Assessment of Financial Skills and Abilities

Money Management and Banking

a) Budgeting
   - Knows how to save money
   - Knows how “wants” and “needs” apply to his or her life
   - Understands concept of budgeting
   - Can consider personal factors in determining a budget (e.g., important to this person to set aside money to go to dances twice a month)
   - Can compute total amount of bills owed
   - Knows how to organize receipts and bills needed to formulate a budget
   - Can resolve hypothetical budgeting problems
   - Remembers to pay bills

b) State, Federal, and Local Taxes
   - Can read words, terms, and abbreviations associated with taxes
   - Can understand the meaning of tax terminology (e.g., FICA, gross)
   - Can read own W-2 form
   - Can discuss the purpose of a W-2 form and taxes
   - Knows of the requirements for filing an income tax return
   - Knows when to file income tax
   - Able to read the IRS tax forms (e.g., 1040 EZ)
   - Knows how to identify which form to use
   - Knows how to save receipts and tax documents necessary to complete tax filing
   - Knows of tax assessor services (e.g., H & R Block)
   - Knows how to determine the cost of tax assessor services
   - Knows about various tax charges for property tax, state and federal income

c) Banking
   - Knows purpose of a checking and savings account
   - Can read and complete banking forms
   - Knows how to deposit pay or other check
   - Knows purpose of a check and responsibilities when writing a check
   - Can fill out a check completely and correctly
   - Knows how to complete check registry
   - Remembers to complete check registry
   - Can reconcile a bank statement to monitor account balance(s)
   - Can get banking questions answered by a bank representative

Comparison Shopping

- Knows how to use unit pricing to comparison shop
- Knows how to do computation for comparison shopping when using coupons
- Knowledge of the concept of a sale
- Knowledgeable of sales terminology
- Knowledgeable about manufacturer warranties
- Knows how to locate different types of stores and is knowledgeable about their differences (e.g., pricing, wholesale, type of merchandise sold)
- Knows about salesperson tactics to persuade a consumer to make a purchase
Understanding Advertising
___ Can read and is familiar with terms associated with advertising
___ Knows the function of advertising
___ Can distinguish between an honest value and suspicious terms used in advertising

Credit
___ Understands concept of credit, leasing, and credit cards
___ Can complete a credit application
   Can read credit contracts
___ Can identify the cash price and credit price of an item and calculate the difference in value
___ Knowledgeable of cash advances and different types of loans
___ Knows what to consider when borrowing money
___ Can complete a loan application
___ Knowledgeable of the different “do’s” and “don’ts” of credit
___ Knowledgeable of credit rating system and the importance of a good credit rating
___ Knows consumer rights and resources pertaining to credit and loans

Purchasing and Maintaining a Car
___ Knows responsibilities of purchasing or leasing a car
___ Knowledgeable of terms associated with purchasing or leasing a car
___ Knows several places to purchase a car
___ Can read classified advertisements pertaining to car sales
___ Can distinguish factual statements from possibly misleading terminology
___ Knowledgeable of what factors to consider when purchasing a car
___ Knows the financial aspects associated with purchasing a car
___ Can determine the amount of money he or she is able to spend on the car purchase
___ Can determine the difference in the amount of money in possession and the sales price of a particular car
___ Can determine the best size, model, and so on of car that will suit his or her needs
___ Can interact with a car salesperson
___ Knowledgeable about car maintenance, its importance, and the cost of car maintenance
___ Knowledgeable of car maintenance terminology
___ Can budget for car maintenance costs
___ Knows where to take a car to get maintenance performed

Insurance
___ Knowledgeable of the concept of insurance and its purpose
___ Knowledgeable of various types of insurance (i.e., life, car, health, disability, social security, burial)
___ Knowledgeable of insurance terminology
___ Can read information describing the benefits and costs of various insurance policies
___ Knowledgeable of eligibility terms
___ Knowledgeable of what items are not covered by a given policy
___ Can compare different plans for the same type of insurance
___ Knowledgeable of social security and its benefits
___ Aware of different benefits available to persons over the age of 65
___ Knowledgeable of Medicare and who is eligible for benefits under this plan
___ Can compute how much of his or her income could be spent on insurance
___ Knows the role of an insurance agent in helping someone determine the type and amount of insurance to buy

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