

ACTIVITY 2.3: WHERE DO THESE VIEWPOINTS FALL?

Beside each statement, which represent different viewpoints (or perspectives), write down whether you feel it is fiscally conservative, socially conservative, fiscally liberal or socially liberal. Put an asterisk beside the viewpoint under each issue that most closely aligns with your beliefs and values.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY	VIEWPOINT
The most effective way to create jobs is to lower taxes.	
The government can play a positive role in managing the economy and creating jobs, rather than simply letting the private sector be responsible for creating jobs.	
INCOME INEQUALITY	
A large gap between the richest and poorest in society should be avoided as much as possible.	
Inequality is not a concern. People who are financially successful are being rewarded for their contributions to society.	
SAME-SEX MARRIAGE	
Marriage is limited to the union of one man and one woman, and the law should reflect this definition.	
Any two persons should have the freedom and ability to be married.	
CORPORATE TAXES	
Corporations should pay more taxes.	
Corporate taxation prevents businesses from hiring more people and governments should reduce or keep corporate taxes low.	
INDIVIDUAL TAXES	
Wealthier people should not be taxed at a higher rate, because it may cause them and their businesses to move to another place that offers lower taxes.	
Wealthier individuals should pay a greater share of taxes than poorer individuals.	
DRUG USE	
Harsher penalties for drug crimes will reduce drug abuse.	
Drugs should be decriminalized. There should be sympathy and treatment for drug addicts, not prison sentences that further destroy their ability to function.	
GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND SERVICES	
There is good value in government services, such as education and healthcare, and higher taxes and government debt may be necessary to ensure these services are sufficient.	
Smaller government is the best approach, which means less government influence on the economy and fewer government services.	
REGULATION	
Policies that might be considered bad for businesses but are intended to alleviate social or environmental problems, like climate change, are important for the greater good.	
Regulation on businesses is not necessary because the free market provides sufficient incentives for businesses to pursue important social and environmental outcomes.	
HEALTHCARE	
People should have the choice to receive private or public health care. People who are able to pay for faster access to medical treatment should be able to do so.	
Privatization of health care would lead to inequality.	
STRIKE ACTION	
Going on strike is a justifiable way of communicating strong dissatisfaction in the workplace.	
Labour strikes should be banned because they are too harmful.	