

**Chapter 4 Families and households**  
**Topic 1 Couples**  
**Page 173**  
**Activity: Discussion**  
**Resources and sharing of decisions**

**Learning objectives**

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Explain how resources may be divided among couples.
- Identify key features of cultural explanations of decision making and resources.
- Identify key features of 'personal life' explanations of couples' relationships.
- Evaluate the theory, using your own experience.

Cultural explanations of decision-making and the control of resources focus on how wider structural relationships affect the relationships within couples. 'Personal life' explanations look to the meaning for the couples themselves.

- A. Divide into two groups. One group should adopt a cultural perspective. The other should adopt a 'personal life' perspective. Using your textbook (pages 172-173) and your own experiences, prepare your argument to illustrate how your perspective might explain the differences in control of resources and decision-making in couples.

Here are some points to help you get started. Add as many as you can:

- Pooling
- Allowance system
- The meaning attached to money

- B. Use your research to take part in a class discussion: 'In a couple, the pooling of resources and sharing of decisions indicates a more equal relationship'.
- C. Write a summary paragraph of the conclusions you reached as a class from this debate. Which perspective did your class agree with?