Netherlands, August 2000

It seems the world famous teenage pharaoh Tutankhamen had unusually large hips. At least, this is the expert opinion of Dr Vogelsang-Eastwood, a museum curator from Leiden. Since 1992 she’s been researching the ancient clothing found in Tutankhamen’s tomb.

Based on her studies, Dr Vogelsang-Eastwood believes Tutankhamen measured 79cms around the chest, 74cms around the waist and a whopping 110cms around the hips! These are certainly not healthy dimensions.

It may be that Tutankhamen suffered from a rare disease, or that this clothing does not belong to him at all — but to a large-hipped lady. Historians know for sure that some items found in Tutankhamen’s tomb did belong to a woman. Either way, further evidence is needed to prove the hypothesis that ‘Tut’ had big hips.

The answer may surface as forensic teams continue examining the pharaoh’s mummy to determine his cause of death. The possibility of murder was first raised 28 years ago when x-rays by Liverpool University’s Anatomy Dept revealed the king may have died from a blow to the back of the head. More recent autopsies by Egyptian experts suggest that he was poisoned and that his body might’ve been dropped on a stone floor during mummification, as there is no trace of bleeding around the skull fracture.

Use the information above and any reference below to answer the following questions:

1. Why was the discovery of Tutankhamen’s tomb such a significant find?

2. Assume Tutankhamen had the physical measurements suggested. Sketch below how his body looked.

3. Examine the illustration of Tutankhamen’s tomb as the British archaeologist Howard Carter found it in 1922 (see first page reference below). Identify four other items it contained besides clothing and draw labelled sketches of them.