

Adult Money - Ages 16-18+

uktaxdrag.co.uk · Print on A4 or save as PDF.

Ages 16-18+ · 20 minutes

Young Adult Finance Lab lesson pack

Best for first payslips, tax wrappers, debt choices, and the long-term decisions that start to matter quickly.

Lesson aim

Help the learner explain why gross and net pay differ, choose the right wrapper for one goal, and defend one longer-term money decision.

You will need

The Ages 16-18 worksheet and, ideally, one real example such as an ISA page, a pension explainer, or a debt comparison.

Success looks like

The learner can compare flexibility, bonuses, and trade-offs instead of treating every option as interchangeable.

1

Warm-up

Ask which feels more useful right now: flexibility, a government bonus, or money locked for much longer.

2

Play focus

Use Payslip Decoder, LISA versus ISA versus Pension, and one long-term choice game like FIRE or debt payoff.

3

Talk it through

Ask which option feels most flexible, which one feels most restrictive, and why those trade-offs might still be worth it.

4

Offline extension

Compare a real savings product, LISA page, or pension explainer and decide which one suits a first-home goal best.

Talk prompts

- Why is take-home pay smaller than gross pay?
- When is flexibility worth more than a bonus?
- What should happen before investing if debt is expensive?

Helpful teaching note

This pack is less about one perfect answer and more about whether the learner can justify a trade-off clearly and realistically.

Stretch idea

Ask the learner to build a "first year after school" plan with pay, saving, one goal, and one risk they want to avoid.

Answer key and teaching notes

Worksheet answers

1. First payslip reality check: strong answers mention tax, National Insurance, pension contributions, or student loans affecting take-home pay.
2. LISA, ISA, or pension: a LISA is often the strongest answer for a first-home saver because of the 25 percent bonus, but the reasoning matters.
3. Long-term choice: there is no single answer. Strong reasoning often prioritises high-interest debt first or explains a thoughtful split.

What to listen for

- The learner compares flexibility, access, and bonuses rather than repeating slogans.
- They understand that some wrappers fit one goal but not another.
- They can explain why time changes the size of some decisions.

If they struggle

Reduce it to one goal at a time. Ask "best for a first home?" or "best for retirement?" before comparing every product at once.