

Teamwork Challenge

FACTSHEET

Lots of teamwork lessons in Northgate's classic 'planks & oil drums' activity. Competitive activity, perfect for looking at the stages of team development.

-  **1.5 hours + debrief**
-  **3-24** (up to 4 teams of 3-6 per team)
-  **For staff at any level**
-  **No computer required**
-  **450 ex VAT**



Learning objectives

- to get organised in order to undertake a team task
- to agree a strategy
- to share data freely
- to solve problems together
- to work under the pressure of time and other competitors
- to understand the four stages of team development

About the activity

Teams must get across the 'aircraft hangar' without touching the floor. They are given a team brief, a plan of the hangar floor, showing the position of the oil drums, and a set of 5cm wood pieces, representing planks.

What is their best route? A team's choice is crucial as they are not the only team in the race - and the first team across is the winner. The longer the route, the more the challenges along the way, but the shorter the route, the more difficult the challenges. And completing the challenges involves managing information on 48 different data cards that are dispersed among team members. Team organisation and team cooperation are key! The scenario provides a great opportunity for a well-organised team to get ahead. But teams with chaotic beginnings can, as they learn to pull together, end in highly successful performances. "Teamwork Challenge" clearly demonstrates the FORMING-STORMING-NORMING-PERFORMING model of team development, first proposed by Bruce Tuckman in 1965 who said these phases are both necessary and inevitable in order for a team to grow, face challenges, tackle problems, find solutions, plan work, and deliver results.

Five-year licence

Five-year product licence included for repeat use with up to 24 participants per training session within the licence-holding organisation.

Pack contents

- Trainer's Notes
- Team Briefs
- Route Planners
- Floor Plans
- Wood Pieces
- Datacards
- Task Sheets
- Team Analysis Forms

Ideally suited to

Any training course where you want to illustrate the way teams develop, from the start of a newly formed group to an energetic, high-performing team.



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Customer reviews

“ *Highly engaging* teamwork activity that promotes learning in a *fun* and *interactive* manner. Excellent value for money! The best learning points included: read the brief; plan and stick to the plan; having clearly defined roles, including that of leader, helps to *achieve success*.
Jane Caven, Managing Director, Sagegreen Human Resources Ltd

“ We used Teamwork Challenge for a team building/development day. It is *thought-provoking*, and leads to *satisfaction* when planned actions equalled results. Northgate Activities are *well researched* and good reference materials.
Carolyn Sanders, Northamptonshire County Council



Trainer's role (full guidance supplied in Trainer's notes)

- Divide participants into teams and introduce the activity
- Issue team materials (Team Briefs, Floor Plan, 'Planks', and a set of 48 data cards)
- Allow teams 20-30 minutes to work out a route and plan their strategy
- Now start the activity and stand by to issue relevant Task Cards
- When teams finish, issue a Team Analysis Sheet.
- Lead a Debrief, focusing on the key issues and identifying the four stages of team development.

Northgate says...

"Teamwork Challenge" is a fun, high-energy exercise - one of the most popular - with great learning outcomes. When teams are in competition with each other, the pressure is on from the start and there's a tendency to rush in. Allowing time for the team to develop and to fully understand the task gets forgotten, errors creep in and valuable time is wasted.

Winning teams have a calm, steady approach, constant attention to detail and a strong focus on the task - not on the other teams!

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Northgate customers

