

# DECISION FORM

**Instructions:** You are a member of a space crew originally scheduled to rendezvous with a mother ship on the lit surface of the moon. Due to mechanical difficulties, however, your ship was forced to land at a spot some 200 miles from the rendezvous point. During the moon landing, much of the equipment aboard was damaged and since survival depends on reaching the mother ship, the most critical items available must be chosen for the 200-mile trip. Below are listed the 15 items left intact and undamaged after landing. Your task is to rank-order them in terms of their importance in allowing your crew to reach the rendezvous point. Place the number 1 by the most important item, the number 2 by the second most important, and so on through number 15, the least important, in Column D.

	A Difference B & C	B My Scoring	C NASA Scoring	D My Group's Scoring	E Difference C & D
Box of matches	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Food concentrate	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
50 feet of nylon rope	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Parachute silk	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Portable heating unit	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Two .45 calibre pistols	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
One case dehydrated Pet milk	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Two 100 lb. tanks of oxygen	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Stellar map (of moon's constellations)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Life raft	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Magnetic compass	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Five gallons of water	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Signal flares	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
First aid kit containing injection needles	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Solar-powered FM receiver- transmitter	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total of Column A	_____			Total of Column E	_____

## SPACE SCENARIO

You are a member of a space crew originally scheduled to rendezvous with a mother ship on the lit surface of the moon. Due to mechanical difficulties, your ship was forced to land at a spot some 200 miles from the rendezvous point. During the moon landing, much of the equipment aboard was damaged and since survival depends on reaching the mother ship, the most critical items available must be chosen for the 200-mile trip. Below are listed the 15 items left intact and undamaged after landing. Your task is to rank-order them in terms of importance for your crew in allowing them to reach the rendezvous point. Place the number 1 by the most important item, the number 2 by the second most important, and so on through number 15, the least important.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Box of matches
- \_\_\_\_\_ Food concentrate
- \_\_\_\_\_ 50 feet of nylon rope
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parachute silk
- \_\_\_\_\_ Portable heating unit
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two .45-caliber pistols
- \_\_\_\_\_ One case of dehydrated Pet milk
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two 100-lb. tanks of oxygen
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stellar map (of moon's constellations)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Life raft
- \_\_\_\_\_ Magnetic compass
- \_\_\_\_\_ Five gallons of water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Signal flares
- \_\_\_\_\_ First aid kit containing injection needles
- \_\_\_\_\_ Solar-powered FM receiver/transmitter

## DECISION BY CONSENSUS

This is an exercise in group decision-making. Your group is to employ the method of Group Consensus in reaching its decision. This means that the prediction for each of the 15 survival items must be agreed upon by each group member before it becomes a part of the group decision. Consensus is difficult to reach. Therefore, not every ranking will meet with everyone's complete approval. Try, as a group, to make each ranking one with which all group members can at least partially agree. Here are some guides to use in reaching consensus:

1. Avoid arguing for your own individual judgments. Approach the task on the basis of logic.
2. Avoid changing your mind only in order to reach agreement and avoid conflict. Support only solutions with which you are able to agree somewhat, at least.
3. Avoid "conflict-reducing" techniques such as majority vote, averaging or trading in reaching decisions.
4. View differences of opinion as helpful rather than as a hindrance in decision-making.

Having reached a consensus on the importance of the various survival items, enter your group's rankings in Column D on the "Decision Form"; enter your personal rankings in Column B. Columns A, C and E will be discussed as a class.