rate loans and credit cards, so borrowing costs more

Changes in the federal funds rate show up quickly in rates on floating-rate loans and credit lines, and most credit card rates are tied to a variable index. Tax rates are set by Congress, not the Fed, and higher rates slow spending gradually rather than cutting prices overnight.

Lessons: Fiscal and Monetary Policy: How Government Steers the Economy

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Monetary Policy: What Are Its Goals? How Does It Work?, https://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/monetary-policy-what-are-its-goals-how-does-it-work.htm · Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, What is the difference between a fixed APR and a variable APR?, https://www.consumerfinance.gov/ask-cfpb/what-is-the-difference-between-a-fixed-apr-and-a-variable-apr-en-45/

7 Simple vs compound interest · Personal Finance

B. A: $1,200 and B: $1,210

Simple interest pays $100 a year on the original $1,000, for $1,200. Compound interest pays $100 in year one, then 10% of $1,100 ($110) in year two, for $1,210. The extra $10 is interest earned on interest. The 10% rate is a made-up number chosen for easy math.

Lessons: Compound Interest

Source: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, How does compound interest work?, https://www.consumerfinance.gov/ask-cfpb/how-does-compound-interest-work-en-1683/ · Arithmetic from the stated hypothetical

8 Credit score factors · Personal Finance

C. Making each payment by its due date, month after month

Payment history is the largest factor in a FICO Score (35%). Leaving a balance unpaid isn't needed: amounts owed is its own factor (30%), and unpaid balances cost interest. Checking your score helps you keep track of it but doesn't build it.

Lessons: How Credit Scores Work and Why They Matter

Source: myFICO, What's in my FICO Scores?, https://www.myfico.com/credit-education/whats-in-your-credit-score · Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Will paying off my credit card balance every month improve my credit score?, https://www.consumerfinance.gov/ask-cfpb/will-paying-off-my-credit-card-balance-every-month-improve-my-score-en-1293/

9 Productive vs destructive debt · Personal Finance

C. Borrowing to finish a certificate program that qualifies you for a higher-paying job

Productive debt pays for something expected to raise future income or value. The other choices pay for things that are used up right away. Even productive debt carries risk, so compare the total cost with a realistic payoff before borrowing.

Lessons: Debt Pros and Cons: When Borrowing Makes Sense and When It Doesn't

Source: NC Department of Public Instruction, Economics and Personal Finance Standards, objective EPF.MCM.3.3

10

Diversification · Personal Finance

C. Buying a broad stock index fund that holds shares of hundreds of companies

Diversification spreads money across many investments so a loss in one can be offset by others, and a broad index fund owns many companies in a single purchase. It lowers the risk from any one company, but all investments involve some risk and a fund can still lose value.

Lessons: Risk and Return; Index Funds Explained for Beginners

Source: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (Investor.gov), Beginners' Guide to Asset Allocation, Diversification, and Rebalancing, https://www.investor.gov/additional-resources/general-resources/publications-research/info-sheets/beginners-guide-asset · U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (Investor.gov), What is Risk?, https://www.investor.gov/introduction-investing/investing-basics/what-risk

Class results

Count how many students answered each question correctly on each assessment. The change column shows which concepts moved most.

Number of students who took both assessments: __________

#	CONCEPT	PRE CORRECT	POST CORRECT	CHANGE
1	Opportunity cost	___	___	___
2	50/30/20 budgeting	___	___	___
3	Mixed economies	___	___	___
4	Supply and demand	___	___	___
5	Consumer Price Index	___	___	___
6	Federal Reserve interest rates	___	___	___
7	Simple vs compound interest	___	___	___
8	Credit score factors	___	___	___
9	Productive vs destructive debt	___	___	___
10	Diversification	___	___	___
	Total	___	___	___