Economics Transition Project 2022

Name: _____

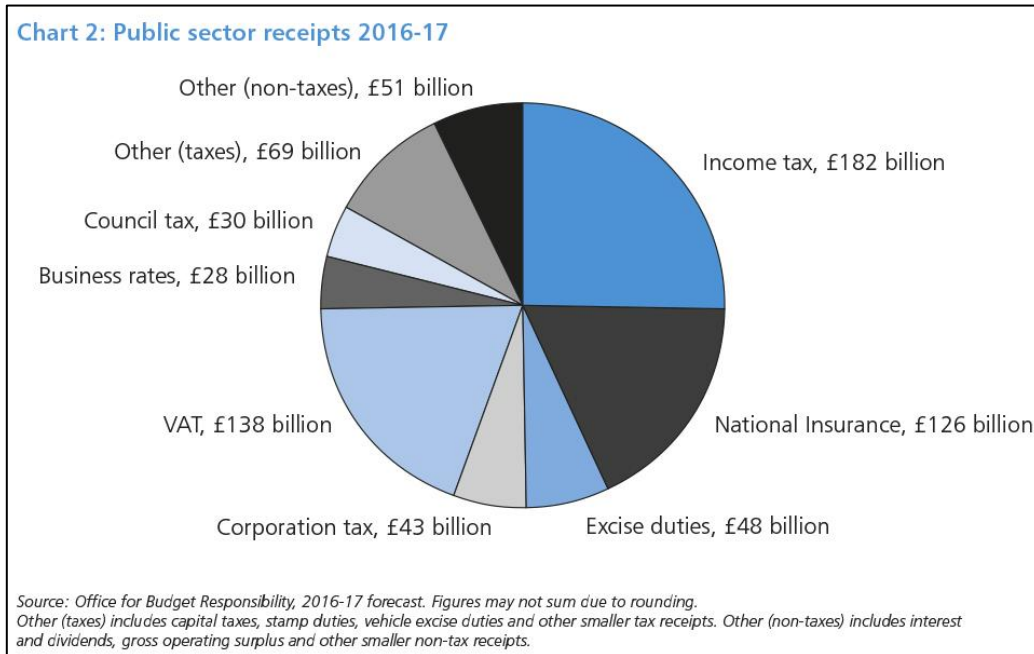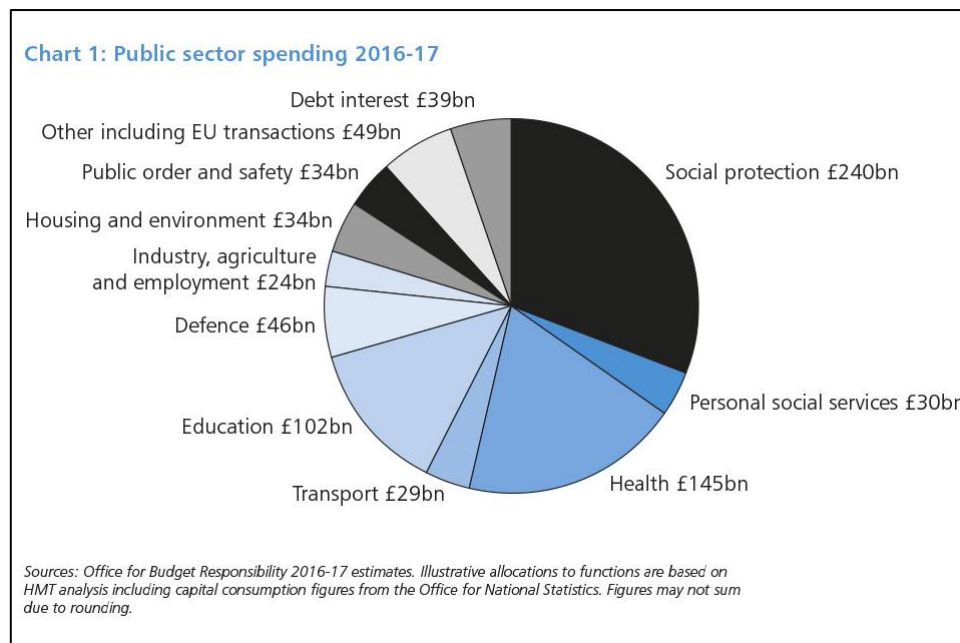**Due: September 2022**
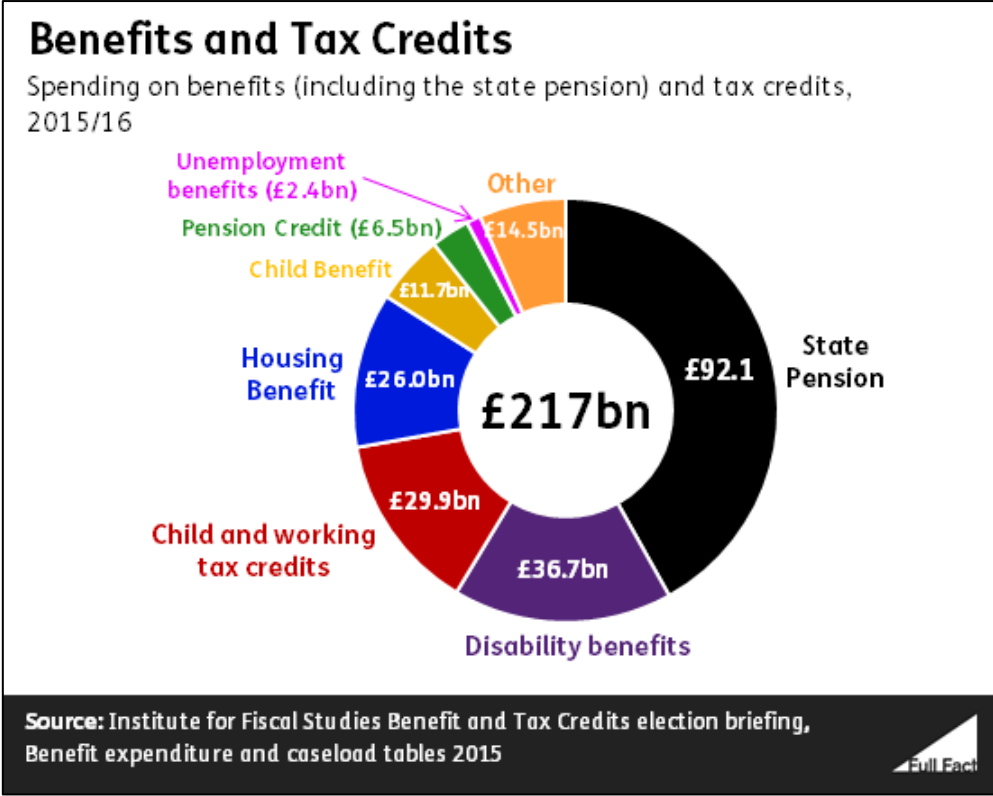
A Level Economics – Transition Project

<u>Task 1</u>

The UK government serves 64.1 million people and has a range of responsibilities to a variety of stakeholders. The chart below shows UK government tax receipts in both monetary terms and as a percentage of total national income (GDP).

Chart 2: Public sector receipts 2016-17

Other (non-taxes), £51 billion
Other (taxes), £69 billion
Council tax, £30 billion
Business rates, £28 billion
Income tax, £182 billion
VAT, £138 billion
National Insurance, £126 billion
Corporation tax, £43 billion
Excise duties, £48 billion

Source: Office for Budget Responsibility, 2016-17 forecast. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
Other (taxes) includes capital taxes, stamp duties, vehicle excise duties and other smaller tax receipts. Other (non-taxes) includes interest and dividends, gross operating surplus and other smaller non-tax receipts.

The chart below shows the areas that the government spends its tax revenue on. It is currently running a budget deficit, this is when the amount it spends is greater than the amount it collects from taxation. The UK government has budgeted to spend **£772bn** in **2016-17** with tax receipts forecast to be **£715bn**.

Chart 1: Public sector spending 2016-17

Debt interest £39bn
Other including EU transactions £49bn
Public order and safety £34bn
Housing and environment £34bn
Industry, agriculture and employment £24bn
Defence £46bn
Education £102bn
Transport £29bn
Social protection £240bn
Personal social services £30bn
Health £145bn

Sources: Office for Budget Responsibility 2016-17 estimates. Illustrative allocations to functions are based on HMT analysis including capital consumption figures from the Office for National Statistics. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Benefits and Tax Credits

Spending on benefits (including the state pension) and tax credits, 2015/16

Unemployment benefits (£2.4bn)
Pension Credit (£6.5bn)
Child Benefit £11.7bn
Housing Benefit £26.0bn
Child and working tax credits £29.9bn
Disability benefits £36.7bn
State Pension £92.1
Other £14.5bn
£217bn

Taking Control – Your task is to assume control of the UK government. You will be deciding how to spend the tax receipts it collects over the next financial year (assumed to be **£550bn**). You must decide which areas should receive extra funding and which areas you will reduce funding for. You must not spend more than your total tax receipts. You must be able to **justify** the decisions you make. **Consider** the ethical, social and financial implications of your decisions.

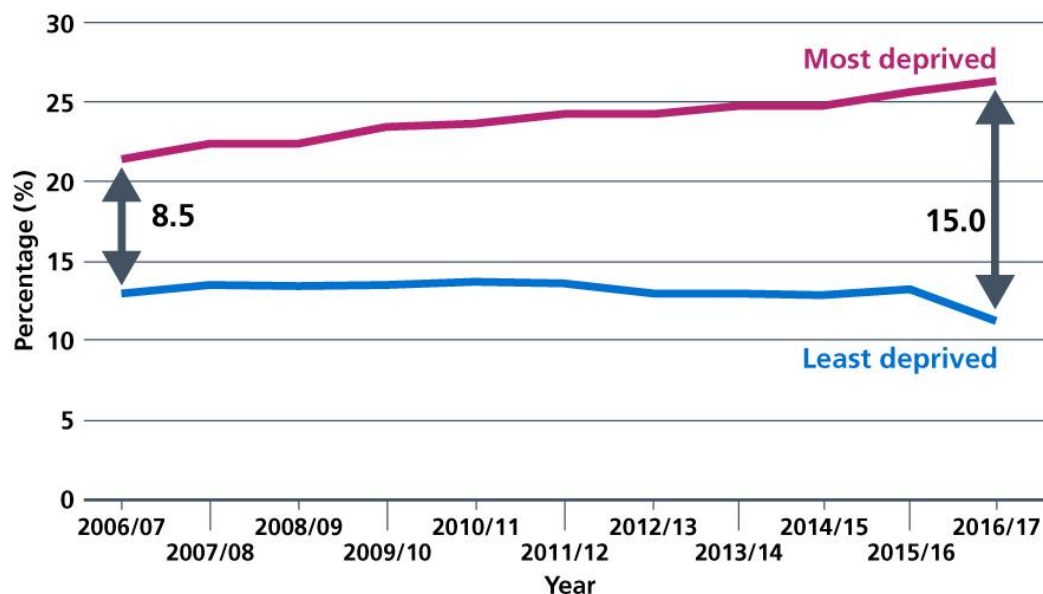Write your answers here

Obesity in children

Expert reviewer, Dr Nagi Giumma Barakat, Consultant Paediatrician/Neurology
Next review due September 2022

Obesity in children is when children are very overweight and have too much fat in their body. Children need a healthy, balanced diet that gives them enough energy to grow and develop. But if they regularly take in more energy (calories) than they need and don't do enough physical exercise, they'll put on too much weight. Childhood obesity can lead to serious health problems such as diabetes, heart problems and cancer in later life.
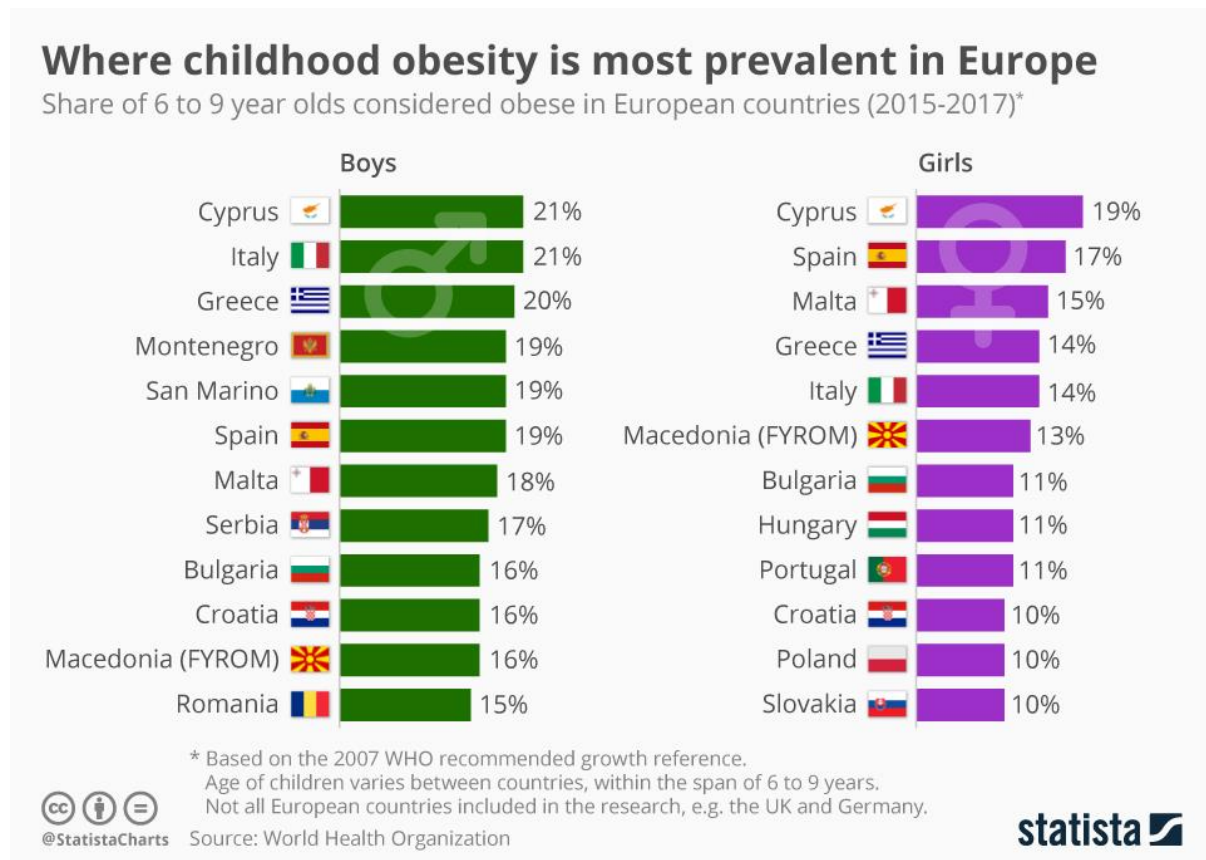
The **UK** has one of the highest **rates** of **childhood obesity** in Europe. In 2018, around one in 10 **children** aged four to five were classified as **obese**, and around one in five **children** aged 10 to 11 were.

Childhood obesity at Year 6 of primary school

It can be argued that there is a correlation between income/wealth and childhood obesity as seen in the chart on the previous page.

The problem of childhood obesity is not exclusive to the UK as seen in the chart below.

Where childhood obesity is most prevalent in Europe
Share of 6 to 9 year olds considered obese in European countries (2015-2017)*

Boys		Girls	
Cyprus	21%	Cyprus	19%
Italy	21%	Spain	17%
Greece	20%	Malta	15%
Montenegro	19%	Greece	14%
San Marino	19%	Italy	14%
Spain	19%	Macedonia (FYROM)	13%
Malta	18%	Bulgaria	11%
Serbia	17%	Hungary	11%
Bulgaria	16%	Portugal	11%
Croatia	16%	Croatia	10%
Macedonia (FYROM)	16%	Poland	10%
Romania	15%	Slovakia	10%

* Based on the 2007 WHO recommended growth reference.
Age of children varies between countries, within the span of 6 to 9 years.
Not all European countries included in the research, e.g. the UK and Germany.

@StatistaCharts   Source: World Health Organization

statista

The Daily Mile Initiative

An initiative to get schoolchildren to walk or run a mile every day leads to significant improvements in their health, according to a study.

The Daily Mile scheme was originally the brainchild of a Scottish head teacher who started it in 2012.

University researchers have compared the health of children at a primary school which takes part in the scheme with those at a school which does not. They found it led to improved fitness and body composition.

It is the first quantitative research to back up anecdotal evidence about the benefits of the Daily Mile. More than 3,600 schools in 30 countries around the world are said to have taken up the idea since it started to receive widespread publicity three years ago, but not all get pupils to complete a mile every single day. The scheme was pioneered by Elaine Wyllie, who was then the head teacher at St Ninian's Primary School in Stirling, and has been widely praised and won several awards since. The researchers from Stirling University and Moray House College of Education at Edinburgh University say more policymakers across the world should now consider introducing the initiative.

Your task is to create a **coherent policy** reaching across government departments including the department of education (DFE), department of health (NHS) and the department for culture, media and sport.

Use the space below to explain a minimum of three policies/actions such as the Daily Mile Initiative that the government might consider to help alleviate the chronic and sustained problem of childhood obesity. Each policy/action must have suitable evidence to substantiate its effectiveness and be explained in full. Use the data/charts and written material provided in this pack to help you formulate justifications for your policies.

Policy/Action 1

Policy/Action 2

Policy/Action 3

Overall policy/action chosen with reasons.