

Shopping with Geddes

Geddes is a Mum of 3 children Trifonia (1), Blessings (5) and Meg (7). They all live together in a small mud-brick house, next door to their cousins. There are lots of children around to play with. They love to play ball.

Blessings and Meg are very excited as they are about to start back at school for a new term. Geddes has been saving money to be able to send her two school-aged children to school. Geddes never finished school and found it hard to get a job, so knows how important it is to try and send her children to school.



Blessings and Meg need new uniforms as they now have too many holes in them. They also need exercise books and pens. Blessings and Meg have been dreaming about having a pair of shoes so they don't have to walk to school bare-foot.

Sadly, Trifonia has got malaria, a disease which is spread by mosquitos and the local health clinic has run out of medicine for her. Geddes has to travel 20 km to the next nearest clinic to get some. Geddes' only option is to go by bus.

Geddes has a small garden where she grows cassava (a root vegetable) and rice, but she has to buy other foods (tomatoes, onions, cabbage and usipa fish) so that her family can stay healthy. Most people eat Cassava in Malawi but it doesn't have too many vitamins in. Most families will make a relish with their tomatoes and cabbage and eat it with 'nsima' (the local staple made from cassava flour and water) and some are able to buy fish. Geddes also needs wood for cooking on her cookstove.



Geddes pays in Malawian Kwacha (MK). 1,000MK is about £1.

**Geddes wants to provide for her family but she only has £15.
Can you help her decide how she could spend the money?**

Shopping with Geddes' budget

Geddes has £15. Help Geddes decide what to spend the money on by ranking the items in order of importance. 1 is most important and 10 is least important. Explain why you have listed them in this order, use separate sheet if you need more space.

Item needed	Cost in MK	Rank	Reason
School fees per term per child	50p		
School Uniform per child	£3		
Exercise books and pens per child	£1.50		
Shoes per child	£4		
Return transport to the clinic	80p		
Tomatoes	40p		
Onions	30p		
Cabbage	20p		
Fish	30p		
Firewood	25p		