Appendix I: The Climate Ethics Survey (selected questions)

Survey Section 1: Attitudes/Opinions

Q.A.6:
Question 6.

What is your opinion of the following statement?

The effects of climate change will pose serious risks to YOU and YOUR FAMILY during the remainder of your lifetime.

Serious risks from climate change can include more extreme weather events, rising sea level, and negative impacts on human health, ecosystems and the economy.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly Agree

Q.A.7:
Question 7.

What is your opinion of the following statement?

The effects of climate change will pose serious risks to GLOBAL SOCIETY during the remainder of your lifetime.

Serious risks from climate change can include more extreme weather events, rising sea level, and negative impacts on human health, ecosystems and the economy.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly Agree

Survey Section 2: Income Distribution (National)

This section seeks to explore your attitudes toward the distribution of income within a country.

In reality, there is often a trade-off between achieving the highest total national income and creating an equal distribution between the rich and the poor. That is, policies aimed at distributing income from rich to poor often reduce the total 'size of the pie'.

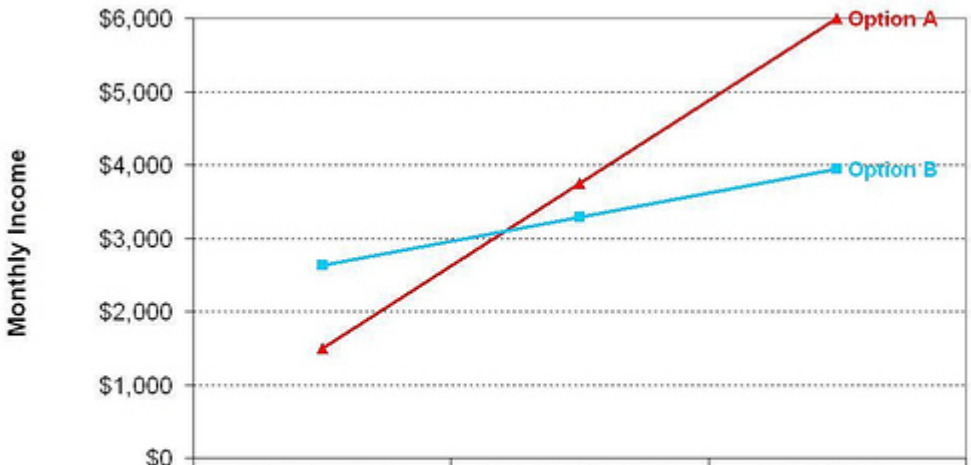
The following questions require you to make such a trade-off. In each question, you will be asked to choose between two different distributions, labelled A and B. Option B gives a more equal distribution between rich and poor, but the total income is higher in Option A.

When answering these questions, assume that your position in the national income distribution is approximately the same as it is in reality.

Remember, there is no 'correct' answer to these questions, and we ask you to reflect on the choices carefully. If you change your mind along the way, you may of course change your earlier responses.

There are three questions in this section.

*** Q.I.N.1:**
Question 1.



	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$1,500	$3,750	$6,000
Option B	$2,630	$3,290	$3,950

Which national income distribution option would you prefer?

Assumptions:

There are no social programs to help the poorest people, and everyone has to pay for their own education, health care, etc.

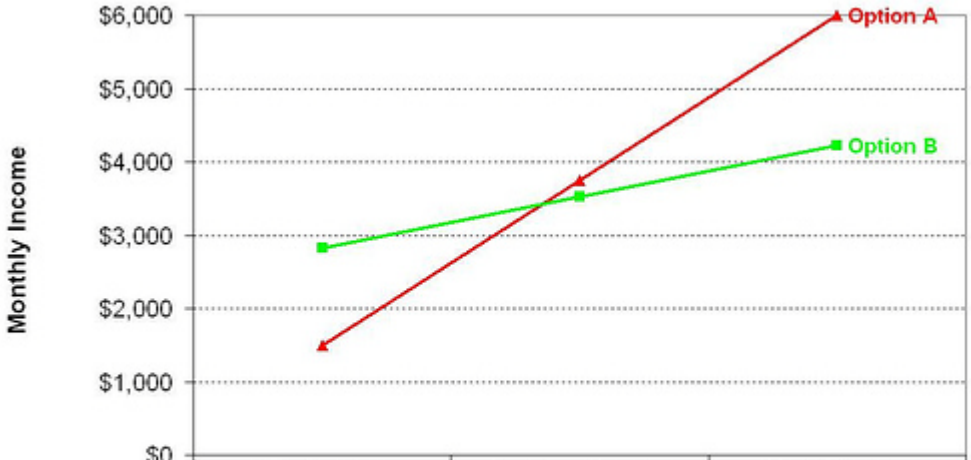
The richest 10% and the poorest 10% of people lie outside the range stated in the question. Assume that these people are unaffected by your choice of distribution; your decision affects only the middle 80% of the population. Within this range, people are distributed evenly, so that there is the same number of people in the upper and the lower half of the distribution.

The options differ only in terms of their income distribution, and this distribution does not affect the future growth rate of the economy. The prices of goods are the same for both options; i.e. for $100 you can buy the same amount of goods in both options.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ **Option A**
- ☐ **Option B**
- ☐ I choose not to answer

Q.I.N.2.1:
Question 2.
[Only respondents who answered '**Option A**' to question 'Q.I.N.1 ' see this question]

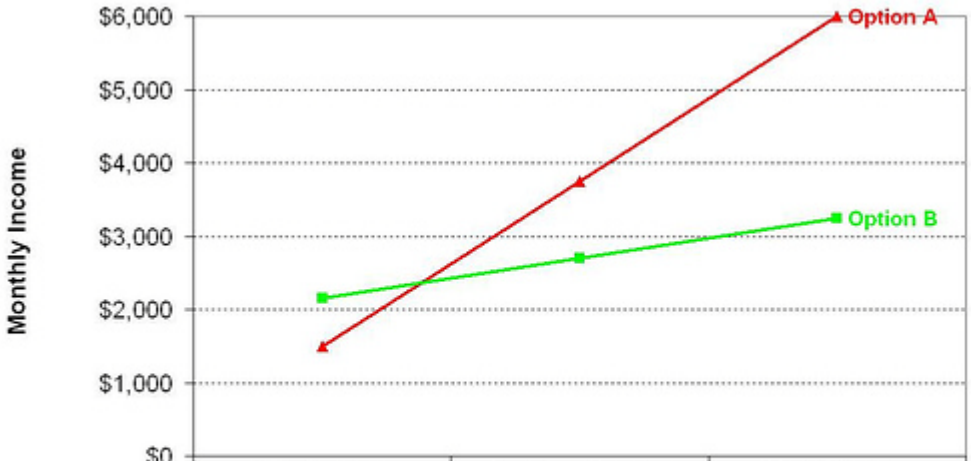


	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$1,500	$3,750	$6,000
Option B	$2,820	$3,525	$4,230

Which national income distribution option would you prefer?
Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ **Option A**
- ☐ **Option B**
- ☐ I choose not to answer

Q.I.N.2.2:
Question 2.
[Only respondents who answered '**Option B**' to question 'Q.I.N.1 ' see this]



	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$1,500	$3,750	$6,000
Option B	$2,160	$2,700	$3,240

Which national income distribution option would you prefer?
Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ **Option A**

☐ **Option B**

☐ I choose not to answer

Q.I.N.3.1:
Question 3.

[Only answer respondents who answered '**Option A**' to question 'Q.I.N.2.1 ' see this]

	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$1,500	$3,750	$6,000
Option B	$2,910	$3,640	$4,370

Which national income distribution option would you prefer?
Please choose **only one** of the following:

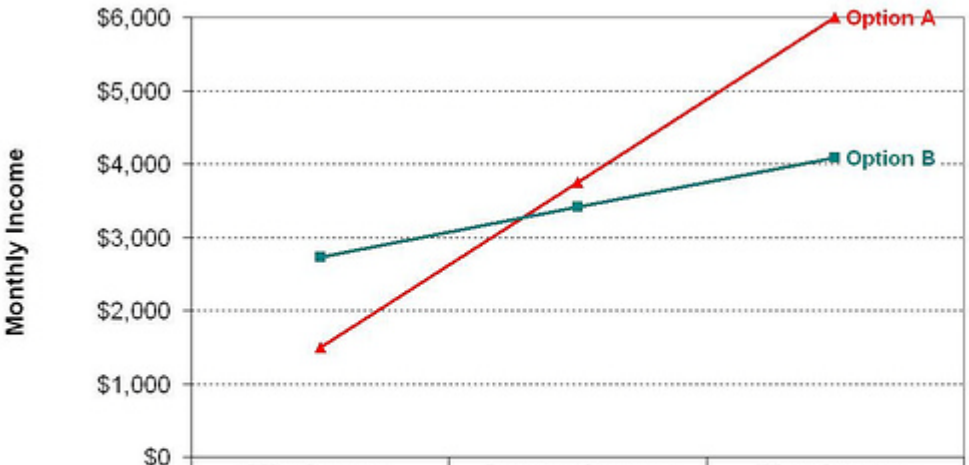
☐ **Option A**

☐ **Option B**

☐ I choose not to answer

Q.I.N.3.2:
Question 3.

[Only respondents who answered '**Option B**' to question 'Q.I.N.2.1 ' see this] *



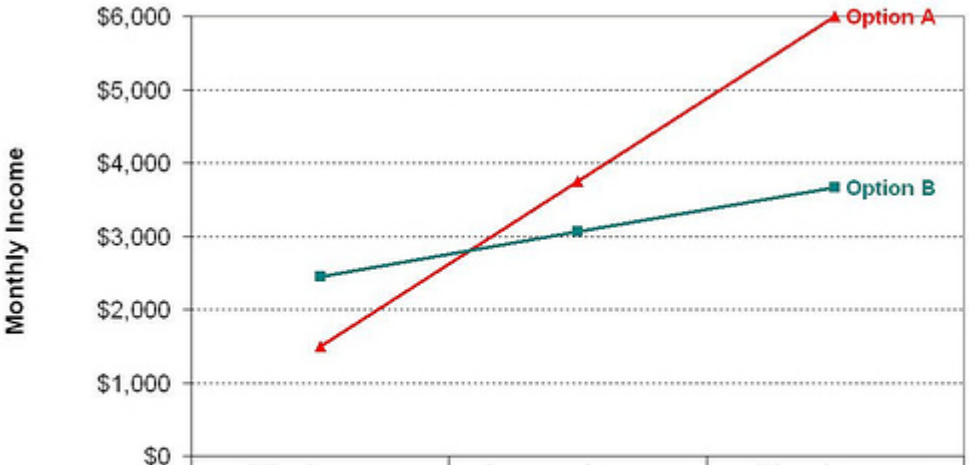
	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$1,500	$3,750	$6,000
Option B	$2,730	$3,410	$4,090

Which national income distribution option would you prefer?
Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ **Option A**
- ☐ **Option B**
- ☐ I choose not to answer

Q.I.N.3.3:
Question 3.

[Only respondents who answered '**Option A**' to question 'Q.I.N.2.2 ' see this] *



	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$1,500	$3,750	$6,000
Option B	$2,450	$3,060	$3,670

Which national income distribution option would you prefer?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ **Option A**
- ☐ **Option B**
- ☐ I choose not to answer

Q.I.N.3.4:
Question 3.
[Only respondents who answered '**Option B**' to question 'Q.I.N.2.2 ' see this]

	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$1,500	$3,750	$6,000
Option B	$1,940	$2,425	$2,910

Which national income distribution option would you prefer?
Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ **Option A**
- ☐ **Option B**
- ☐ I choose not to answer

Survey Section 3: Income Distribution (Global)

Now we are interested in your attitudes towards the distribution between rich and poor on a global level.

How much total global income should be sacrificed to achieve a more equal distribution?

The format of these questions is the same as in the previous section, and the same assumptions apply.

The incomes are adjusted for purchasing power, so that one dollar buys the same amount of goods in every country.

Again, assume that your position in the global income distribution is approximately the same as it is in reality.

Remember, there is no 'correct' answer to these questions, and we ask you to reflect on the choices carefully. If you change your mind along the way, you may of course change your earlier responses.

There are three questions in this section.

Q.I.G.1:
Question 1.

*

Question 1.

	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$50	$825	$1,600
Option B	$206	$516	$826

Which global income distribution option would you prefer?
Choose only one of the following

Option A

Option B

I choose not to answer

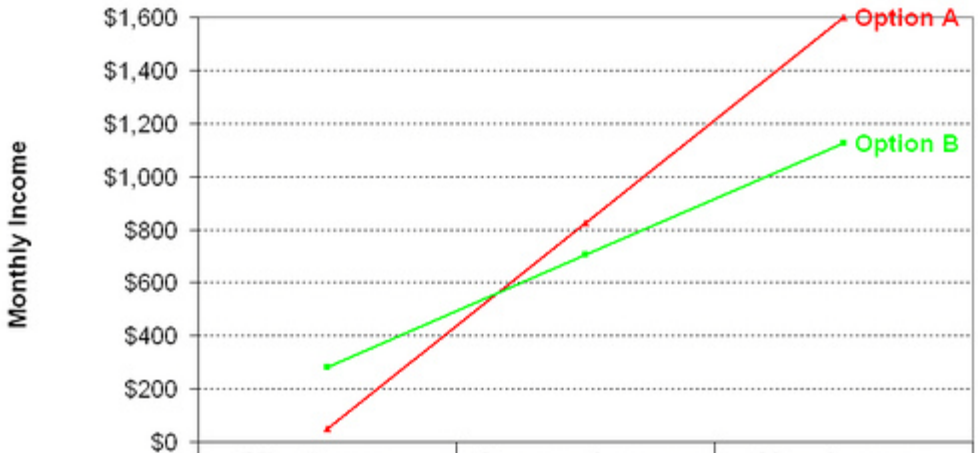
Assumptions:

There are no social programs or international aid to help the poorest people, and everyone has to pay for their own education, health care, etc.

The richest 10% and the poorest 10% of people lie outside the stated range. Assume that these people are unaffected by your choice of distribution; your decision affects only the middle 80% of the population. Within the stated range, people are distributed evenly, so that there is the same number of people in the upper and the lower half of the distribution.

The options differ only in terms of their income distribution, and this distribution does not affect the future growth rate of the global economy.

Question 2.
[Only respondents who chose 'Option A' in the first question see this]



	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$50	$825	$1,600
Option B	$282	$705	$1,127

Which global income distribution option would you prefer?

Choose only one of the following

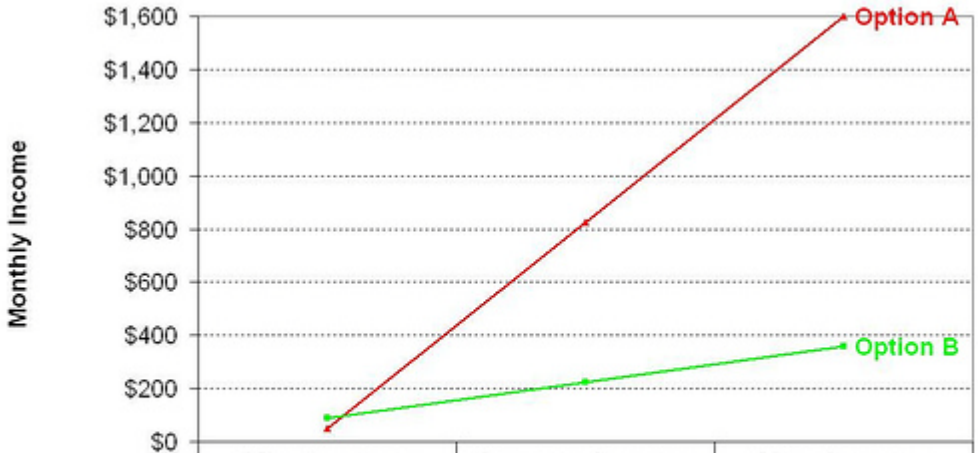
Option A

Option B

I choose not to answer

Question 2.

[Only respondents who chose 'Option B' in the first question see this]



	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$50	$825	$1,600
Option B	$89	$223	$357

Which global income distribution option would you prefer?

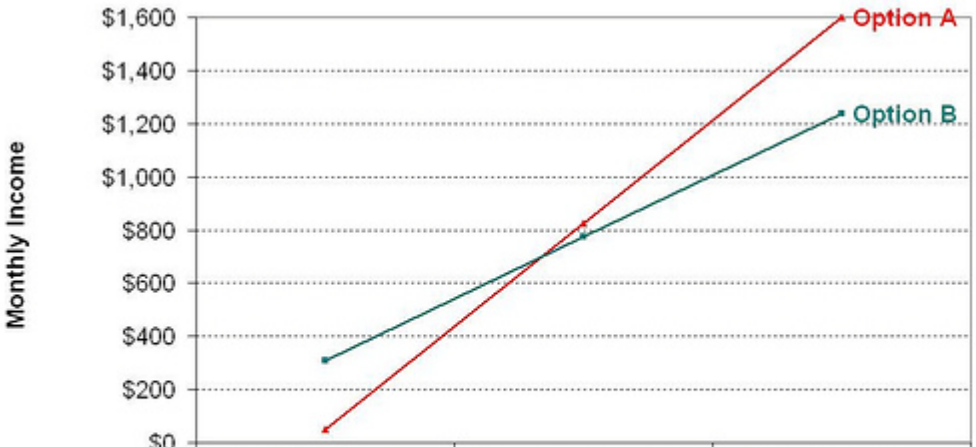
Choose only one of the following

Option A

Option B

I choose not to answer

Question 3.
[Only respondents who chose 'Option A' in the first question and 'Option A' in the second question see this]



	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$50	$825	$1,600
Option B	$310	$774	$1,238

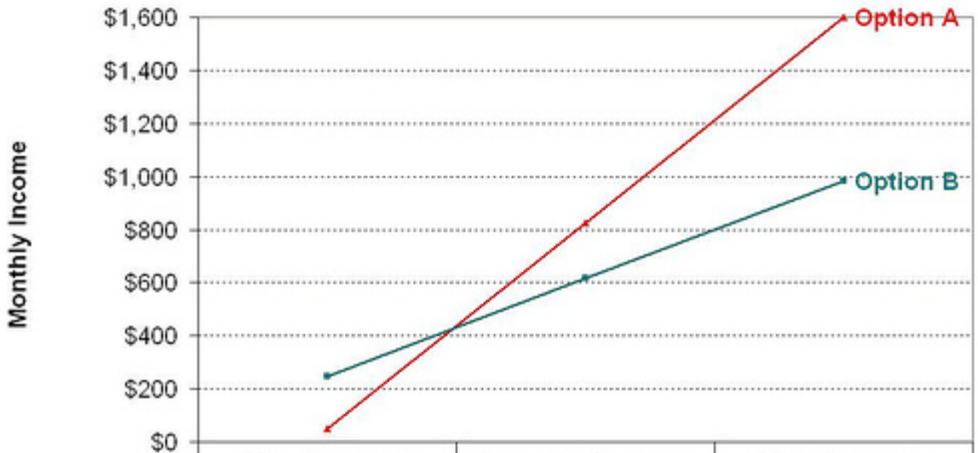
Which global income distribution option would you prefer?
Choose only one of the following

Option A

Option B

I choose not to answer

Question 3.
[Only respondents who chose 'Option A' in the first question and 'Option B' in the second question see this]



	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$50	$825	$1,600
Option B	$246	$616	$985

Which global income distribution option would you prefer?

Choose only one of the following

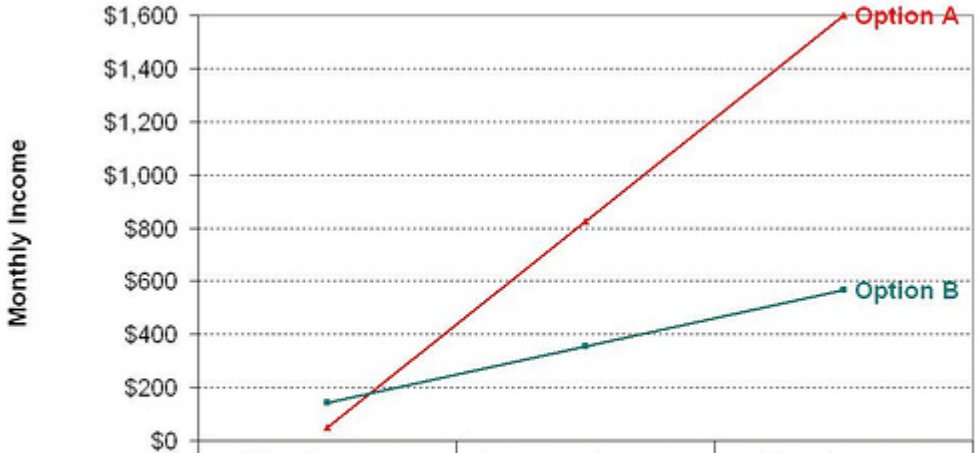
Option A

Option B

I choose not to answer

Question 3.

[Only respondents who chose 'Option B' in the first question and 'Option A' in the second question see this]



	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$50	$825	$1,600
Option B	$141	$354	$566

Which global income distribution option would you prefer?

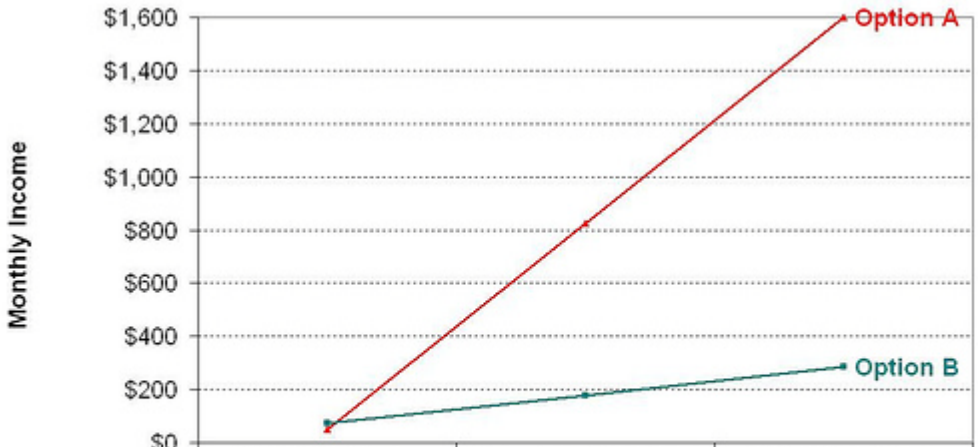
Choose only one of the following

Option A

Option B

I choose not to answer

Question 3.
[Only respondents who chose 'Option B' in the first question and 'Option B' in the second question see this]



	Min. Income	Average Income	Max. Income
Option A	$50	$825	$1,600
Option B	$72	$179	$286

Which global income distribution option would you prefer?
Choose only one of the following

Option A

Option B

I choose not to answer

Survey Section 5: Societal Risk

Now we are interested in your attitudes toward risk on a national level.
The format of this section is the same as in the previous section.

Governments make many kinds of choices that affect our standard of living. In many cases, the effect of these choices is uncertain. Some policies have the potential to increase our standard of living, but on the other hand these policies may also increase the risk that our living standards will fall.

For example, by spending less on flood defenses, more money could be spent on other infrastructure, like roads and schools, thereby increasing economic growth. The drawback of spending less on defenses is that if a flood occurs, economic losses are likely to be greater as a result of this policy.

Suppose that the government can guarantee that the current average national income is sustained forever. But it also has the opportunity to make policies that give a 50-50 chance of doubling the national average income. On the other hand, each of these

policies also has a 50-50 chance of cutting the current average national income by a given amount.

In each question you will be asked whether you would vote for such a policy.

Assume that there is no inflation.

There are three questions in this section.

Question 1.

Suppose that the government can guarantee that the current average national income is sustained forever.

But it has the opportunity to make a policy that gives a 50-50 chance of doubling the national average income.
On the other hand, the proposed policy also has a 50-50 chance of cutting the current average national income by 33%.

Would you be willing to have the government adopt such a policy?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ◉ No answer

Question 2.
[Only respondents who answered 'Yes' to the first question see this]
Suppose that the government can guarantee that the current average national income is sustained forever.

But it has the opportunity to make a policy that gives a 50-50 chance of doubling the national average income.
On the other hand, the proposed policy also has a 50-50 chance of cutting the current average national income by 50%.

Would you be willing to have the government adopt such a policy?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ◉ No answer

Question 2.
[Only respondents who answered 'No' to the first question see this]

Suppose that the government can guarantee that the current average national income is sustained forever.

But it has the opportunity to make a policy that gives a 50-50 chance of doubling the

national average income.
On the other hand, the proposed policy also has a 50-50 chance of cutting the current average national income by 15%.

Would you be willing to have the government adopt such a policy?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ No answer

Question 3.
[Only respondents who answered 'Yes' to the first question and 'Yes' to the second question see this]

Suppose that the government can guarantee that the current average national income is sustained forever.

But it has the opportunity to make a policy that gives a 50-50 chance of doubling the national average income.
On the other hand, the proposed policy also has a 50-50 chance of cutting the current average national income by 66%.

Would you be willing to have the government adopt such a policy?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ No answer

Question 3.
[Only respondents who answered 'Yes' to the first question and 'No' to the second question see this]

Suppose that the government can guarantee that the current average national income is sustained forever.

But it has the opportunity to make a policy that gives a 50-50 chance of doubling the national average income.
On the other hand, the proposed policy also has a 50-50 chance of cutting the current average national income by 40%.

Would you be willing to have the government adopt such a policy?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ No answer

Question 3.
[Only respondents who answered 'No' to the first question and 'Yes' to the second question see this]

Suppose that the government can guarantee that the current average national income is sustained forever.

But it has the opportunity to make a policy that gives a 50-50 chance of doubling the national average income.
On the other hand, the proposed policy also has a 50-50 chance of cutting the current average national income by 25%.

Would you be willing to have the government adopt such a policy?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ No answer

Question 3.
[Only respondents who answered 'No' to the first question and 'No' to the second question see this]

Suppose that the government can guarantee that the current average national income is sustained forever.

But it has the opportunity to make a policy that gives a 50-50 chance of doubling the national average income.
On the other hand, the proposed policy also has a 50-50 chance of cutting the current average national income by 10%.

Would you be willing to have the government adopt such a policy?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ No answer

Survey Section 6: Time

Some of the policies adopted by governments affect how the standard of living will change in the future. Many of these policies can be thought of in a way similar to your own decisions on how much to spend and how much to save.

Some policies can increase future income quite a lot by sacrificing only a small amount of income today. Other policies require large cuts now for modest gains in the future.

How should the living standard in one period be weighed against the living standards in another period?

The following questions ask you to choose between government saving and spending

plans that cover the period Now-2107 and 2107-2207.

Assume that there is no inflation.

Remember, there is no 'correct' answer to these questions, and we ask you to reflect on the choices carefully. If you change your mind along the way, you may of course change your earlier responses.

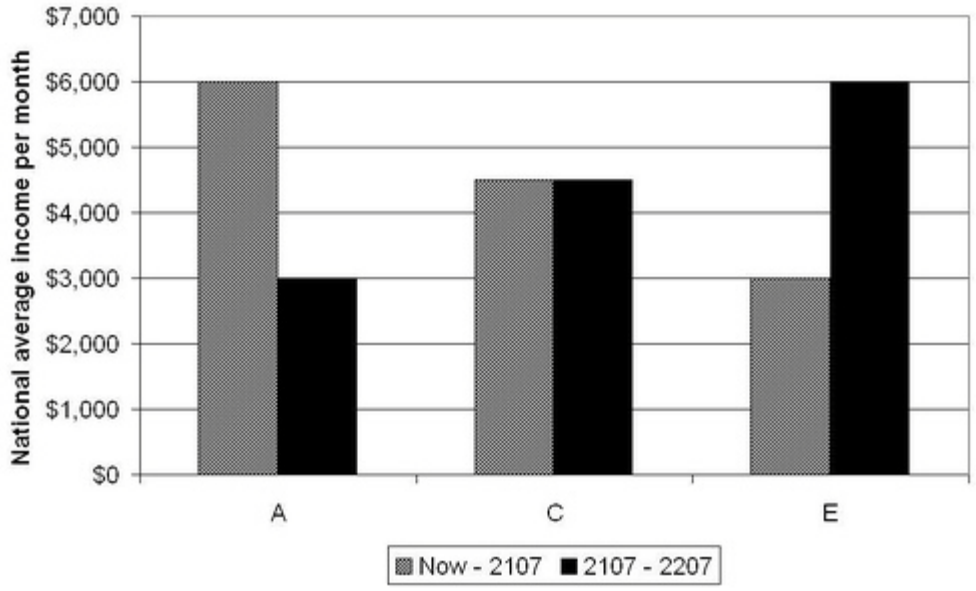
There are four questions in this section.

Question 1.

This question contains several possible ways in which standards of living could change over the next two hundred years.

Government policies to save and invest today will ensure that future generations have a higher standard of living next century, as in choice E.
Or government could encourage more borrowing and spending this century, spending less next, as in choice A.
Or government policies could aim for a constant standard of living, as in choice C.

In this first question, saving $1 in the first period means that income in the second period increases by $1.



PLAN	A	C	E
NOW-2107	$6000	$4500	$3000
2107-2207	$3000	$4500	$6000

Which plan do you prefer?
Choose only one of the following

A

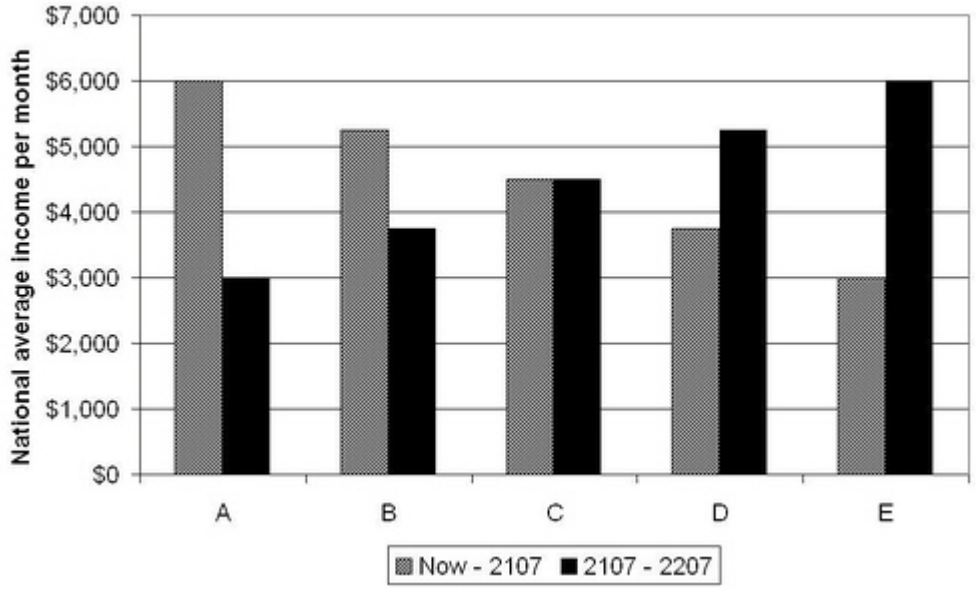
C

E

I choose not to answer

Question 2.

Here are the same plans as before, but with two additional choices.



PLAN	A	B	C	D	E
NOW-2107	$6000	$5250	$4500	$3750	$3000
2107-2207	$3000	$3750	$4500	$5250	$6000

Which plan do you prefer?
Choose only one of the following

A

B

C

D

E

I choose not to answer

Question 3.

Here is another set of plans.
Saving $1 in the first period means that income in the second period increases by $4.

PLAN	A	B	C	D	E
NOW-2107	$5250	$4875	$4500	$4125	$3750
2107-2207	$1500	$3000	$4500	$6000	$7500

Which plan do you prefer?
Choose only one of the following

A

B

C

D

E

I choose not to answer

Question 4.

Finally, in this last set of plans, saving $1 in the first period means that income in the second period increases by $0.25

PLAN	A	B	C	D	E
NOW-2107	$7500	$6000	$4500	$3000	$1500
2107-2207	£3750	$4125	$4500	$4875	$5250

Which plan do you prefer?
Choose only one of the following

A

B

C

D

E

I choose not to answer

Survey Section 7: Demographics

In the following section we ask you to answer some basic demographic information.
As before, the responses are confidential and anonymous.
We seek this information solely for the purpose of analysis of the data obtained in the first sections of this survey.

There are nine questions in this section.

Q.D.1:
Question 1.

Please specify your gender:
Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male

Q.D.2:
Question 2.

Please specify the year of your birth

Use a 4-digit format i.e. 1901; only years of the form: 19XX will be accepted.

Please write your answer here:

Q.D.4:
Question 4.

What is your average total household income annually?
(Please include the income of all earners in your household before taxes.)

Remember that these responses are anonymous and confidential.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ <$15000
- ☐ $15000-$29999
- ☐ $30000-$44999
- ☐ $45000-$59999
- ☐ $60000-$74999
- ☐ $75000-$89999
- ☐ $90000-$99999
- ☐ $100000-$119999
- ☐ $120000-$129999
- ☐ $130000-$139999

- ☐ $140000-$159999
- ☐ $160000-$174999
- ☐ $175000-$189999
- ☐ $190000-$199999
- ☐ $200000-$219999
- ☐ $220000-$299999
- ☐ $300000-$349999
- ☐ $350000-$449999
- ☐ >$450000

Q.D.5:
Question 5.

Which option best describes your highest level of education completed?
Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Some high school or less
- ☐ High School Graduate
- ☐ College/University Undergraduate Degree
- ☐ Post-Graduate Degree (Master or PhD)
- ☐ Medical (doctor) Degree
- ☐ Law Degree

Q.D.6:
Question 6.

What is your current employment status?
Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Full-time private sector
- ☐ Full-time public sector
- ☐ Self-employed
- ☐ Leave (paid)
- ☐ Leave (other)
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Taking care of the house (homemaker)
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Unemployed

Q.D.9:
Question 9.

Are you a member of an environmental organization or conservation group?
Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No