



The amount of money in people's wallets is not just the result of how much they get paid: it's also the result of policy decisions. The government decides how much tax each person pays, and how much each person receives in support from the government. Different parties have different ideas about how much the government should take in tax, or on how much it should provide in support. In this activity we will explore and discuss different approaches to tax.

→ Go to policy.nz/2023/party-vote/policies/incomes-and-employment

→ Find and read the 'Tax and income support' section

→ Explore answers to these questions and share your ideas and reasoning with others

1. Why does the government need to collect tax? What are some examples of the different taxes the government collects? Read about New Zealand's tax system [here](#) to get started.
2. When do you have to start paying tax? Are there any types of income you don't have to pay tax on? Why might the government decide not to tax certain types of income? The Inland Revenue Department guide [here](#) might help you get started.
3. People have strong feelings about tax. Some people describe tax as 'love', while others describe tax as 'theft' or 'violence'. Do you agree with either of these views? Read the following resources to help you think about your answers.
 - [A crazy little thing called tax](#) and [Why are you so afraid of tax?](#) explain why tax is more similar to love. [Tax is not love, it's violence](#) explains why tax is more similar to theft.

→ Go back to [Policy.nz](https://policy.nz) and browse the policies. Click on policies to read more detail

→ Save the policies you agree with by clicking the heart icon

4. What are the main differences between the parties' policies on taxes? Which parties want people to pay more tax? Which parties want people to pay less tax? What are their reasons?
5. For one of the policies you have saved, and write a PMI (plus, minus, interesting). How would the policy impact you? How would it impact your family?
6. If you were in the government, what would your tax policies be? How would these affect you, your family and your friends? How will you persuade others to agree with your policy? Write three arguments for you tax policy idea.