#### **Presenting the Problem**

# The Tea and Coffee Problem

Topic: Simultaneous Equations This is a structured problem-solving lesson looking at simultaneous equations.

## Year Group: 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Level: Higher

Sam buys two coffees and a tea for €3.20. Jane buys three coffees and two teas from the same shop for €5.20.

Can you work out:

- (i) the price of one tea?
- (ii) the price of one coffee?



Flow of the Class



### **Reflecting on the Learning**

The students solved the problem as it was given and demonstrated that they had understood the challenge as it was given to them, as they got straight into it and tackled the challenge with enthusiasm. The real-life nature of the task, pricing tea and coffee, meant that it tapped into their experiences so they felt they could do it. We noted the wide range of methods the students were using and the ease with which they discussed their learning, their insights and their confusion. The evidence showed that students were thinking and adapting their strategies throughout the class, by their discussion and their ability to think outside the box. For example, students were opting to draw the problem out, to use the bar method, to scratch out one method and try a new method yet still were happy to share their early attempts with the observers.



Developed by Catherine Byrne, Sarah Kavanagh and Orla King, with thanks to Philip Brady MDT and the students of Blessington CC, Co. Wicklow.







## Maths Counts 2017 Engaging teachers in Lesson Study

Maynooth University, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> March 2017



