IS ECONOMIC GROWTH DESIRABLE?

**Doc 1: Benefits of growth:**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Years</th>
<th>1%</th>
<th>2%</th>
<th>3%</th>
<th>5%</th>
<th>10%</th>
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<td>£100</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>£128</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>£1 147</td>
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<td>£442</td>
<td>£891</td>
<td>£3 883</td>
<td>£12 189</td>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>£271</td>
<td>£724</td>
<td>£1 870</td>
<td>£13 150</td>
<td>£1 378 059</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The rate of economic growth has accelerated historically. Even five hundred years ago, most people would have seen little change in income over their lifetimes. In Victorian England, the economy grew at about one per cent per annum. Over the past 60 years, the UK economy has grown at the average of 2.6 per cent per annum.

Growth at these rates since the end of the Second World War in 1945 has led to undreamt of prosperity for the citizens of the industrialised world. Consider Table 1. It shows by how much £100 will grow over time at different rates. At one per cent growth, income will roughly double over the lifetime of an individual. At 2 per cent, it will quadruple over a lifetime (…). These increases in income have led to the elimination of absolute poverty for most citizens in industrialized countries.

- Life expectancy has doubled over the 300 past years and infant mortality rates have plummeted.
- People have enough to eat and drink. What we eat and drink is nearly fit for human consumption.
- Housing standards have improved immeasurably.
- Nearly everyone can read and write.

Documents 1 and 2 are from Economics, fifth edition, student book, Alain Anderton, Pearson.

**Doc 3:**

About climate change:


from school book SES terminales, Hatier