TMSJ Research Group - Notes on proposed activity for cycle 2 (Feb-Mar 2014)

Measuring inequality

- Explore Lorenz curves and Gini Coefficient as a way of displaying and measuring inequality.
- Look at wealth distribution within the US and the UK (Lorenz curve) - most people close to poverty line but hidden by a small minority that are very rich. Consider definition of poverty (and how it has changed!) and differences between wealth and income (hard to grasp).
- Explore displaying data generated by students as a Lorenz curve to show levels of inequality, e.g. pocket money (*note this is potentially problematic, even if done anonymously, as it could lead to some students being placed in a vulnerable position - an alternative 'safer' way of students producing their own data is to show an amount of money briefly in a picture, get students to guess the amount, and then tell them to imagine this is the amount of money they earn in a day - see* ***'Money Guess' PowerPoint*** *which does this*).
- Would help students to understand Lorenz curve more if they did it for their own data first (see above).
- Lorenz Curve is a cumulative frequency graph.
- Calculating the Gini Coefficient (*see '**Global Inequality'** activity*) - involves calculating area - could use trapeziums as an approximation - also need to calculate area of triangle and find the ratio.
- Consider other ways of representing inequality, e.g. '80% of wealth owned by 1% of population'.