**Government failure**

Divide the students into five groups and give them either one of the sheets below, or if you have tablets use the ‘Government failure – student resource’ for them to type their answers in. They fill in the top box of each of the problems – i.e. they suggest a policy to solve the problem identified.

Then collect the sheets or tablets in and hand them out to a different group (each group now has another group’s policy). Their job is now to think of ways this might fail.

Go around the groups and choose a few of them to feed back the possible problems with the policy identified.

The Government failure – front of class resource has some examples of when things go spectacularly wrong to get the point across. You can then sum up with a quick definition of government failure and the ways in which it might occur.

**1. People drinking too much alcohol.**

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

**2. US government struggling with ‘dumped’ Chinese beds, taking up 58% of the US furniture market sales.**

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

**1. Monopoly power in the UK football television broadcasting rights. BSkyB own all the rights.**

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

**2. Rising inequality in the UK economy.**

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

**1. Congestion on UK roads.**

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

**2. Overpollution of the environment.**

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

**1. People not getting a vaccine to prevent the spread of swine flu.**

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

**2. Utility companies such as British Gas ripping off consumers.**

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

**1. Private dentists exploiting patients who lack information.**

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?

**2. Unemployment being too high.**

Government action to solve the problem.

How is the government action going to fail?