Back-to-School Shopping Plan

Plan a back-to-school haul with sales, coupons, tax and unit prices — and stay under budget.

Unit 11: Percents & Consumer Math | 2 class periods | Pairs

Name(s) _____ Period ____ Due _____

Introduction

Every August, stores compete with sales, coupons and “bonus” deals. Your team will plan the Rivera family’s back-to-school shopping, compare three stores, check unit prices, and recommend where to buy each item so the total stays under $350 including 6.25% sales tax.

> The Rivera family has $350 for school supplies and clothes for one student. The list and regular prices are below (subtotal $361.60). Store A: 20% off everything. Store B: $25 off any purchase of $200 or more. Store C: 10% back as a gift card on the total after tax (only usable next month). All three charge 6.25% sales tax on the price after any discount.

Learning goals

- Apply percent and dollar discounts with a multiplier.
- Add sales tax correctly and compare all-in prices.
- Compare unit prices for bulk items.
- Weigh a rebate you receive later against money off now.
- Present a shopping plan that meets the budget.

Supporting documents and data

Shopping list (regular prices, fictional)

Item	Qty	Price each	Line total
Notebooks (10-pack)	2	$12.50	$25.00
Graphing calculator	1	$118	$118.00
Backpack	1	$54	$54.00
Pens (24-pack)	1	$9.60	$9.60
Sneakers	1	$79	$79.00
Hoodie	2	$38	$76.00

Item	Qty	Price each	Line total
Subtotal			$361.60

Bulk pens (unit prices)

Package	Price
12 pens	$5.40
24 pens	$9.60
60 pens	$21.00

Tasks

Task 1: Store totals

1. Find the total with tax at each store for the whole list.
2. For Store C, find the gift card value and explain why it is not the same as money off now.

Deliverable: Three store totals.

Task 2: Unit prices

1. Find the price per pen for each package.
2. Decide which package to buy for one student and for a class of 25, and explain.

Deliverable: Unit price table and choice.

Task 3: Split the list

1. Could buying some items at one store and the rest at another save money? Check Store B’s $200 minimum.
2. Find your best plan’s total with tax.

Deliverable: Best plan and total.

Task 4: Budget check

1. Is the plan under $350? If not, what would you cut or swap?
2. What percent of the budget is left?

Deliverable: Budget summary.

Task 5: Present

1. Present the plan, the savings compared with paying full price, and one trade-off.

Deliverable: 3–4 slides.

Reflection

1. Which deal looked best at first but was not? Why?

2. When is a rebate or gift card worth less than money off today?

3. What would you do differently with your own money?

Submission checklist

- ☐ Three store totals
- ☐ Unit price table
- ☐ Best plan with total
- ☐ Budget summary

- [ ] Presentation
- [ ] Reflection

Scoring rubric

Category (points)	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (~80%)	Developing (~60%)	Beginning (~30%)
Financial understanding (20)	Uses vocabulary precisely and explains every financial concept involved, including assumptions.	Mostly accurate explanations with minor vocabulary gaps.	Partial understanding; some concepts misapplied.	Little evidence of understanding.
Mathematical accuracy (25)	Discounts, tax and unit prices correct; multipliers used.	1–2 minor errors that do not change conclusions.	Several errors or missing work.	Calculations largely missing or incorrect.
Analysis & comparison (20)	Compares every option on the same basis and tests at least one changed assumption.	Compares options with small gaps.	Comparison superficial or uneven.	Little analysis.
Justification (15)	Recommendation is supported by specific numbers and weighs non-financial factors and risks.	Mostly supported.	Mostly opinion.	No justification.
Communication & presentation (10)	Clear, organized, well-labeled tables, charts, and writing.	Minor clarity issues.	Hard to follow in places.	Disorganized.
Completion (10)	Every checklist item complete.	One item missing.	Two or three items missing.	Most items missing.

Total: 100 points. Alternative recommendations earn full credit when supported by accurate evidence.

ALL PEOPLE, BUSINESSES, PLACES, AND NUMBERS IN THIS PROJECT ARE FICTIONAL. RATES AND COSTS ARE ILLUSTRATIVE ASSUMPTIONS.