Question 1 Suppose that a person's utility function is $u(x_1, x_2) = x_1 x_2^2$ and that prices are $p_1 = 4$, $p_2 = 2$. Then MRS $= x_2/(2x_1) = 2$. Thus, the equation of the income offer curve is

$$\boldsymbol{x_2 = 4x_1}$$

Note that $x_1 = 80$. Therefore, $x_2 = 80$.

Then $h_2(4, 2, u) = 20, u = 128,000.$

Question 2 Suppose that person's utility function is $u(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + 2\sqrt{x_2}$. Prices are p_1, p_2 and income is I. Then MRS $= \sqrt{x_2} = p_1/p_2$. Hence, $x_2 = p_1^2/p_2^2$. Then the demand function for goods 1 and are given by

$$\boldsymbol{x_1(p_1, p_2, I) = \frac{Ip_2 - p_1^2}{p_1 p_2}, x_2(p_1, p_2, I) = \frac{p_1^2}{p_2^2}.}$$

Thus, the indirect utility function is

$$\boldsymbol{v(p_1, p_2, I) = \frac{Ip_2 + p_1^2}{p_1 p_2}.}$$

Question 3 A utility function is given by $u(x_1, x_2) = x_1 - (4/x_2)$. The equation of the income offer curve is $x_2^2/4 = p_1/p_2$. Thus, $x_2 = 2\sqrt{p_1/p_2}$. The equation of the indifference curve is $x_1 - 4/x_2 = u$.

Then Hicksean demand is

$$\boldsymbol{h_1(p_1, p_2, u) = u + 2\frac{p_2}{p_1}, h_2(p_1, p_2, u) = 2\sqrt{p_1/p_2}.}$$

The expenditure function is

$$\boldsymbol{e(p_1, p_2, u) = up_1 + 4\sqrt{p_1 p_2}.}$$

Question 4 A person's utility function is $u(x_1, x_2) = (1/4)x_1^2 x_2$. $x_1 = 2I/(3p_1)$, $x_2 = I/(3p_2)$. If $p_1 = 1$, $p_2 = 1$, $I = 90$, then demand is $x_1 = 60$, $x_2 = 30$. Thus, utility is 27,000. We now have to determine how much money the person needs at prices $p_1 = 1$, $p_2 = 8$ to obtain utility 27,000.

The indirect utility function is $v(p_1, p_2, I) = \frac{I^3}{27p_1^2 p_2}$. Thus, $I^3 = 27p_1^2 p_2 u$, i.e., $e(p_1, p_2, u) = 3p_1^{2/3} p_2^{1/3} u^{1/3}$. Thus, the person needs an income of $e(1, 8, 27000) = 180$

The lump sum subsidy is $s = 90$

Demand for good 2 after the subsidy is 7.5.

The government's tax revenue (after the lump sum subsidy is introduced is) **52.5**.

Why is the lump-sum subsidy not equal to the amount of money raised by the tax? (Your answer must fit into the box below).

90−52.5 = 37.5 `is the deadweight loss of the tax measured by using the compensating variation. The tax generates a distortion (consumers substitute away from good 1 to avoid some of the tax).`

Question 5 Suppose that all income offer curves are straight lines starting at $(0,0)$. At prices $p_1 = 2$, $p_2 = 2$ the person's optimal consumption is $(20,20)$. Thus, income is $I = 80$. When the price of good 1 decreases to $p_1 = 1$ demand of good 1 increases to 50. Thus, $50 + 2x_2 = 80$. Thus, $x_2 = 15$. The optimal consumption is $(50,15)$. Thus, the equation of the income offer curve is $x_2 = 0.3x_1$.

In order to be able to afford $(20,20)$ at the new prices, the person's income must be $I' = 60$. Thus, $x_1 + 2x_2 = 60$ and $x_2 = 0.3x_1$. Compensated demand is therefore $(37.5, 11.25)$.

Then Slutzky substitution effects for goods 1 and 2 are

$\boldsymbol{\Delta_1^s = 17.5, \Delta_2^s = -8.75.}$

The Slutzky income effects are

$\boldsymbol{\Delta_1^I = 12.5, \Delta_2^I = 3.75.}$

Question 6 The payoffs are:

State g: \$ $1.1(1000 - m) + 2.5m$, state b: \$ $1.1(1000 - m) + 0.6m$.

The person solves

$$\max_m 0.3\ln(1.1(1000 - m) + 2.5m) + 0.7\ln(1.1(1000 - m) + 0.6m),$$

The first order condition is $0.42/(1100 + 1.4m) = 0.35/(1100 - 0.5m)$.

The person invests \$110 into the risky asset.

Question 7 A person's Bernoulli utility function is given by $u(x) = \sqrt{x}$. Consider the following lottery: With probability 0.5 the payoff is 1, with probability 0.2 the payoff is 4, with probability 0.2 the payoff is 25 and with probability 0.1 the payoff is 100. The person's current wealth is zero. Then

The expected payoff of the lottery is 16.30

The person's expected utility from the lottery is 2.9

The lottery's certainty equivalent is 8.41

Note: Recall that the certainty equivalent is a payment y that the person receives with certainty such that expected utility of y is the same as that of the lottery.

Question 8 Suppose there are two risky assets, A, and B and riskless asset. The riskless asset has a return of 2%. The returns of assets A and B are 10% and 30% respectively. Denote by x_r, x_A, and x_B the fraction of your money invested in the three assets. Then $x_r + x_A + x_B = 1$. The return of the portfolio is $0.02x_r + 0.1x_A + 0.3x_B$ (Note that this is the return rather than the gross return). Suppose that the variance of the portfolio is $0.01x_A^2 + 0.01x_Ax_B + 0.04x_B^2$. The person has mean variance preferences of the form $u(\mu, \sigma) = \mu - 20\sigma^2$, where μ is the expected return and σ the standard deviation of the portfolio.

The person solves

$$\max_{x_r, x_A, x_B} 0.02x_r + 0.1x_A + 0.3x_B - 20(0.01x_A^2 - 0.02x_Ax_B + 0.04x_B^2),$$

subject to $x_r + x_A + x_B = 1$.

The optimal portfolio is $\boldsymbol{x_r = 0.2, x_A = 0.5, x_B = 0.3.}$