

Is the work worth it?

Depop has quickly become a large platform for young adults to buy and sell "vintage" and secondhand clothing. With some seller's shipping off hundreds of parcels a week, they have created their own market place. But is the process worth it in the end?

For those who don't know, Depop is an online app that works similar to ebay, even a market stall or jumble sale... just online. How it works is that sellers create profiles, advertise their items they want to sell, post a short description of the item, then give it a price. And there you have it, your item is now listed up for sale for all Depop users to see. Simple enough, but there happens to be a specific nack for the app in order to actually make your efforts worthwhile. When scrolling through the app, one of the most common things to notice is the price sellers are advertising their items for. While charity and secondhand shops have been around for years, you can start to see a financial difference between these stores,

depop

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Hello, we're open. Hello we're Depop. We inspire people to find things they love. We believe in passion, creativity and connection. We believe that shopping should be fun and easy. Create your own shop, discover and share your favorite things. Welcome to our community.

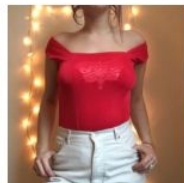
Explore items



£90



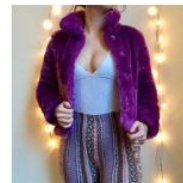
£20



£12



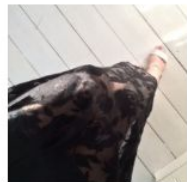
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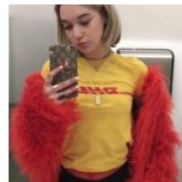
£20



£25



£8



£12.80



£5.70



£36.50

versus new expanding online apps like Depop. A charity shop offers similar products to those on Depop, at a fraction of the sale price, so what makes Depop so appealing?

Depop has thousands of users, both buyers and sellers. With a platform of such high traffic, that is continuing to grow, Depop holds a high status in the likes of young adults. While the youth of today are becoming more and more tech savvy, Depop continues to develop and expand, becoming a talked about app to purchase and sell clothing through.

Within your first few clicks when using depop, you can instantly tell a target audience from what you can view. While Depop is a free app open to anyone around the world, young adults aging anywhere between 16-30 are the average buyers/sellers you will find. While anyone can use the app, anything can be sold/purchased as well. Clothing of all sorts, (vintage, new, designer etc.) is mixed amongst pages of jewelry, art, furniture, shoes, and beauty.



With a free app like Depop, there's nothing more appealing than selling you old "junk" to someone who may find it a treasure. The

appeal to earn extra pocket money results from sellers posting advertisements for their second hand items. But with these second hand items, you can earn anywhere from as little as 2 pounds, to hundreds, depending what is being sold. When a seller posts a photo of a second hand shirt, sells it for a fiver, and then takes it to the post office to be shipped off to the buyer, the result may not actually be as beneficial as hoped. While a shirt may have originally only cost you 3 pounds from a charity shop, by the time you wear it, spend a few minutes advertising the product on Depop, the waiting time while you reply to messages regarding the product, to when you finally sell it and ship it off, the shirt has gained and lost value over the time. With a 3 pound shirt from a charity shop, you can sell for 5 pounds on depop, including the average 2.80 UK royal mail postage, you only end up making a little less than what you originally spent. But if you take the UK minimum working wage into consideration, add up the amount of time you've spent tending to your item for sale, as well as every extra cost, you may not actually be making a sale worth while.

Like Depop, London is full of independent vintage, and charity shops throughout the heart of the city. Sometimes it may be a lost cause, and sometimes you might strike big and find a piece you were destined to meet. The difference between charity shops, and depop lie within the labour, and cost in their sales. Take a charity shop for example... On your lunch break you may stop into the shop next door to look at second hand decor and clothing. While you will come across the same items you will find on this new age app, you need to take the whole process into consideration.

depop

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Vintage unbranded tshirt top // Off white/ Nude colour-way // Baggy fit on Men's size Medium - Women's oversized 8-10 // Posted first class 📦

5 hours ago
Norwich, United Kingdom

Buy £15 **Like** 2 likes



While there are many difference between charity shops and Depop, you can begin to see where the cracks may show with purchasing second hand goods online. A charity shop sources their items second hand by donation, while Depop items tend to be sellers getting rid of their unwanted goods. Both offer their customers pre-loved items, at a lower price, but the differences lie between the details. While charity shops are physical stores you can walk into, the first difference between the two is saving yourself the postage costs that come with purchasing items on depop. The second difference between the two is that items in charity shops tend to be sold for more accurate prices. The charity shops are given these items by free donation the majority of the time, so the selling price regardless of how high or low is a profit for the store. Depop items tend to be sold for higher prices, despite the item simply down to giving the seller a higher profit, so they do not lose out. A charity shop may offer a white cotton t-shirt for less than 3 pounds, while a seller on depop might sell it for roughly 5 pounds, plus the 2.80 shipping cost, that way the seller on Depop does not lose out. When searching through these online stores you may feel tempted, and unique, yet fail to bare in mind the logistics of the purchase, as attractive as they may be.

In the long run, Depop sounds like a dream for buying and selling items. In reality, you're better off stopping in your local charity shop, where you will not only find similar items, but they will be at a lower price, avoiding postage costs, and the money is going towards a good cause. But for those who enjoy not needing to leave your home to shop second hand, Depop is the perfect solution, simply a higher price.

So next time you find yourself late night browsing through Depop or other online second-hand stores, remember that you may be wasting your money on something that can be found at your local charity shop.