

# Make decisions

## Years 7–10 cognitive verb toolkit

### What is decision-making?

To make a decision is to select from available options, considering relevant criteria to base the decision on, and then weigh each option according to the criteria.

For example, making a decision about purchasing a new bicycle might involve considering the size, cost and the intended use for each available option. These criteria might be given different weighting, e.g. for a bike purchase, the cost outweighs most other factors.

This term is described in the notes section of the standard elaborations:

Term	Description
make decisions	examine alternatives to choose an option

### Cognitive verb use in the Australian Curriculum

The cognitive verb make decisions/decide appears in various learning area achievement standards and content descriptions in the Australian Curriculum. The table below shows the use of make decisions/decide across the whole Australian Curriculum.

Make decisions/decide in the Australian Curriculum achievement standards (AS) and content descriptions (CD)																
Year level	English	Health and Physical Education	HASS	History	Geography	Civics and Citizenship	Economics and Business	Mathematics	Science	Design and Technologies	Digital Technologies	Dance	Drama	Media Arts	Music	Visual Arts
Year 7		AS CD	AS CD		CD		AS	AS		AS						
Year 8		AS CD					AS CD			AS						
Year 9		AS CD														
Year 10		AS CD														

# Cognitive process

The cognitive verb **make decisions** is part of the knowledge utilisation category of cognitive process.

Cognitive skills to help make decisions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• consider</li><li>• identify</li><li>• select.</li></ul>	Cognitive skills that follow make decisions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• appraise</li><li>• justify</li><li>• propose.</li></ul>
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Learning area/subject examples include, but are not limited to:

Year level	Learning area	Achievement standard	Content description
Year 7	Mathematics	Students compare the cost of items to <b>make</b> financial <b>decisions</b> .	
Year 7 and 8	Design and Technologies	Students create and adapt design ideas, <b>make</b> considered <b>decisions</b> and communicate to different audiences using appropriate technical terms and a range of technologies and graphical representation techniques.	
Year 9 and 10	Health and Physical Education	Students apply <b>decision-making</b> and problem-solving skills when taking action to enhance their own and others' health, safety and wellbeing.	Investigate how empathy and ethical <b>decision making</b> contribute to respectful relationships (ACPPS093)

## More information

This factsheet is part of a suite of resources to support teachers in the explicit teaching and assessment of students' thinking. The suite of resources includes cognitive verb overviews, cognitive verb year-level overviews and categories of common cognitive verbs. The cognitive verbs are categorised using Marzano and Kendall's (2007) four levels of cognitive process: retrieval, comprehension, analysis and knowledge utilisation.

The suite of resources can be found here: [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/aciq/frequently-used-resources/cognitive-verbs/years-7-10-cognitive-verb-toolkit](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/aciq/frequently-used-resources/cognitive-verbs/years-7-10-cognitive-verb-toolkit).

Reference: Marzano, R & Kendall, J 2007, *The New Taxonomy of Educational Objectives*, Corwin Press, Thousand Oaks, CA.



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