

Government failure

Divide the students into five groups and give them either one of the sheets below, or if you have tablets use the 'Government failure – student resource' for them to type their answers in. They fill in the top box of each of the problems – i.e. they suggest a policy to solve the problem identified.

Then collect the sheets or tablets in and hand them out to a different group (each group now has another group's policy). Their job is now to think of ways this might fail.

Go around the groups and choose a few of them to feed back the possible problems with the policy identified.

The Government failure – front of class resource has some examples of when things go spectacularly wrong to get the point across. You can then sum up with a quick definition of government failure and the ways in which it might occur.

1. People drinking too much alcohol.

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

2. US government struggling with 'dumped' Chinese beds, taking up 58% of the US furniture market sales.

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

1. Monopoly power in the UK football television broadcasting rights. BSkyB own all the rights.

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

2. Rising inequality in the UK economy.

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

1. Congestion on UK roads.

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

2. Overpollution of the environment.

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

1. People not getting a vaccine to prevent the spread of swine flu.

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

2. Utility companies such as British Gas ripping off consumers.

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

1. Private dentists exploiting patients who lack information.

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

2. Unemployment being too high.

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?