

Name _____

Economics
Unit 7 – Government’s Role in the Economy
Federal Regulatory Agencies

Assignment: (100 points) Research the areas of responsibility for a variety of federal consumer protection agencies. For a scenario, determine which consumer protection agency would handle the complaint illustrated in the scenario. Research the areas of oversight for a variety of agencies within the Department of Labor.

Part 1: Consumer Protection Agencies: You will be researching the consumer protection agencies listed below. For each agency, identify that agency’s Areas of Oversight on p. 2 of this document. Links to each Agency’s Web site are found on teachers’ website.

[Consumer Product Safety Commission \(CPSC\)](#)

- Read the About CPSC section (click on tab) to find what they do

[Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#)

- Follow the About FDA link and read What They Regulate to find what they do

[Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)

- Explore the Programs link on the main page to find out what they do

[Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\)](#)

- Explore the Competition and Consumer Protection (both Consumer Information and Business Information) tabs on the main page to find out what they do

[National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#)

- Explore the Traffic Safety and Vehicles/Equipment links on the main page to find out what they do

Areas of Oversight for Federal Consumer Protection Agencies (2 pt each)

Check the block for the agency that oversees the area listed below.	CPSC	FDA	EPA	FTC	NHTSA
Advertising (truth in advertising, labeling requirements, etc.)					
Air quality (pollution, acid rain, inside air quality, release of smoke & other chemicals into the air)					
Blood supply (safety)					
Car equipment (child safety seats, tires, car components, odometers, fuel economy, automobile defects & recalls, etc.)					
Competition in free market economy (anti-trust, merger oversight, monopoly prevention, etc.)					
Consumer products (toys, appliances, electronics, etc.)					
Cosmetics (safety & labeling)					
Credit issues (credit reports, credit scoring, fair access to credit)					
E-Commerce (online selling, e-mail ads, spam, etc.)					
Food (labeling & safety, including bottled water)					
Fraud prevention (telemarketing scams, investment schemes, pyramid schemes, etc.)					
Identity theft (maintaining privacy or records, online transactions, etc.)					
Livestock products (livestock feeds, pet foods, veterinary drugs & devices)					
Medical devices (pre-market approval, manufacturing & performance standards, tracking reports of malfunctions & other adverse reactions)					
Over-the-counter drugs (product approvals, labeling, manufacturing standards)					
Pedestrian/school bus/motorcycle/bicycle safety					
Prescription drugs (product approvals, labeling, manufacturing standards)					
Radiation-emitting electronic products (microwave ovens, x-ray equipment, laser equipment, ultrasound equipment, sunlamps, etc.)					
Toxic substance control (asbestos, lead, dumping of chemicals, etc.)					
Vehicle safety (impact testing, crash avoidance, etc.)					
Waste control (hazardous waste, recycling programs, etc.)					
Water supply (lakes, rivers, oceans, including drinking water and dumping)					

Read each of the following scenarios. Identify which consumer protection agency (CPSC, FDA, EPA, FTC, NHTSA) would handle the complaint. (2 pt each)

Complaint	Agency
You and your friends all get sick from eating cans of pork and beans.	
While operating your chainsaw, the chain flies off and causes severe cuts on your leg.	
You respond to an advertisement on the Internet; you discover that the advertising is false.	
Your child's safety seat breaks loose from the seat belt and goes flying across your back seat when you make a sharp right turn.	
You suspect that the local auto repair garage in your neighborhood is dumping used oil in the field behind their shop.	
Your blender catches fire while making a fruit smoothie and burns down your kitchen.	
The tread on your new tires separates from the tire while you are driving 65 mph, and you total your car.	
The lipstick you just bought causes your lips to swell up to three times their normal size.	
You go to a car dealership because they run an advertisement that they have your favorite car for almost half of what you expect to pay for it. When you get there, they tell you that they don't have any of those cars on the lot and try to sell you a much more expensive car.	
Your baby falls out of its high chair because the safety bar disconnects when it leans forward.	
When you review your credit report, you discover that there are 15 credit cards you did not apply for on your credit. It appears that someone has "stolen your identity."	
The pacemaker you had implanted seems to be malfunctioning. You find out that a lot of other patients with the same pacemaker are having the same problem as you.	
The local factory seems to be putting out a lot of smoke from its smokestacks; a lot of the local citizens have lung problems.	
You get into a wreck on your motorcycle because the brake pads overheated and couldn't stop the bike. It appears that the brakes were malfunctioning.	

Part 2: Department of Labor Agencies that Protect Workers: Click on the [Department of Labor agencies](#) link (available on teacher website) for each agency below. Read the Mission Statement for each agency to find out which aspect of labor oversight it handles. List the areas of oversight in the space provided. (5 pts each)

Agency	Area(s) of Oversight
Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)	
Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)	
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP)	
Wage & Hour Division (WHD)	