**KEYWORDS**

**Consumer** - This is someone who buys a good or service for their own use

**Good** - This is something that you buy you can touch and see it

**Service -** This is something that is done for you

**Needs**- This is something that we can’t live without. We need it to survive

**Want** - This is something that we would like to have but don’t need it to survive

**Caveat Emptor** – Let the Buyer beware. This means that the consumer must use some common sense when it comes to purchasing goods and services. If it is too good to be true it probably is.

**SELF TEST QUESTIONS**

1. Define the term consumer

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1. Identify the difference between goods and services

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1. Describe how to be a wise consumer

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1. Outline the rights and responsibilities of a consumer

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1. List the steps involved in calculating interest paid on loans

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**RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CONSUMER**

**THE WISE CONSUMER**

The following are some question a person should ask before making a purchase especially and expensive purchase

1. Are we getting value for our Money?
2. Are the product of high quality
3. Finding out information about the product before we buy it
4. If there is good after sales service in case the product is faulty
5. Do I need it
6. Can I afford it
7. Can I buy it cheaper somewhere else?
8. Is it a safe product?
9. Do I have space for it?
10. Are there any hidden charges?

**PRODUCT INFORMATION**

by law product must have the following information on its packaging

1. Ingredients 5. Name/Address of Supplier

2. County of Origin 6. Price of the product

3. Best before/sell by date 7. Name of the Product

4. The weight of the produce8. Barcode

**CONSUMER ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND (CAI)**

This is an independent organisation who represent consumers and helps to protect their rights.

Their website the cai.ie contains information about consumer right and has a question and answers section to help consumers