

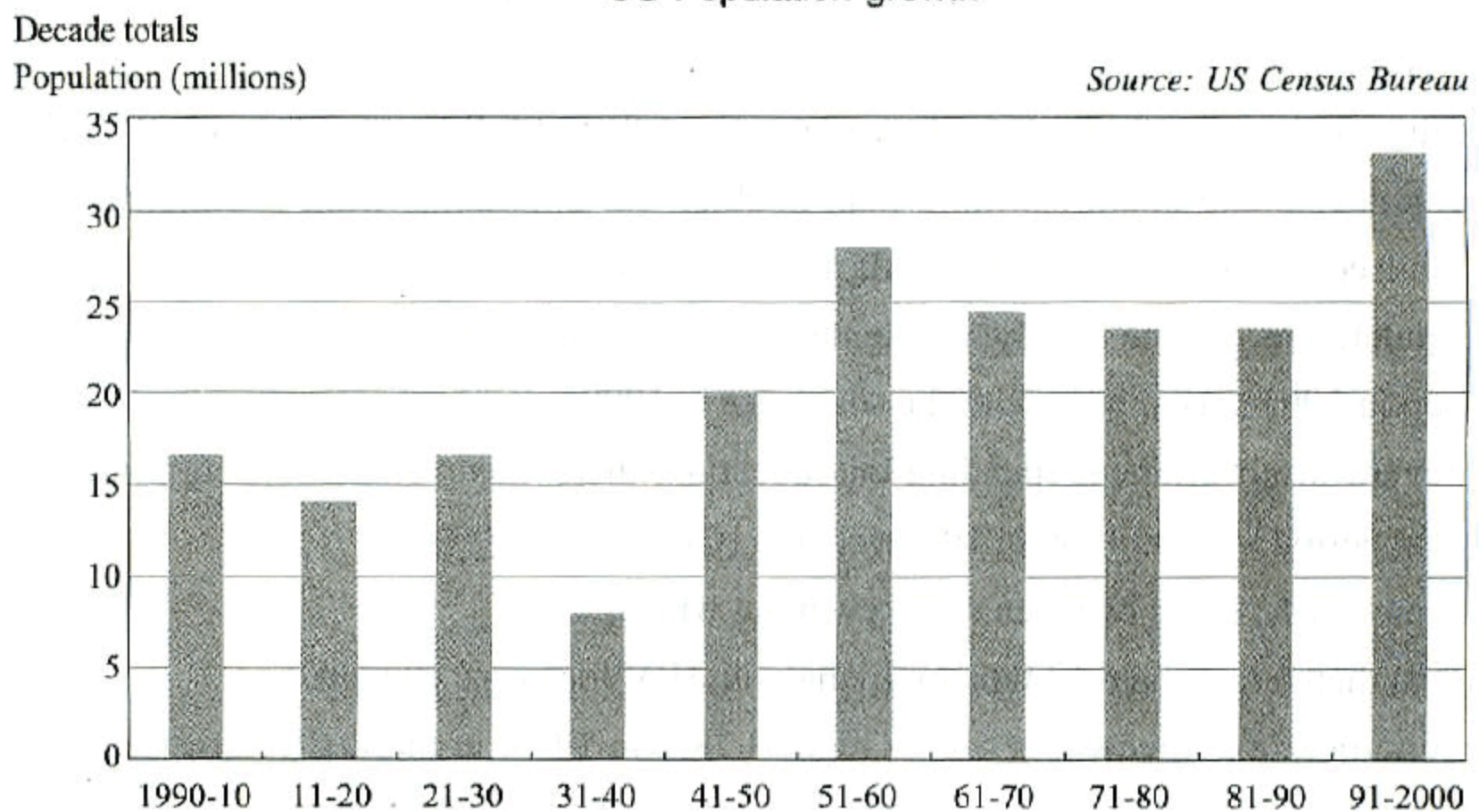
Topic 1: Graphs below provide the latest figures about the demographics of the United States, including ethnical groups and the population, based on a census that was carried out and administered by US Census Bureau in 2006.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

US population by race and ethnicity

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian and Pacific Islander	Other
1966 (200 million)	167.2 million	22.3 million	8.5 million	1.5 million	0.5 million
2006 (300 million)	201 million	38.7 million	44.7 million	14.3 million	1.3 million

US Population growth



The table, combined with the bar chart, provides an overview of demographics of the United States from the early last century to the present.

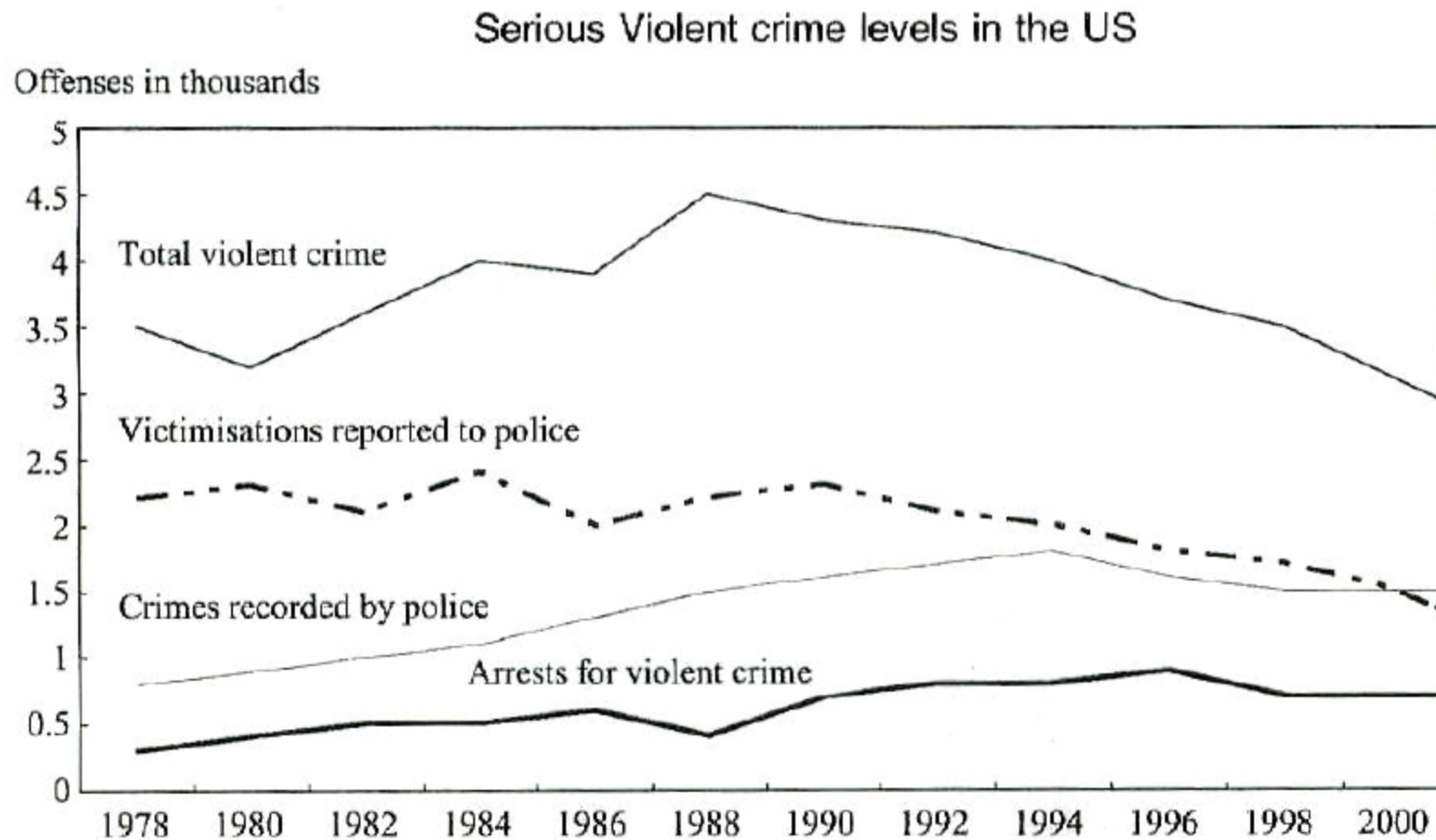
It can be seen in the table that the total US population is now 300 million, 1.5 times larger than 40 years ago, 200 million. Hispanics and Asian Americans expanded much faster than other races. According to the census, 44.7 million Americans are currently Hispanic, more than five times higher than in 1966, while the Asian population is as large as 14.3 million, a ten-fold increase over the 1966 level. By comparison, although white Americans are still in the majority, accounting for two thirds of the current US population, the growth rate was lower than the general population. Afro-Americans, who made up the second largest ethnical group in 1966 with a population of 22.3 million, dropped to number three, behind whites and Hispanics. Other ethnical groups take up the remaining 1.3 million.

In the first half of the 20th century, the US population grew at different rates, ranging from 7.5 million to 20 million a decade, the bar chart suggests. It accelerated since the middle of the last century, with adding at least 20 million to the overall population every ten years. The 1990s alone experienced a growth of more than 30 million.

To summarise, the US population continued to swell since the early last century and the greatest increases occurred to Hispanics and Asian Americans from 1966 to 2006.

Topic 2: The line chart below shows serious violent crime levels from 1978 to 2000 in the US. Serious violent crimes include rape, robbery, aggravated assault and homicide.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

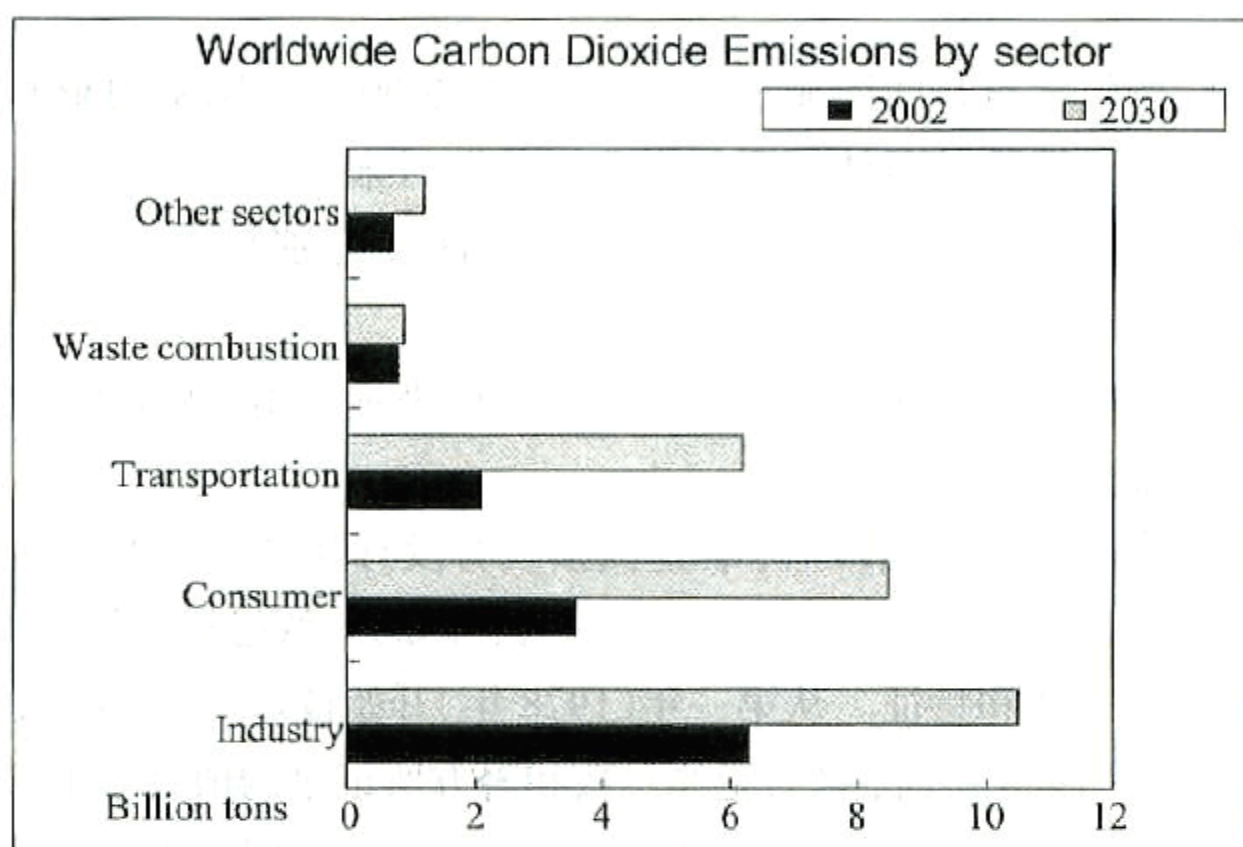
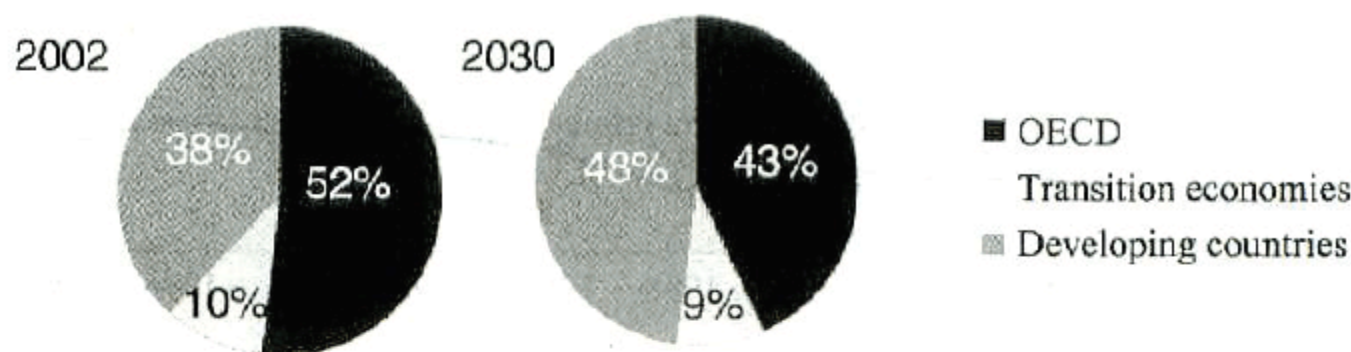


In the first ten years, there were fluctuations in the total crime level, but the overall trend was upbeat. By about 1989, it rose to a record high, around 4.5 offences per thousand Americans; half the figure in 1980 (slightly over 3 offences), the lowest ever recorded during the given period. Victimisations rose and fell at a lower level between 2 and 2.5 offences over the same period, while crimes recorded by police showed a steady increase, reaching its highest in the year 1994, over 1.5 offences in a thousand. The arrest rate was the lowest, levelling off below 0.5 offences per 1,000.

From 1988 onwards, the total violent crime level declined gradually, so did victimisations reported to police. In 2000, 3 out of a thousand Americans committed violent crime, while half as many victims were reported to the police. As to crimes recorded by police and arrests for violent crime, both dropped slightly in the last five years and the figures were 1.5 and 0.5 offences respectively in 2000.

Overall, the violent crime rate, as well as victimisations reported to police, crimes recorded and arrests for violent crime, was not subject to strong fluctuations in the final two decades of the last century, although by the end of the century, there was a trend toward lower violent crime levels.

Topic 3: The pie graphs show greenhouse gas emissions worldwide in 2002 and the forecast for 2030. The column chart shows carbon dioxide emissions around the world. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.



The graphs give past and future data concerning worldwide carbon dioxide emission.

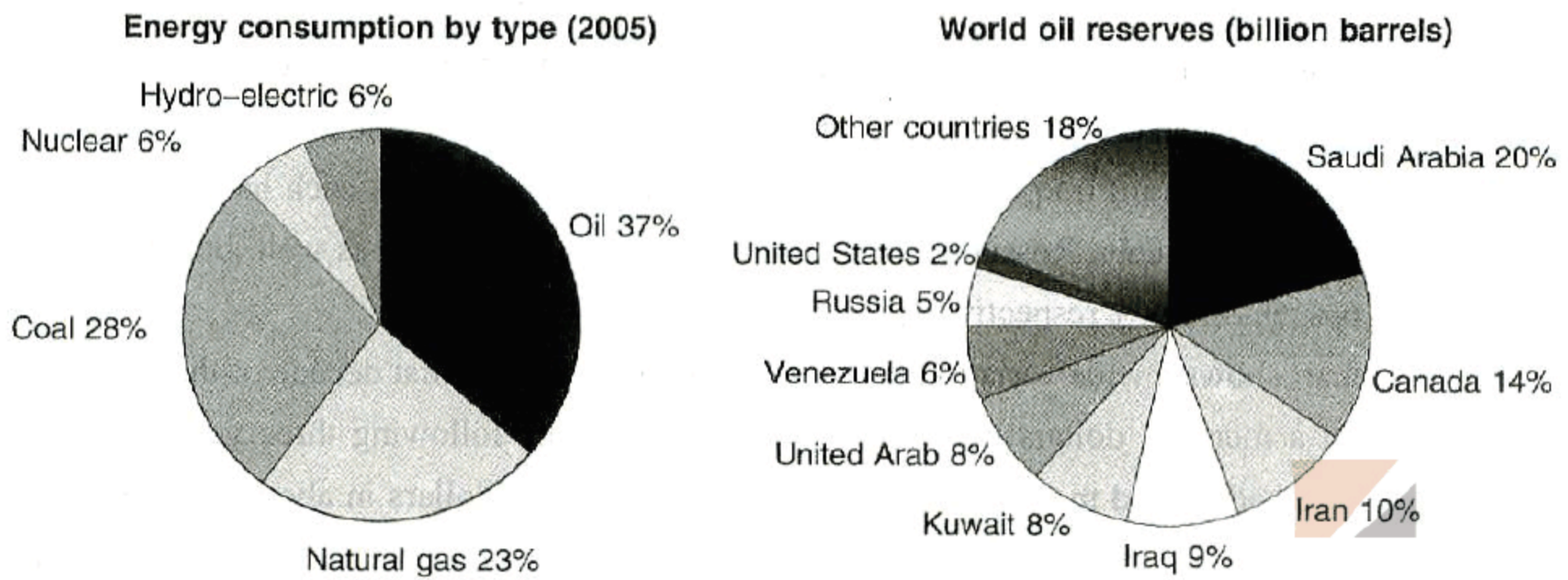
As can be seen in the two pie charts, developing countries are expected to account for a bigger share of emissions in 2030, 48%, compared to 38% in 2002. In contrast, OECD countries are projected to make up a lower proportion, 43%, 9% down over the same period. Countries with transition economies are estimated to take up the remaining 9% in 2030, 1% less than in 2002.

The bar chart reveals that carbon dioxide emissions will expand to varying degrees in different sectors by 2030. Industry will continue to be the major producer of carbon dioxide, rising to more than 10 billion tons in 2030. Next comes the consumer sector, which is projected to more than double its emissions from less than 4 billion to 8 billion or more tons. Transportation, the third largest producer, will see a huge growth to 6 billion, triple the amount in 2002. By comparison, waste combustion and other sectors make up a much lower proportion, each producing an estimated 1 billion carbon dioxide.

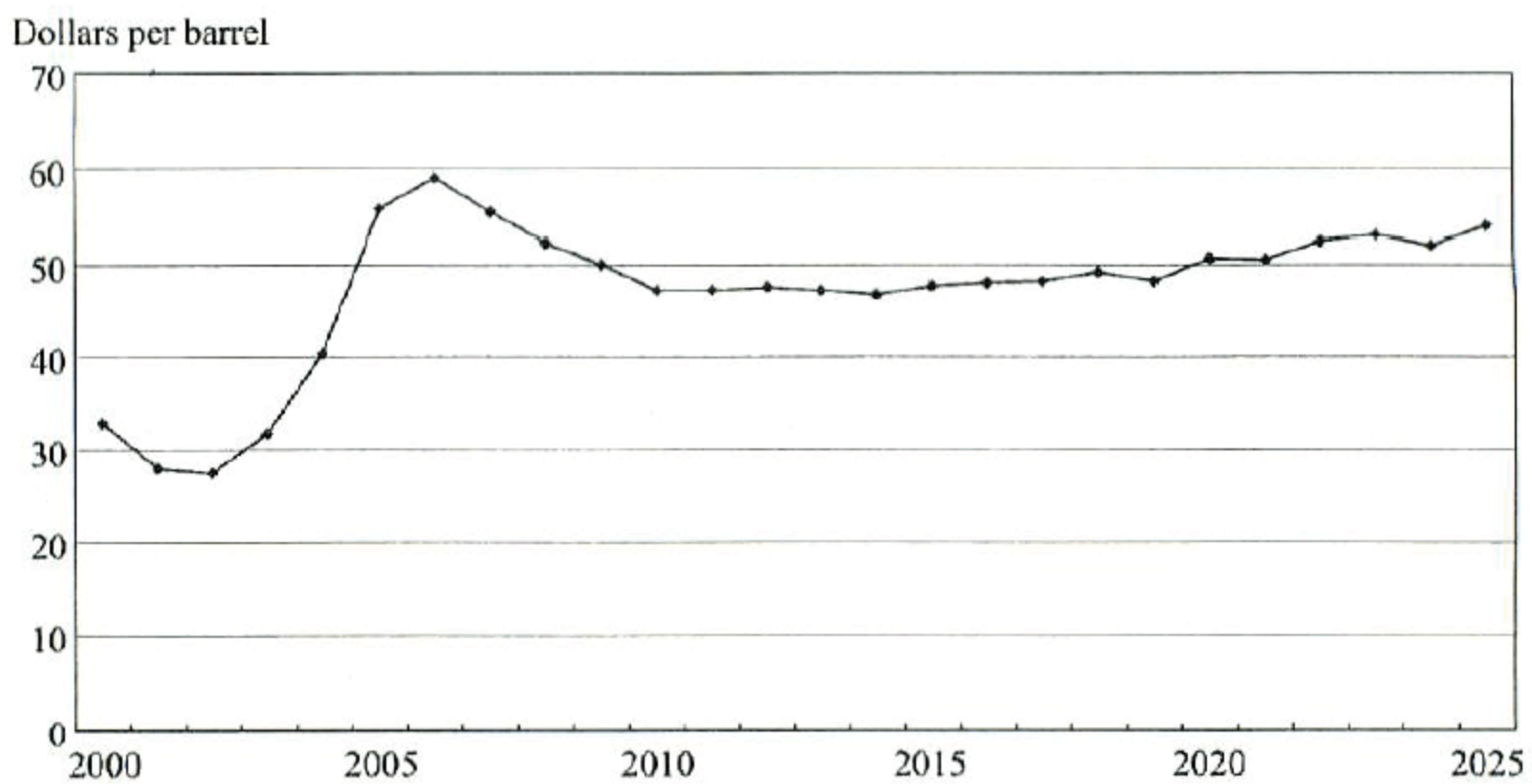
To summarise, developing countries will overtake OECD countries to become the major carbon dioxide emission producer by 2030. While industry is responsible for the highest amount of carbon dioxide emissions, consumer and transportation experience the greatest increases.

Topic 4: The graphs provide information about worldwide energy consumption, the countries with oil reserves and the world oil prices from 2000 to 2025.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.



World Oil Prices (2000–2025)



The two pie charts, combined with the line chart, give an overview of some aspects of the energy market.

According to the first pie chart, the consumption of oil was the highest in 2005, accounting for 37% of the energy consumed worldwide, followed by coal and natural gas, taking up 28% and 23% separately. Nuclear power and hydro-electricity evenly contributed to the remaining 12%.

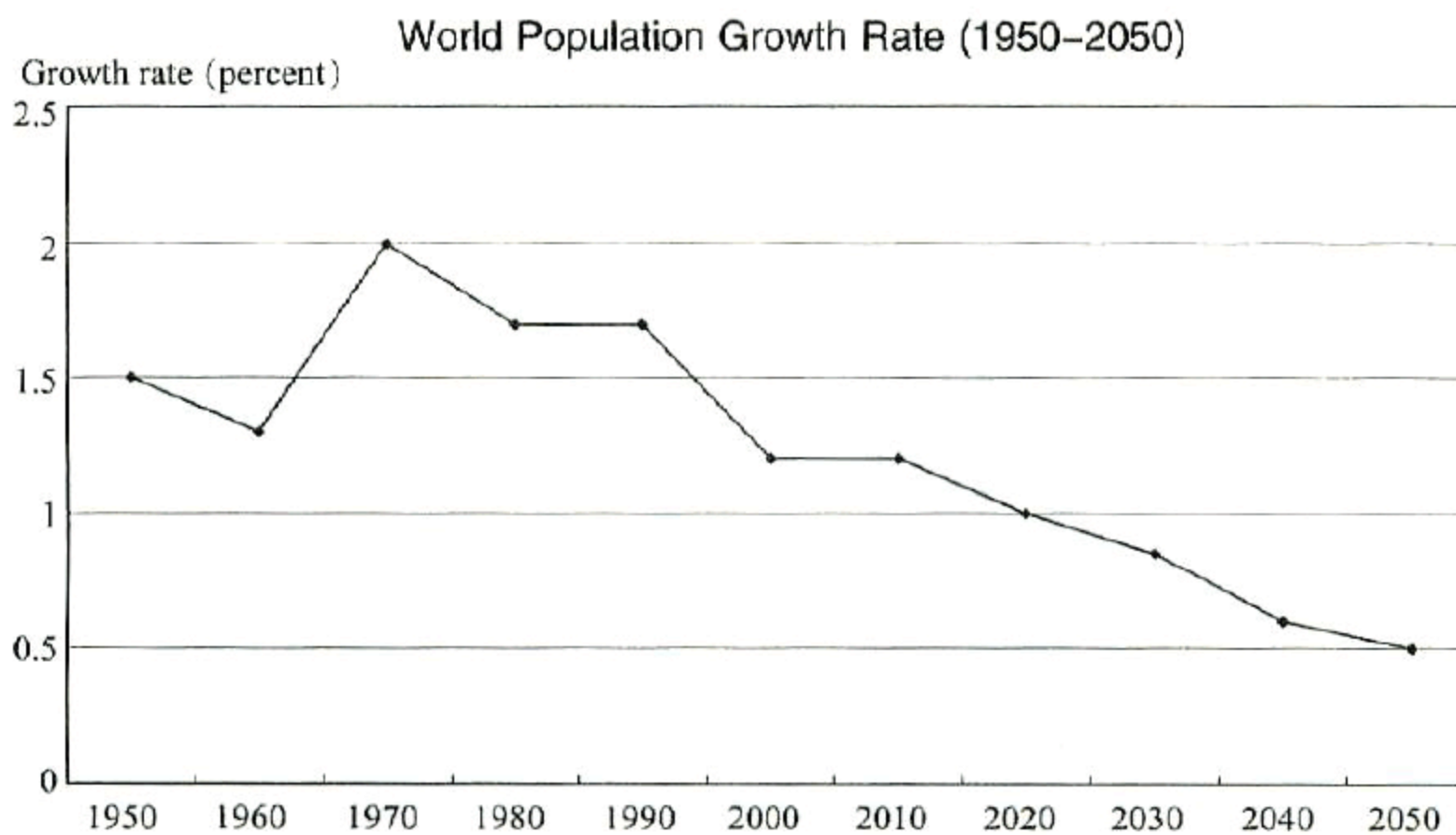
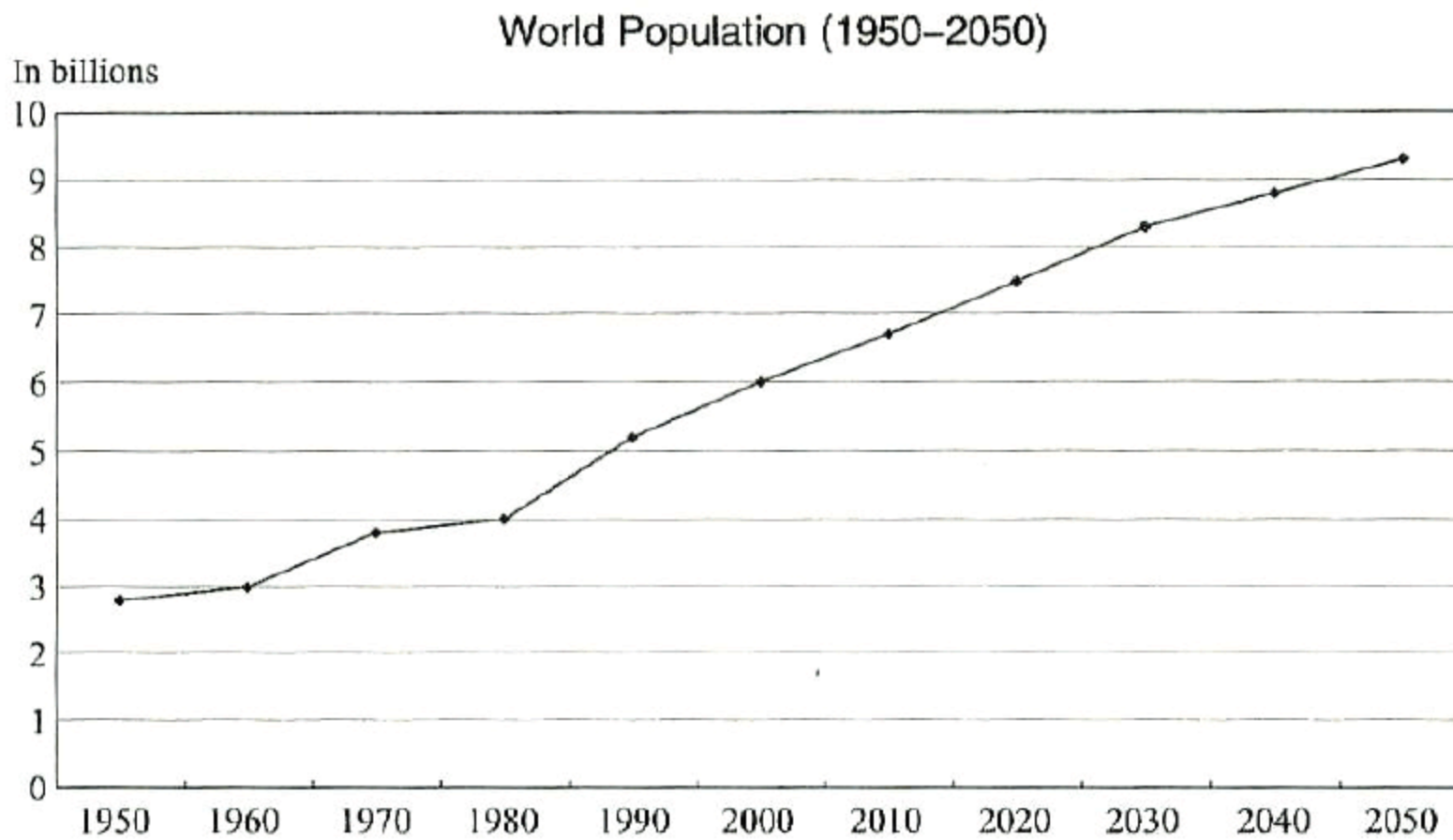
Saudi Arabia and Canada are the two countries with the largest oil reserves—20% versus 14%. Four Mid-east countries, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and United Arab follow behind, each having 8 to 10% of the global reserves. Venezuela, Russia and the United States are on the list as well, but account for a smaller share, 6%, 5% and 2% respectively.

The line chart shows a wide variation in the world oil prices in the first decade of the 21st century. In 2000, oil cost a mere 33 dollars per barrel, or even less in the following three years. From 2003 onwards, the price had surged markedly and finally hit a peak of 60 dollars in about 2006. Since then, the oil price is expected to drop for three years or longer, down to 48 dollars in 2010 and remain at that level throughout the rest of the given period.

As suggested above, oil is very likely to remain as an important energy source, with more than half the global oil reserves being located in Mid-east countries. In the two decades to come, the oil price is unlikely to return to its low levels in the early 2000s.

Topic 5: The diagrams below present the estimates and projections of world population from the US Census Bureau.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.



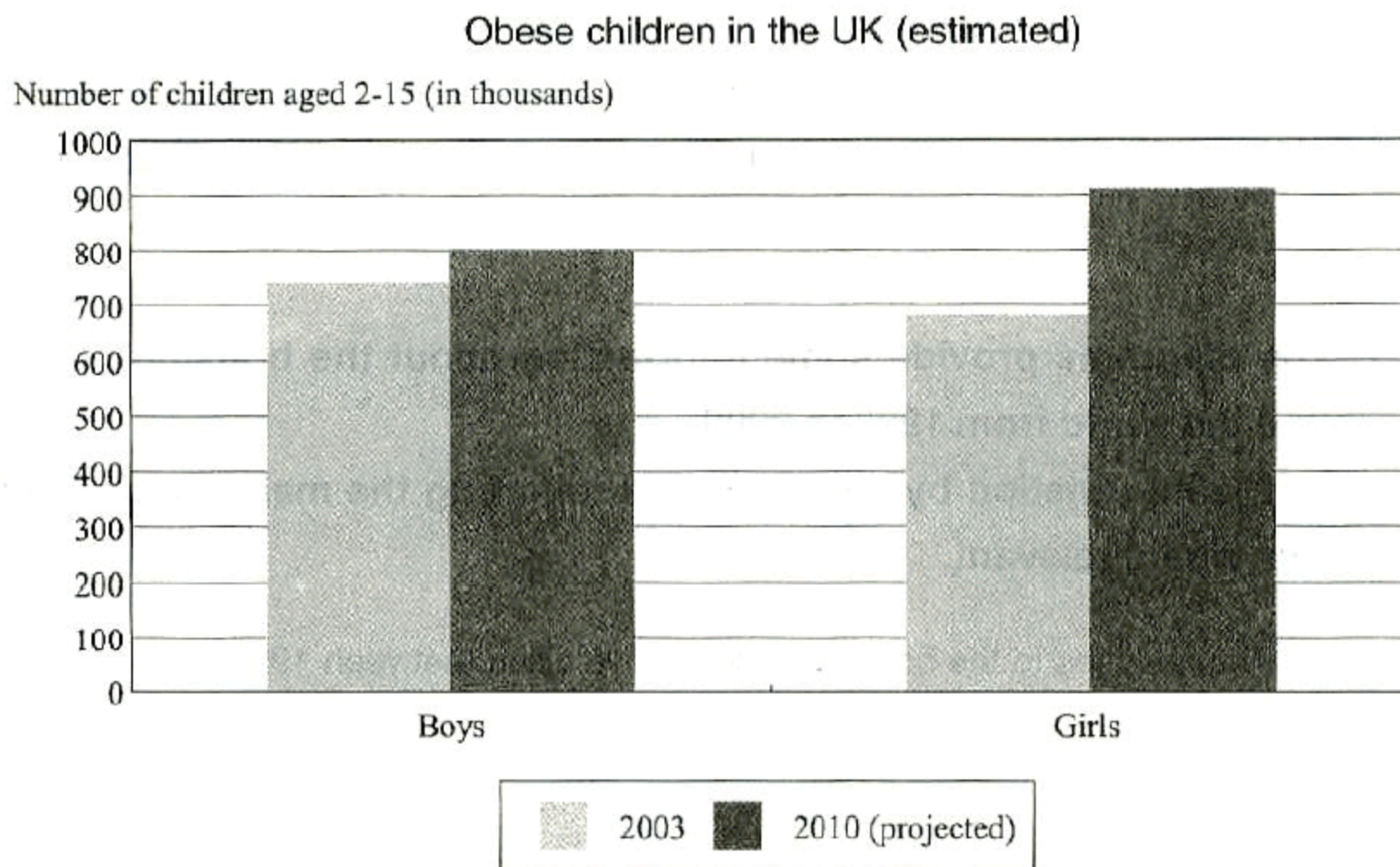
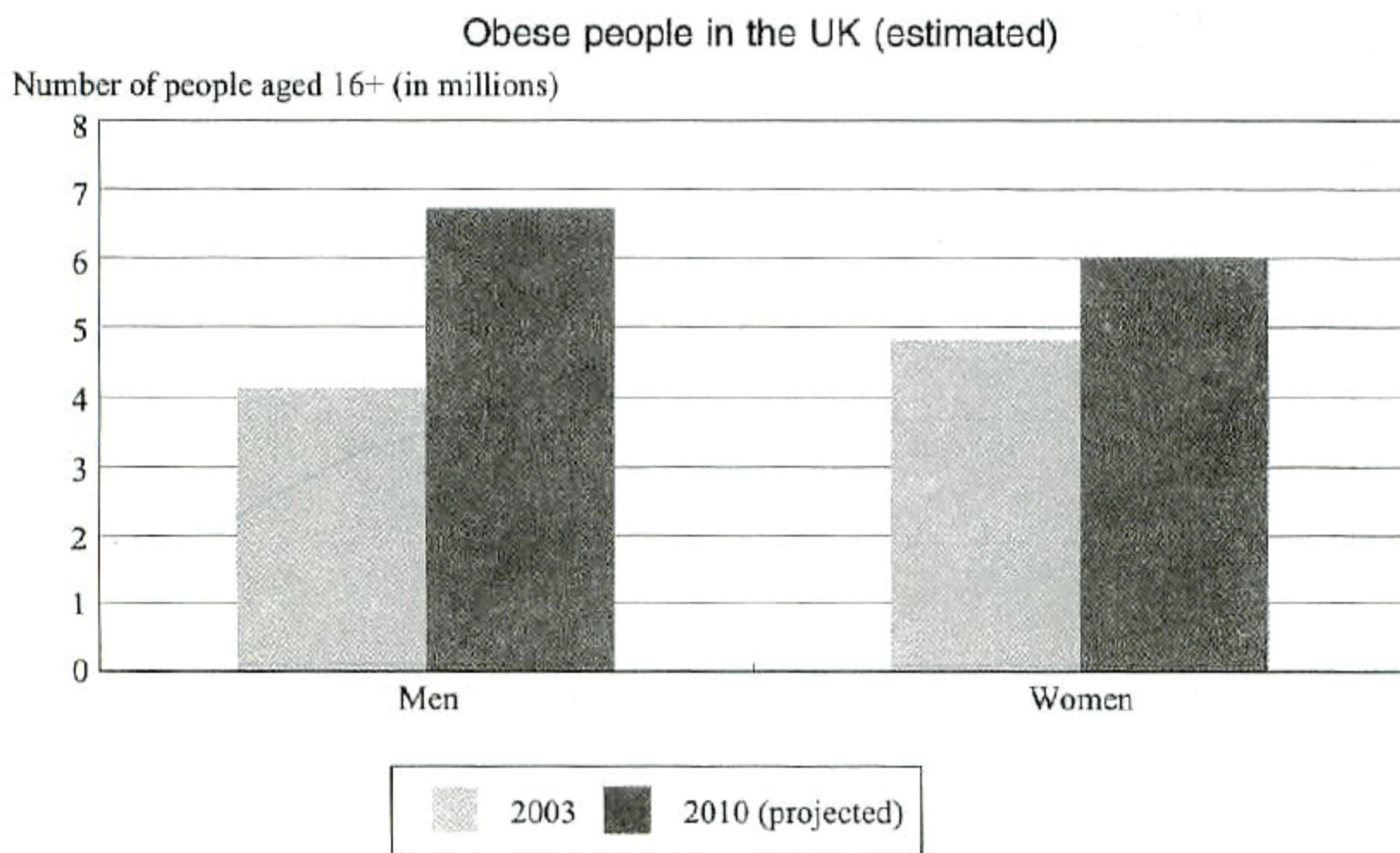
The two charts present an overall view of how world population did and will change over the period 1950 to 2050.

The first chart shows the sustained growth of world population. In the first 10 years from 1950 to 1960, the population was flat at 3 billion, before rising to 4 billion in 1970 and remaining constant at that level till 1980. Since then, the growth accelerated, adding another 2 billion within twenty years. In 2000, the population topped 6 billion, doubling the figure fifty years earlier. By the middle of this century, it is estimated that the planet will home a population of at least 9 billion.

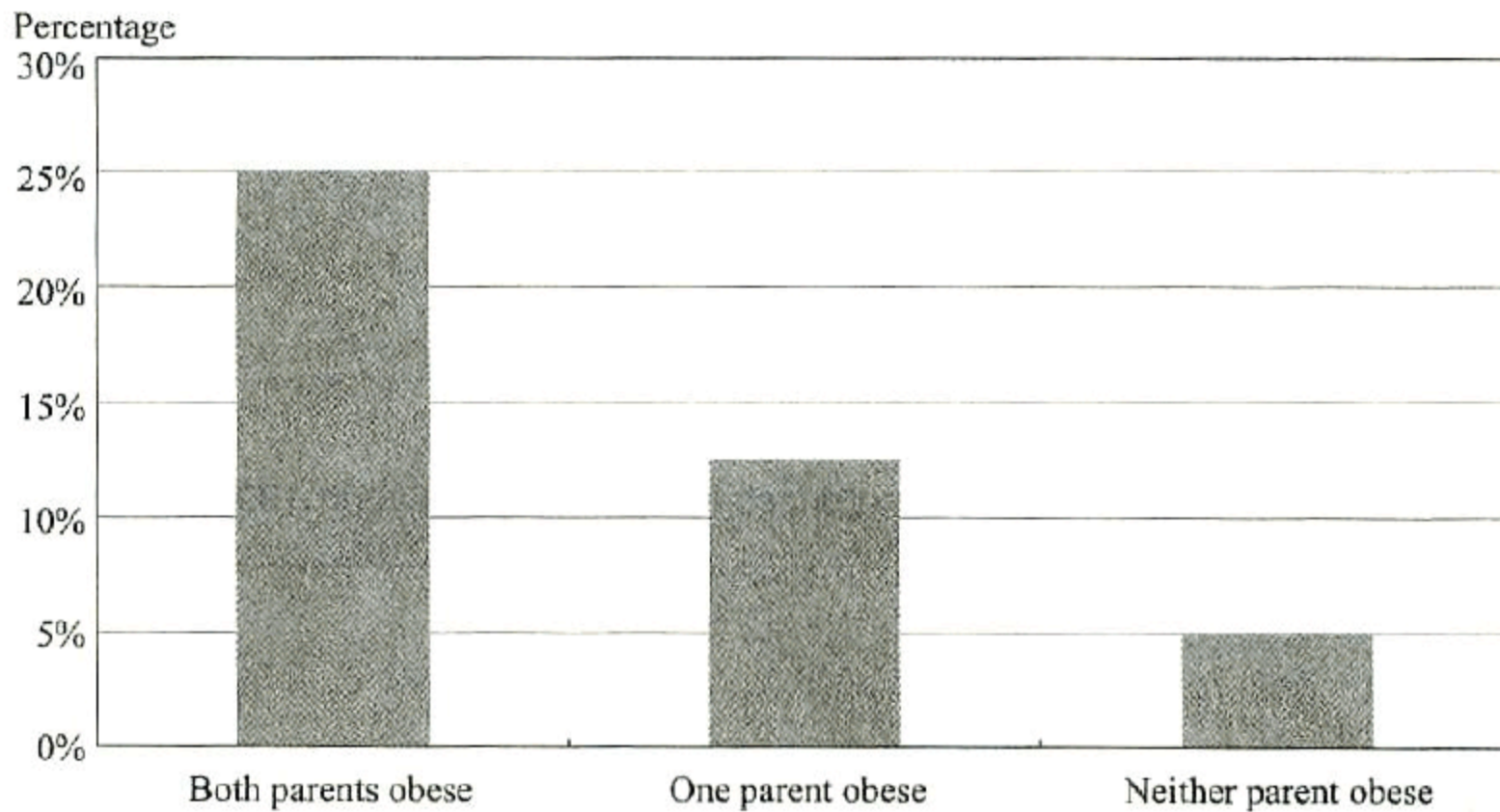
As shown in the second chart, there was a wide range in the world population growth rate in the second half of the last century. Growth first fluctuated dramatically and then surged to 2% in 1970, a 100-year high. From then on, it slowed remarkably, and by 2005, averaged out at around 1.25%. This pattern is projected to persist by 2050, when the growth rate is likely to be as low as 0.5%.

In summary, population growth tends to continue throughout much of the first half of the 21st century, although the rate at which the population grows will decline.

Topic 6: The graphs below summarise the results of a survey carried out by the Department of Health about the overweight population in Britain with projections. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.



Obese children in different household types



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The first two graphs show a marked rise in obesity in Britain by 2010. The number of men who have a weight problem is estimated to be as high as 6.8 million in 2010, over 50% higher than in 2003. The increase in the women who have the same problem tends to be smaller, rising almost 30% from 4.7 million to 6 million.

In children, it is another picture. The survey suggests that girls who are overweight will see a greater increase during the period 2003-2010 to more than 900 thousand, 100 thousand more than boys who have the same problem, although in 2003, there were more boys than girls suffering obesity, over 700 thousand versus about 690 thousand.

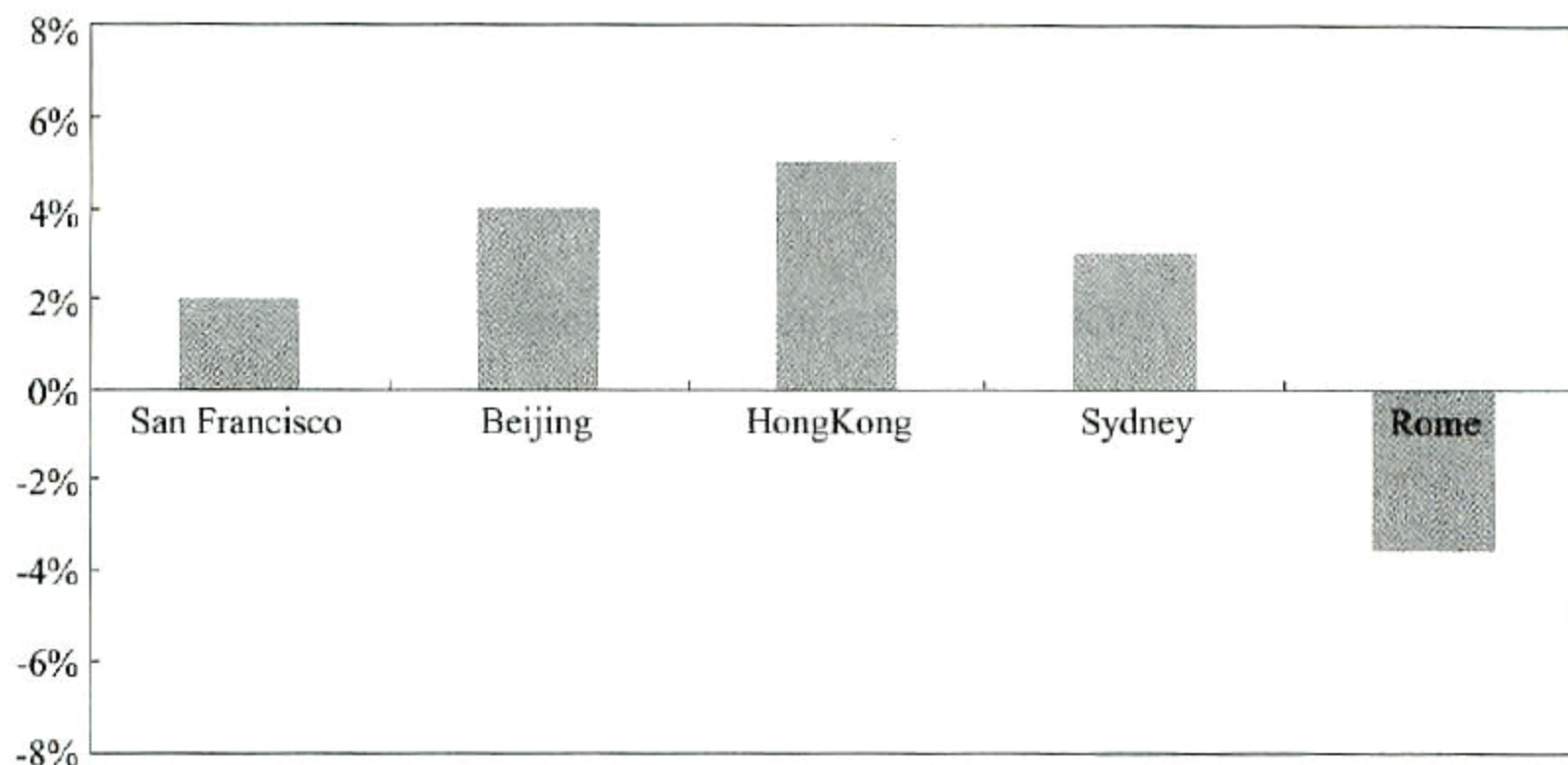
As shown in the third graph, children in households where both parents are obese are twice as likely to be obese as those in households where one parent is obese (12.5%) and five times as those with parents having a healthy weight (5%).

Overall, UK's obese population will grow in size, including both children and adults. While men are expected to outnumber women by 2010, girls will surpass boys. The children with at least one parent having a weight problem are more likely to be obese than those with parents having a healthy weight.

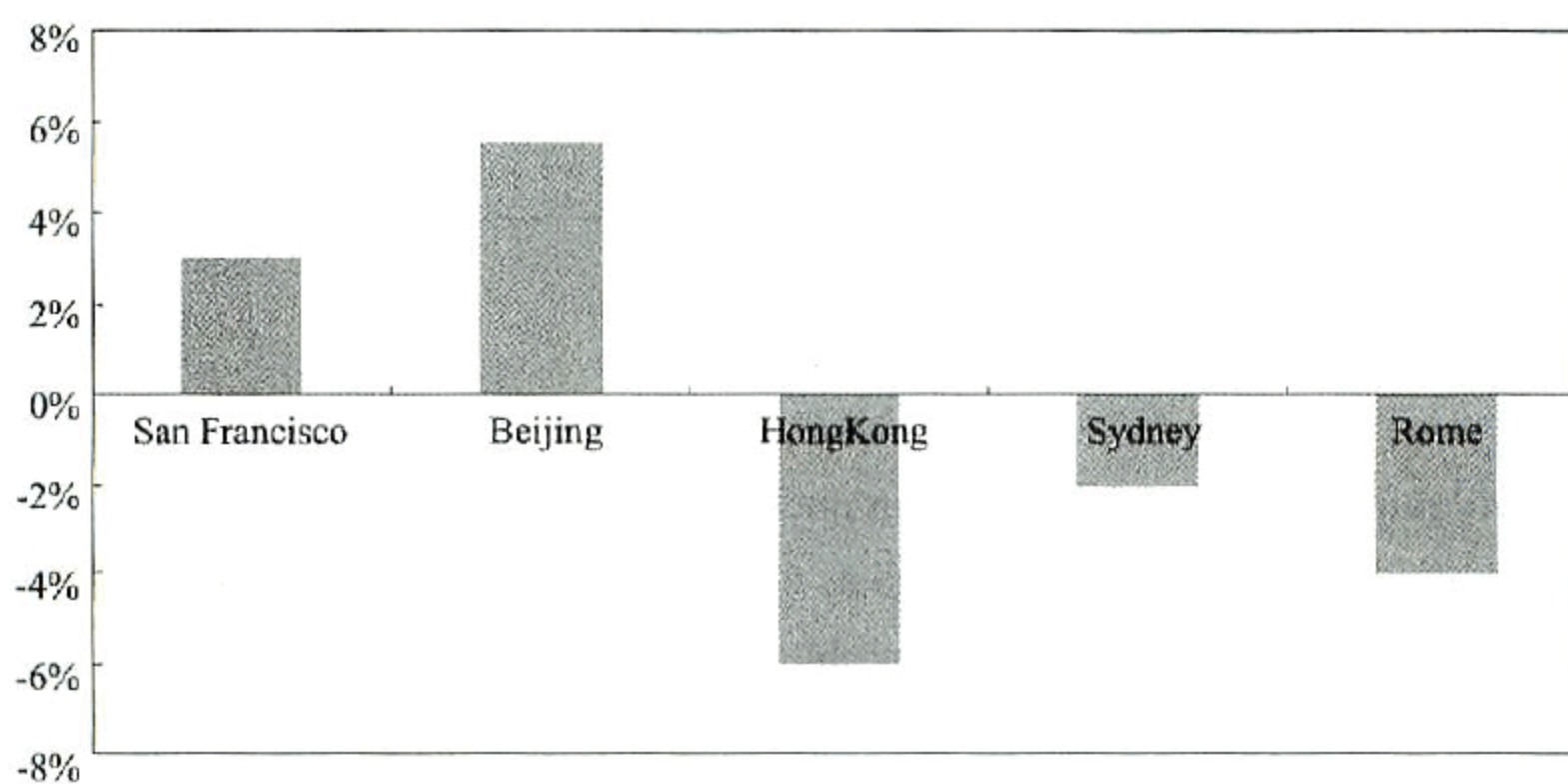
Topic 7: The diagrams provide some information about the housing prices of five cities around the world from 1990 to 2000.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

The changes to the housing prices in five cities (between 1990 and 1995)



The changes to the housing prices in five cities (between 1995 and 2000)



The given tables offer a glimpse of the real estate market in five major cities around the world over two periods, from 1990 to 1995, and from 1995 to 2000.

San Francisco and Beijing are two cities which saw housing prices climb throughout the ten-year period. In the first five years, a 2% rise was recorded in San Francisco, and a 4% in Beijing. The increase accelerated in subsequent years, with a 3% gain seen in San Francisco and a nearly 6% in Beijing.

By comparison, the property market of Rome was continuously at recession, reflected in an average 3.5 per cent drop. Hong Kong and Sydney experienced a similar slump between 1995 and 2000. The housing price slipped 6% in Hong Kong, as against its 5% gain in the previous five years. The decrease in the housing price in Sydney was narrower, 2 per cent only, but still disappointing, compared to its 3% increase in the first half of 1990s.

To recap, there were significant differences in the housing market in those five cities in the last decade of the last century. While some experienced a long period of growth, the rest were subject to price fluctuations.

Topic 8: The table below describes the proportion of smokers in males and females (between the age of 15 and 20) in Britain.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Males	10%	22%	35%	37%	36%	30%	28%
Females	5%	13%	22%	34%	37%	32%	27%

The table reveals how smoking evolved into a fad among 15-to-20-year-old Britons in the period 1970 to 2000.

In 1970, smoking was not very popular among youngsters aged 15 to 20, with only 10 per cent of males smoking, and 5% in females. The following decade saw a dramatic change: the smoking rate among males leapt nearly 13% every five years to 35% in 1980, compared to a slower growth in females, rising approximately 8% every five years to 22% in 1980.

Over the period between 1980 and 1990, smoking remained popular among young males, accounting for over a third of the 15-to-20 male population while young females showed a growing interest in smoking, pushing the smoking rate first to 34% in 1985, and then to 37% in 1990, even outmatching their male counterparts.

Over the final years of the last century, the smoking craze in the 15-20 age group abated, either for males or for females. In 2000, an estimated 27 % to 28% of people in this age group were reported as smokers, lower than previous years, albeit still more than three times higher than 30 years earlier.

From the table, it is clear that the 15-to-20-year-old population in Britain had a much higher percentage of smokers by the end of the last century than in the early 1970s.

Topic 9: The table below shows carbon dioxide emissions from transport in three European countries in 1994 and 2004.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

Carbon Dioxide emissions from transport(by source): 1994 and 2004

	Million tonnes of carbon									
	Road transport		Railways		Civil aviation		Shipping		All domestic transport	
	1994	2004	1994	2004	1994	2004	1994	2004	1994	2004
European Union										
United Kingdom	30.6	32.6	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.6	1.0	1.0	32.5	35.0
France	32.6	36.2	0.2	0.2	1.2	1.4	0.5	0.7	34.7	38.7
Germany	43.9	43.7	0.7	0.4	0.9	1.2	0.6	0.2	47.2	46.7

Source: The Department for Transport, UK

The given table provides an overview of carbon dioxide emissions from four main transport sources (namely, road transport, railways, civil aviation and shipping) in the United Kingdom, France and Germany in 1994 and 2004.

Germany, although having higher emissions than either the United Kingdom or France did, saw the amount decrease slightly from 47.2 to 46.7 million tonnes. By comparison, France recorded an increase of four million tonnes from 34.7 million in 1994, while the United Kingdom had a smaller growth, 2.5 million tonnes over the same period.

In all the three countries, road transport was responsible for the majority of emissions. In the United Kingdom, road transport produced emissions up to 32.6 million tonnes in 2004, 2 million more than ten years earlier, while other three transport sources did not show any remarkable growth. A similar pattern was seen in France, where road transport added 3.6 million tonnes to the total emissions within ten years. Germany, by contrast, was the only country of the three to experience a drop in road transport emissions. Other three transport sources had a lower emission volume as well, except civil aviation, with the amount rising to 1.2 million.

As shown in the table, both UK and France failed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from transport sources during the period 1994 to 2004, in contrast to the decrease in Germany. Road transport continued to account for the biggest source of emissions.

Topic 10: The table below shows motor vehicle offences in England and Wales between 1994 and 2004.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

Motor vehicle offences by type of offence: England and Wales: 1994-2004

	Thousands of offences										
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Offence type:											
Dangerous, careless or drunken driving etc	190	189	191	199	190	183	144	137	171	177	231
Accident offences	24	23	22	22	21	19	18	18	18	19	18
Speed limit offences	602	680	762	881	962	1,001	1,188	1,391	1,538	2,041	2,076
Unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicle	46	41	40	37	37	36	32	31	32	30	27
Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	872	874	846	829	817	807	785	769	819	963	957
Neglect of traffic signs and directions	260	272	276	282	271	245	232	218	213	264	258

Source: The Department for Transport, UK

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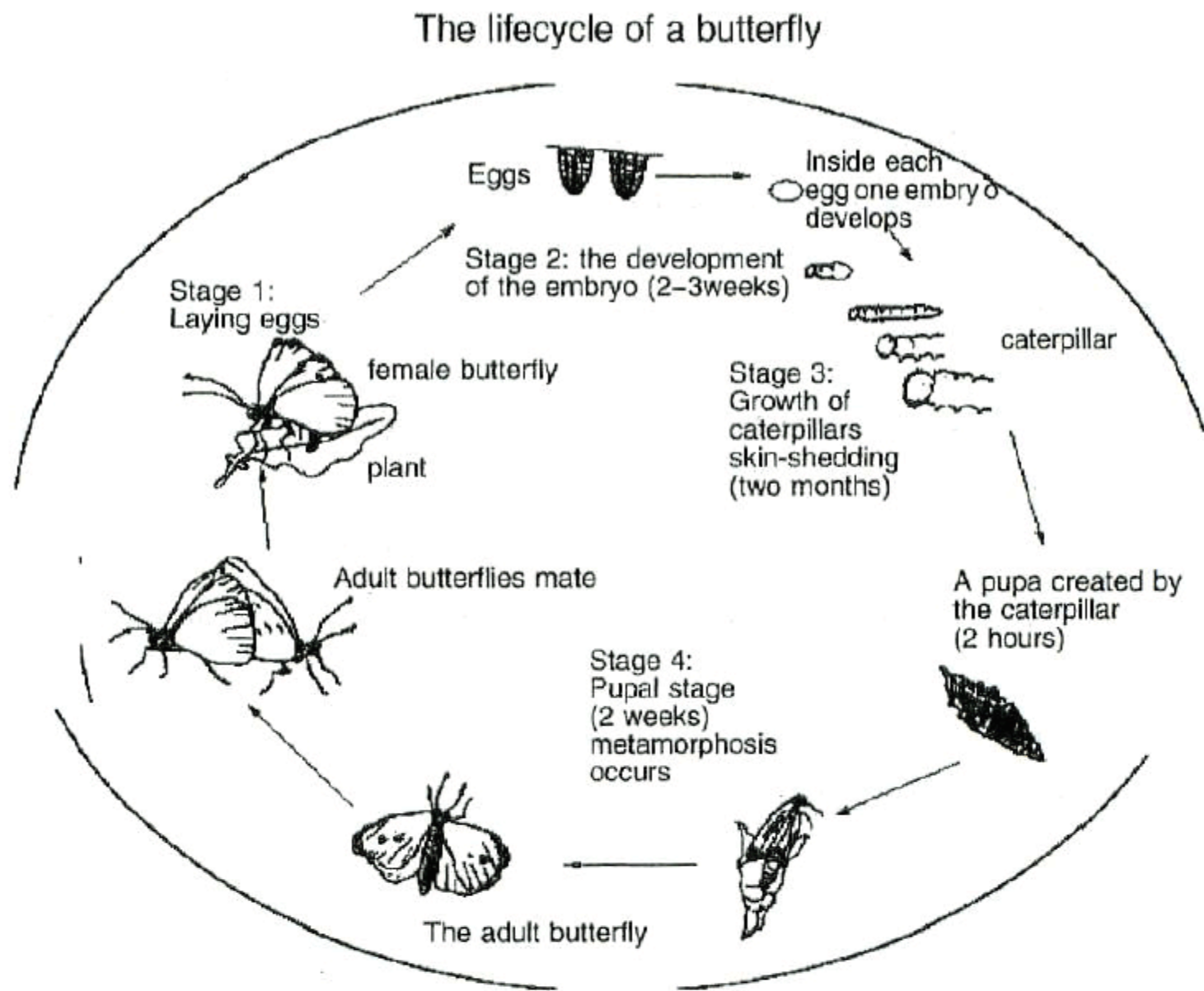
The table presents an overall view of various motor vehicle offences in England and Wales from 1994 to 2004.

In 1994, licence, insurance and record keeping offences were the most common type of offences and rose to 957 thousand in 2004, after a ten-year period of fluctuations. Speed limit offences initially ranked second in 1994 but became the main type of offences by 2004, recording a ten-year high at 2,076 thousand, more than three times the figure ten years earlier. Neglect of traffic signs and directions came third, averaging at around 250 thousand per year.

Dangerous, careless or drunken driving was the fourth main type of offences, dropping in much of the period 1994 to 2004 but finally hitting an all-time high at 231 thousand. Another two types of offences, accident offences and unauthorised taking (or theft) of motor vehicle, were the least common, also declining gradually.

To summarise, speed limit offences and licence offences were two main types of motor vehicle offences in England and Wales during the period 1994 to 2004 and speed limit offences deserved particular attention because it surged exponentially.

Topic 1: The diagram below shows the life cycle of the butterfly. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.



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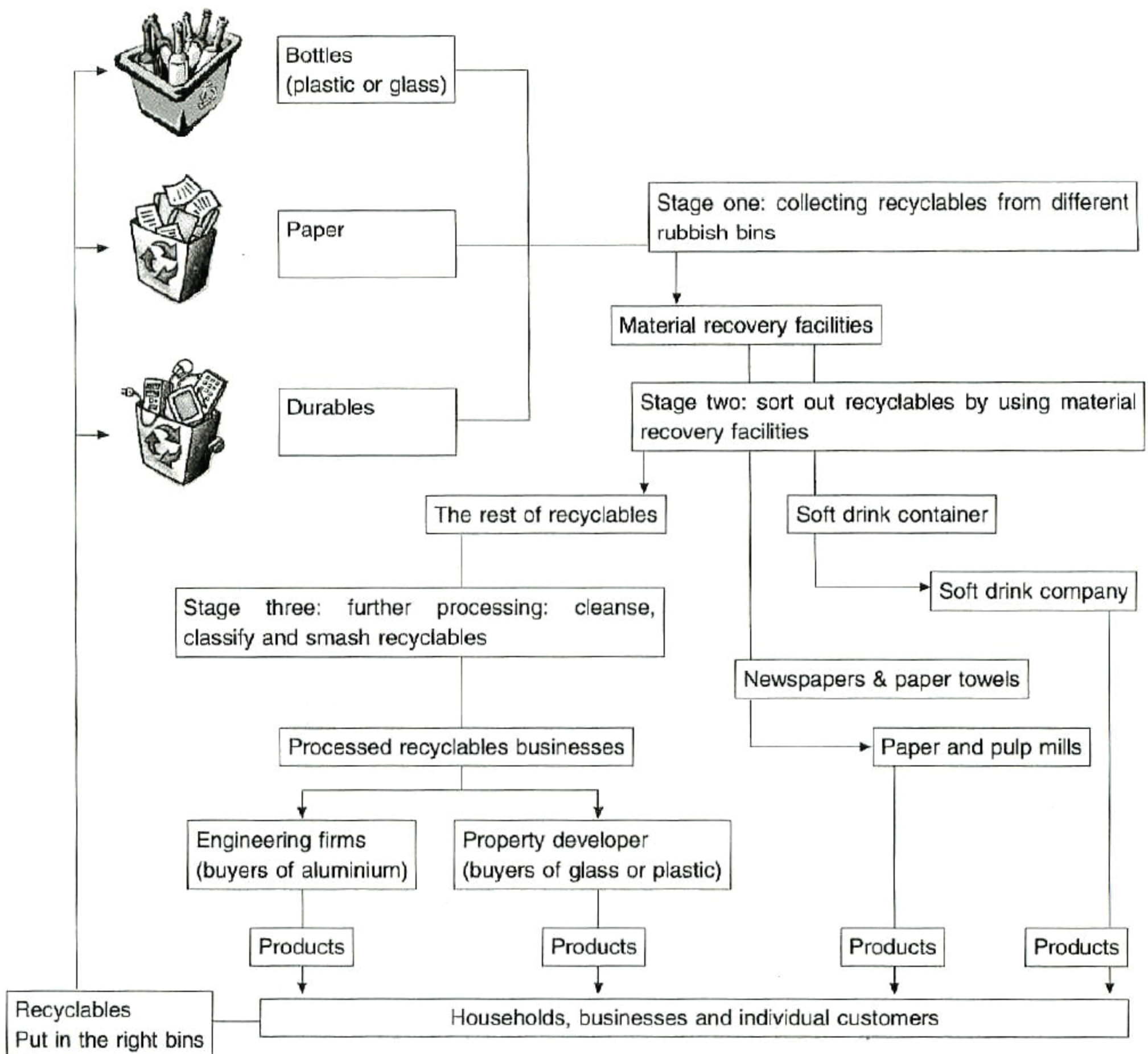
The life cycle of a butterfly starts from egg laying. The female butterfly normally lays eggs on a plant that it thinks is suitable for accommodating and feeding caterpillars. In each egg, an embryo develops gradually. In general, this period takes two to three weeks. The fully-grown embryo, called “the caterpillar”, will emerge from the egg.

The next stage is skin-shedding. Caterpillars will shed their skin several times throughout this stage. They feed on the food plants where they live. This stage lasts for two months at most, until caterpillars are ready for the pupal stage.

The pupal stage is possibly one of the greatest wonders in the natural world. At this stage, the caterpillar wraps itself in a pupa, a creature it creates within two hours. Inside the pupa, a process known as metamorphosis takes place. In two weeks, the pupa is transformed into an adult butterfly.

At the final stage, the adult butterfly will break the pupal case, expand its wings and take the flight for the first time. It marks the end of metamorphosis. Flying around for new food plants, adult butterflies are ready to mate for a new cycle.

Topic 2: Write a description of how urban refuse is assorted for recycling. Use the information in the diagram and write a description of this process.



Collecting and processing recyclables plays an important role in the treatment of urban refuse. The first step is collecting recyclables from rubbish bins. Three main types of recyclables are bottles (plastic or glass), paper and durables. If recyclables have already been put in the right rubbish bins, it will save plenty of time that is otherwise required for the second stage.

In the second stage, material recovery facilities will sort the recyclables more carefully. Part of recyclables will be sent to some customers for their own use. For example, soft drink companies have their own recycling facilities to take advantage of the soft drink containers collected. Newspapers and paper towels can be sent to paper and pulp mills.

The rest of recyclables will be cleaned, separated and smashed as the third part of the recycling loop, known as further-processing stage. The recycled materials produced are sold to different businesses. For example, engineering companies are regular buyers of aluminium, while property developers will buy glass or plastic for various usages.

At the final stage, all the recycled materials will become part of the items used by households daily. Once those items are disposed, it is expected that households will put them in appropriate rubbish bins. It is how the recycling loop keeps operating.