

Imagine you have **two of each** of the 'weights' on the right.

Different combinations of the weights available allow you to make different totals.

For example:

$$B + C = 6$$

$$B + 2C = 15$$

$$A + 2B + C = 4$$

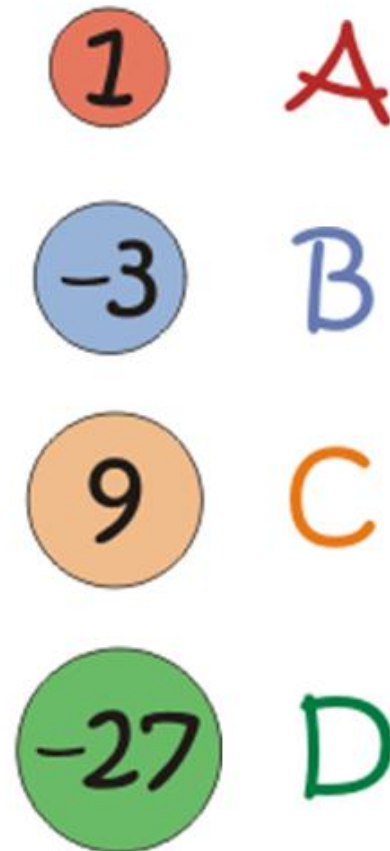
$$2A + B + 2C + D = -10$$

The largest total you can make is 20 (check you agree).

The smallest total you can make is - 60 (again, check you agree).

Can you make all the numbers in between?

Is there always a unique way of producing a total, or can different combinations produce the same total?



Extension:

If you are allowed just three different weights this time (E, F and G), and at least one must be a negative weight, and you are now allowed to have up to **three of each**, you could choose:

$$E = 1$$

$$F = -4$$

$$G = 5$$

You could make 7 and -10:

$$E + F + 2G = 7$$

$$2E + 3F = -10$$

Choose your three weights:

$$E = \underline{\quad}$$

$$F = \underline{\quad}$$

$$G = \underline{\quad}$$

Which totals can you make?

Which set of three weights (E, F, and G) allows you to make the largest range of totals with no gaps in between?