

The Big Ask Maths Week Challenge

The Children's Commissioner for England is Dame Rachel de Souza and her job is to listen to children in England and make sure their voices are represented in government.

The Children's Commissioner designed The Big Ask survey to learn about your lives and your priorities, your aspirations and worries for the future.

The Big Ask ran for approximately 6 weeks in 2021 and gathered more than 550,000 responses, making it the largest ever survey of children anywhere in the world.

These questions give you a chance to directly work with the results of this survey!

Share your best chart with a description at childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/jobs-and-skills/maths for a chance to be featured on the Children's Commissioner's website and social media. All children and young people who submit a chart will receive a certificate for their participation in the challenge. The winner and runners up will also be invited to meet with the Children's Commissioner's team.



1

In The Big Ask, the Children’s Commissioner asked “How happy are you with life overall?” Here are 30 responses chosen randomly from children aged 9-17.

Unhappy	Happy	Very unhappy	Neutral
Very happy	Happy	Happy	Very happy
Very happy	Neutral	Happy	Neutral
Neutral	Very happy	Neutral	Very happy
Very happy	Neutral	Very happy	Happy
Neutral	Very happy	Very happy	Happy
Happy	Very happy	Very happy	
Neutral	Happy	Neutral	

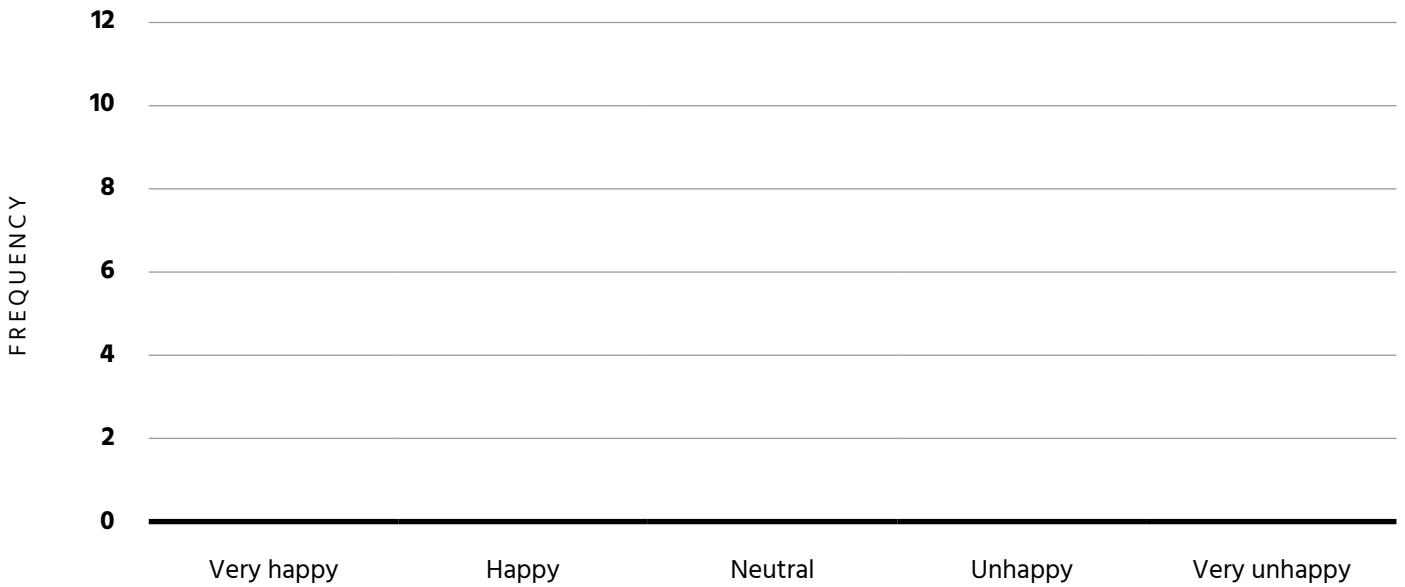
a) Complete the frequency table for these results.

Response	Tally	Frequency
Very happy		
Happy		
Neutral		
Unhappy		
Very unhappy		





b) Draw a bar chart to show this information



c) What fraction of children in this sample were “very happy” with life overall?

d) What fraction of children in this sample were “very happy” OR “happy” with life overall?

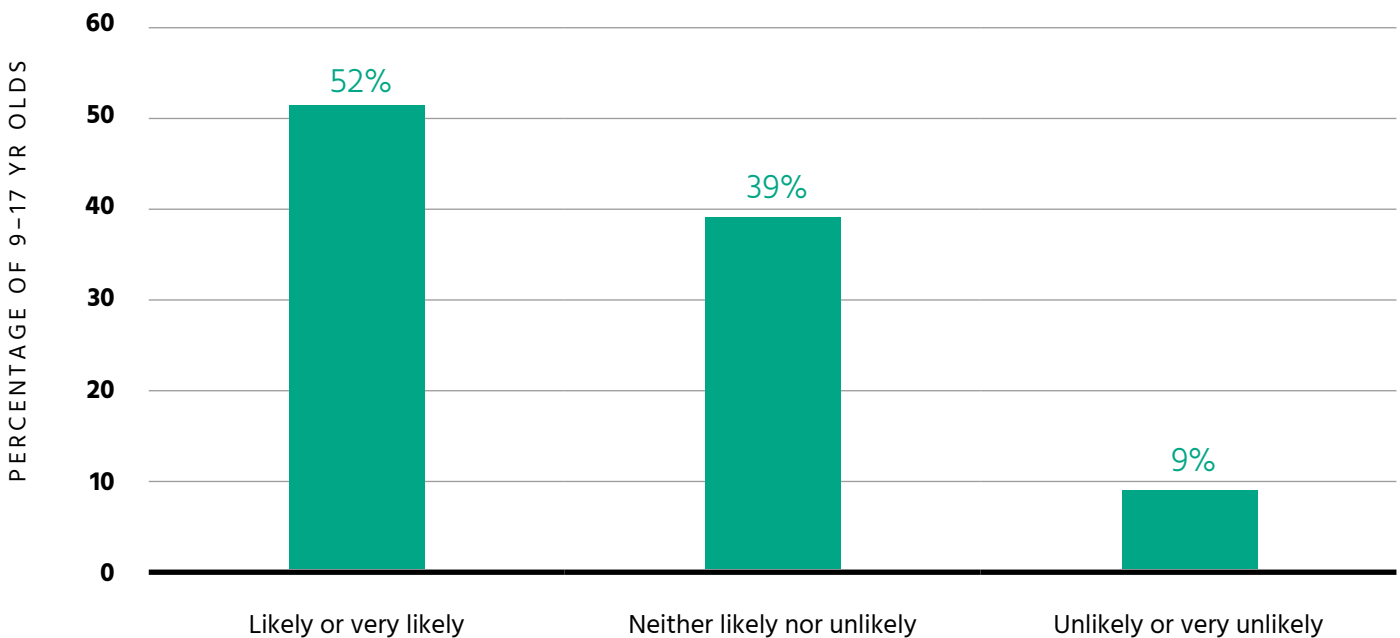




2 In The Big Ask, the Children’s Commissioner asked “How likely is it you will have a better life than your parents?” and children could pick “Very likely”, “Likely”, “Neither likely nor unlikely”, “Unlikely” or “Very unlikely”.

Here is a bar chart showing the percentage of children aged 9-17 who chose “Likely” or “very likely”, the percentage who chose “Neither likely nor unlikely” and the percentage who chose “Unlikely or very unlikely.”

How likely is it you will have a better life than your parents?



a) There were 373,305 children aged 9-17 who answered this question in the survey (some chose not to respond or chose “I don’t know”). Based on the bar chart, how many children responded that they think it is likely or very likely they will have a better life than their parents? (You can use a calculator here!)





3 In The Big Ask, the Children’s Commissioner asked “When you grow up, what things are most important to have a good life?” and children doing the survey could pick up to 5 different things from a list.

Here is a frequency table with the number of times each option was chosen in a randomly selected group of 30 respondents aged 9-17 to the survey.

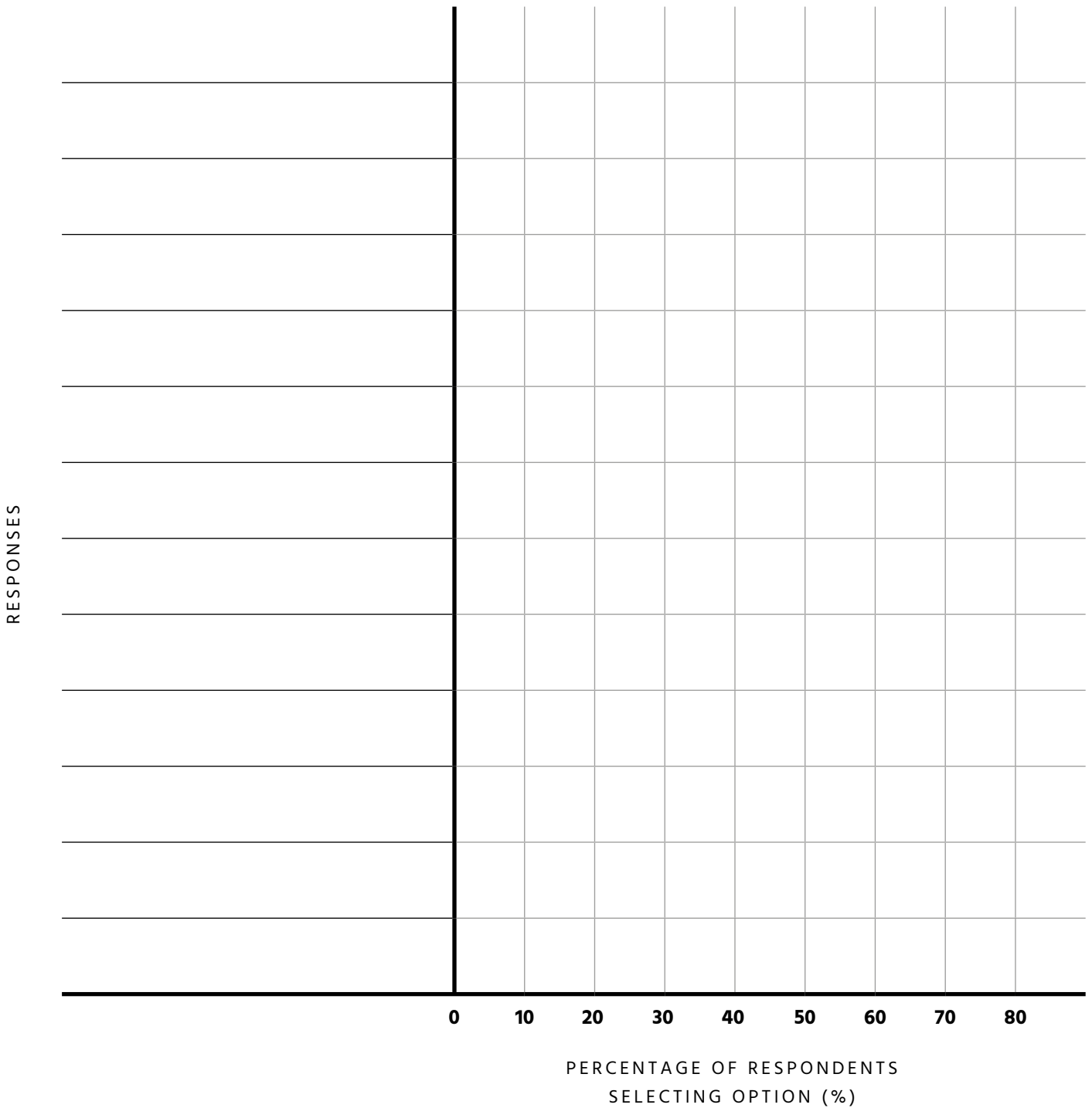
a) Fill in the percentage of respondents who selected each option in the table below

Response	Frequency	Percentage of the 30 respondents
A good job or career	19	
A healthy environment or planet	8	
A nice home to live in	13	
Being part of a good local community	2	
Enough money to buy the things I need	13	
Everyone being treated fairly	5	
Getting on well with my current family	11	
Good friends	19	
Good mental health	13	
Good physical health	8	
Having a good education	19	
Living in a nice area with things to do	5	
Starting my own family	8	





b) Draw a bar chart showing the difference responses to this question on the y-axis and the percentage of respondents who selected each response on the x-axis. The bars should be in order from the most popular response at the top and the least popular response at the bottom.





c) Based on this sample, what are the 3 top things that children think are most important to have a good life?

d) Can you write a title, or newspaper headline, that describes what is going on in the graph?

———— THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER TIMES ————



4 Going Further Exercise

a) Conduct your own poll of your class on the question below.

When you grow up, which things, if any, do you think will be most important for you to have a good life? Choose up to 5 things from the list below.

Response	Frequency	Percentage of respondents in your class
A good job or career		
A healthy environment or planet		
A nice home to live in		
Being part of a good local community		
Enough money to buy the things I need		
Everyone being treated fairly		
Getting on well with my current family		
Good friends		
Good mental health		
Good physical health		
Having a good education		
Living in a nice area with things to do		
Starting my own family		





b) Draw a bar chart to illustrate the results.

