

What is deciding (decision-making)?

To decide (make a decision) is to select from available options, considering relevant criteria, before weighing up each option according to the criteria.

For example, deciding about purchasing a new bicycle might involve considering criteria such as the size, monetary cost, and the intended use for each available option. Each criterion might be weighted differently, with ongoing maintenance costs possibly outweighing most other factors when deciding on a bike's suitability.

A process of deciding may include:

- determining what decision needs to be made
- considering available options and determining criteria against which a decision will be made
- weighing up each option using the criteria
- selecting the most appropriate option
- checking whether the decision is appropriate.

Decide as a cognition

Cognitive verbs are categorised using Marzano & Kendall's four elements of the cognitive system: retrieval, comprehension, analysis and knowledge utilisation (2007).

The cognitive verb decide is part of the knowledge utilisation category of cognitive process. This element involves the 'use of knowledge processes to accomplish a specific task' (p. 51).

Decide in the Australian Curriculum Version 9.0

The cognitive verb decide appears in various achievement standards (AS) and/or content descriptions (CD) in the Australian Curriculum. The following table shows the use of decide across the Australian Curriculum in Years 7–10.

| Decide in the Years 7–10 Australian Curriculum AS and CD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------|-------|------------|-------|-------------|
| | English | Health and Physical Education | Humanities and Social Sciences | | | | Mathematics | Science | Technologies | | | The Arts | | | | |
| | | | Civics and Citizenship | Economics and Business | Geography | History | | | Technologies | Design and Technologies | Digital Technologies | Dance | Drama | Media Arts | Music | Visual Arts |
| Year 7 | | | | | | AS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year 8 | | | | | AS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year 9 | | | | CD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year 10 | | | | AS CD | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Note: The cognitive verb *decide* is not used in the Years 7–10 Australian Curriculum AS and CD for the Languages P–10 Sequence or the Languages 7–10 Sequence.

Learning area/subject examples include, but are not limited to:

| Year/Band | Learning area/subject | AS | CD |
|-----------|--|---|--|
| Year 7 | Mathematics | They (students) decide which measure of central tendency is most suitable and explain their reasoning. | |
| Year 8 | Humanities and Social Sciences: Geography | They (students) decide on appropriate strategies for action and explain potential impacts. | |
| Year 9 | Humanities and Social Sciences: Economics and Business | | develop and evaluate a response to an economic and business issue, using cost-benefit analysis or criteria to decide on a course of action AC9HE9S04 |
| Year 10 | Humanities and Social Sciences: Economics and Business | They (students) evaluate a response, using appropriate criteria to decide on a course of action. | develop and evaluate a response to an economic and business issue, using cost benefit analysis or criteria to decide on a course of action AC9HE10S04 |

References

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

More information

This information sheet is part of a suite of resources to support teachers in the explicit teaching and assessment of students' thinking. The suite of resources includes categories of common cognitive verbs, cognitive verb overviews and a cognitive verb toolkit with information sheets, posters and graphic organisers.

If you would like more information, please visit the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au and search for 'cognitive verbs'. Alternatively, the suite of resources can be found here: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/aciq/version-9/cognitive-verbs-in-version-9.0.



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