Apples

TREND

Approach: One to one *Level:* Year 4 and year 8

Focus: Money calculations and change.

Resources: Advertisement card, calculator, $5, $10 and $20 notes.

Questions/instructions:

The calculator is not given to the student until question 4. Questions leading up to Q4 are solved mentally.

In this activity we are using some artificial money. Apples at a shop cost $1.95 a kilogram.

Show the advertisement card and hand out money.

I want to buy 5 kilograms of apples. I have a $5 note, a $10 note and a $20 note.

	% responses 2001 ('97) year 4	2001 ('97) year 8
1. What is the smallest value note that I could use to pay for the apples?		
$10	47 (39)	86 (92)
2. Why did you choose that note?		
calculation	2 (1)	11 (3)
estimation and elimination	27 (14)	46 (49)
estimation, but not eliminating $20 option	18 (17)	28 (31)
3. How much change would you expect?		
25¢	7 (8)	33 (35)

Hand student a calculator.

Use the calculator to work out the next problem. Tell me what you are doing with the calculator as you do it.

YEAR 8

4. If I bought a 5 kilogram bag of apples on special for $7.50, how much would the apples cost per kilogram?

Ask the student to read out the answer shown on the calculator. $1.50 • 57 (70)

YEAR 4

4. If apples cost $1.50 a kilogram, how much would five kilograms cost?

Ask the student to read out the answer shown on the calculator. 26 (24) •

Commentary

Although most year 8 students realised that a $10 note would be sufficient in question 1, few realised that the total amount required would be 5x5 cents less than $10, making the answer to question 3 easy.