

Stimulative Effects of Transitory Versus Permanent Tax Cuts. Consider a buffer stock model like the one presented in class but with a permanent ‘payroll’ wage tax so that the employed consumer’s income is wage income times the untaxed proportion λ . This model relates the ratio of consumption to permanent income, $c = C/(W)$, to the ratio of market resources to permanent income $m = M/(W)$. Use this model to rank the relative magnitudes (from largest to smallest) of the effects on consumption you would expect from each of the following policies: (1) A transfer of size X targeted to people with large values of m (so the person receives income of $W + X$); (2) a permanent tax cut targeted to people with large values of m ; (3) a transitory transfer (as described above) targeted to people with small values of m ; (4) a permanent tax cut targeted to people with small values of m . (Your answer will be graded not just on whether you rank the four options correctly, but also on how well you *explain why* you obtain the answer you do. A diagram or two may be helpful in explaining your reasoning).

