

Diamond 9



This is a **collaborative** strategy to help students prioritise key factors.



- Divide the class into groups of 4 (groups of 3 and 5 also work).
- Assign these roles: Recorder, Time Keeper, Reporter & Manager.
- The most important factors are placed towards the top of the 'diamond' and the least important factors towards the bottom.
- Factors of equal importance are placed on the same row.
- Students agree on factor placement and explain their reasoning.
- The recorder keeps notes for the group, the manager ensures the group stays on task and that everyone has an input, the reporter gives feedback to the class on the group's decisions.

Tips

- Students should be encouraged to compare diagrams. Groups should be able to justify the placing of a particular factor.
- All top factors could be tallied up, thus identifying the most important factor for the whole class (Being numerate).
- The most important step is to review the students' responses. The information gathered can be used to inform future lessons.
- Allow time for discussion with students.
- Remind Time Keepers to focus on more than just the end time.
- Blank templates could be A3 and laminated to be used in future lessons.
- An image of each final diamond could be taken using a phone or a tablet and emailed/uploaded for students' future use.
- By way of variation the students can be give more or less than 9 factors, or they can be given blank cards whereby they can introduce a factor of their own.

Further Information

Further reading and support on implementing this strategy is available on www.jct.ie

Key Skills

- ▶ Managing information and thinking
- ▶ Managing myself
- ▶ Communicating
- ▶ Being literate
- ▶ Being creative
- ▶ Working with others

Resources

- ▶ Diamond 9 Template
- ▶ List of factors

Room Layout

Arrange **groups of 4 (or 3 or 5)** at each desk

Assessment

Students explain their reasoning for the arrangement of factors on the diamond

Supporting Homework

Homework can be informed by the thinking of the group. Recorders can share the notes at the end of the group discussions.

