

GCSE ECONOMICS 8136/2

Paper 2 How the Economy Works

Mark scheme

June 2024

Version: 1.0 Final



Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

No student should be disadvantaged on the basis of their gender identity and/or how they refer to the gender identity of others in their exam responses.

A consistent use of 'they/them' as a singular and pronouns beyond 'she/her' or 'he/him' will be credited in exam responses in line with existing mark scheme criteria.

Further copies of this mark scheme are available from aga.org.uk

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Level of response marking instructions

Level of response mark schemes are broken down into levels, each of which has a descriptor. The descriptor for the level shows the average performance for the level. There are marks in each level.

Before you apply the mark scheme to a student's answer read through the answer and annotate it (as instructed) to show the qualities that are being looked for. You can then apply the mark scheme.

Step 1 Determine a level

Start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the descriptor for that level. The descriptor for the level indicates the different qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level. If it meets the lowest level then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the level descriptor and the answer. With practice and familiarity you will find that for better answers you will be able to quickly skip through the lower levels of the mark scheme.

When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not look to pick holes in small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme you should use a best fit approach for defining the level and then use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level, ie if the response is predominantly level 3 with a small amount of level 4 material it would be placed in level 3 but be awarded a mark near the top of the level because of the level 4 content.

Step 2 Determine a mark

Once you have assigned a level you need to decide on the mark. The descriptors on how to allocate marks can help with this. The exemplar materials used during standardisation will help. There will be an answer in the standardising materials which will correspond with each level of the mark scheme. This answer will have been awarded a mark by the Lead Examiner. You can compare the student's answer with the example to determine if it is the same standard, better or worse than the example. You can then use this to allocate a mark for the answer based on the Lead Examiner's mark on the example.

You may well need to read back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the level and the mark are appropriate.

Indicative content in the mark scheme is provided as a guide for examiners. It is not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other valid points. Students do not have to cover all of the points mentioned in the Indicative content to reach the highest level of the mark scheme.

An answer which contains nothing of relevance to the question must be awarded no marks.

KEY LIST

01	D – Increased saving	06	D – Unit of account
02	C – Managing environmental change	07	C – Increase, Decrease
03	A – Decreased direct taxes	08	A – £200
04	C – Seasonal	09	D – Increased unemployment
05	A – Decreased inflation	10	B – Decrease, Increase

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
11		State two examples of indirect taxes used in the UK.	2
		AO1a = 2	
		 Value-added tax (VAT) excise duty – allow different examples (eg alcohol taxes, tobacco taxes, fuel taxes) but don't allow two from the same class of excise duties (eg tax on cigarettes and tax on rolling tobacco) customs duties (allow tariffs) soft drinks industry levy (allow sugar tax). One mark for each correct response. Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate. 	

Qu	Part		Marking guidance		
12		Explain w	what is meant by regressive taxation.	2	
		AO1 = 2			
		Marks	Description		
		2	Complete explanation of regressive taxation.		
		1	Partial explanation of regressive taxation.		
		0	Nothing written worthy of credit.		
		Possible	ssible answers include:		
		I -	households pay proportionately more tax (2 marks) households pay more tax (1 mark).		
		Examples understa	s can be used to support an answer but, alone, do not constitute nding.		
			is indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses awarded marks as appropriate.		

Qu	Part		Marking guidance	Total marks
13		Explain o	one role of the Bank of England.	2
		AO1 = 2		
		Marks	Description	
		2	Complete explanation of Bank of England's role.	
		1	Partial explanation of Bank of England's role.	
		0	Nothing written worthy of credit.	
		Possible	answers include:	
		managensurirlender	interest rates ing quantitative easing/tightening ng financial stability of last resort. arks for one role only – if more than one role is explained, then award one.	
			is indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses awarded marks as appropriate.	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
14	1	Using Table 1 , calculate the annual inflation rate at December 2023 to one decimal place.	2
		AO2 = 2 Answer: • (102.2 – 98.4) / 98.4 × 100 (1) = 3.9% (2 marks) • answer not to 1 decimal place but otherwise correct, eg 4%, 3.86% (1 mark) • use of 102.2 as denominator but otherwise correct and to one dp (giving 3.7%) (1 mark). • for correct workings but incorrect answer (1 mark) • award 2 marks for correct answer (3.9%) even if no workings are present.	

Qu	Part		Marking guidance	Total marks
14	2	Explain o	one cause of inflation.	2
		AO1 = 2		
		Marks	Description	
		2	Complete explanation of cause of inflation.	
		1	Partial explanation of cause of inflation.	
		0	Nothing written worthy of credit.	
		demandoutput cost-pulmaintai excess expectal leading rise in cost-pulmaintai	d-pull inflation – where demand/spending rises too quickly/faster than ush inflation – where costs rise, forcing firms to increase prices to in profit margins growth in money supply – feeding into more spending ations – people building in expected price rises into wage claims to increased prices via cost-push commodity prices leading to general rise in prices – similar to ush explanation.	
		should be	his indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses awarded marks as appropriate. No need to refer to the 'types' by long as cause is identified and/or explained.	

Qu	Part			Marking guidance	Total marks
15				nalyse how changes in government spending can help employment.	6
		AO2 = 2	, AO3 = 4		
		Level	Marks	Description	
		3	5–6	A full analysis of the economic evidence, a well-developed and logical chain of reasoning.	
		2	3–4	An incomplete analysis of the economic evidence, starts to develop a chain of reasoning.	
				Good application of knowledge and understanding of concepts/issues mostly relevant to the context.	
		1	1–2	Analysis of discrete points of the economic evidence with no chain of reasoning attempted.	
				Basic application of knowledge and understanding of concepts/issues with limited relevance to the context.	
			0	Nothing written worthy of credit.	
		The U govern public Dema derive generoknock Supply > cuts une	K governinment spe sector joh nd side fa d – dema ous 'hand -on (multip y-side fact in benefit mployment rovements eases in i	nctors – more government spending leads to greater – nd for labour in the economy, possibly through more outs' or pay for public sector workers; including possible plier) effects. tors: ts increase incentive to work and reduce frictional	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
			1
16		State two policies that may be used to correct market failure caused by positive externalities.	2
		AO1a = 2	
		Answers include:	
		 subsidies tax on a substitute with negative externalities (to encourage a switch away from this) – the answer must specify that the tax is on the substitute regulation/laws (only credit once) advertising/information failure correction (only credit once) government provision. Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.	

Qu	Part		Marking guidance	Total marks
17		Explain c	one consequence for a government of high unemployment.	2
		AO1 = 2		
		Marks	Description	
		2	Complete explanation of consequence of high unemployment.	
		1	Partial explanation of consequence of high unemployment.	
		0	Nothing written worthy of credit.	
			answers include:	
		higherincreaslower e	ax revenue government spending sed budget deficit economic growth problems (eg potential link to mental health issues).	
			is indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses awarded marks as appropriate.	

Qu	Part		Marking guidance	Total marks
18		Explain o r	ne role of a building society.	2
		AO1 = 2		
		Marks	Description	
		2	Role of building society is explained.	
		1	Role of building society is identified.	
		0	Nothing written worthy of credit.	
		 acceptin facilitate offer a k offer a lethrough Note: This	money to those wishing to borrow (usually for a mortgage) ng deposits from those who want a secure place to store/save money electronic monetary transactions between customers better return for their savers (compared with banks) ess risky place to store money (less pressure to generate high profits riskier activities when compared with a bank). Is indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses awarded marks as appropriate.	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
19	1	Using Table 2 , calculate the rate of economic growth for 2023 to one decimal	2
13	•	place.	
		AO2 = 2	
		Answer:	
		 (1704 – 1675) / 1675 × 100 = 1.7% (2 marks) answer not to one decimal place but otherwise correct, eg 2%, 1.73% (1 mark) for correct workings but incorrect answer (1 mark) award 2 marks for correct answer (1.7%) even if no workings are present. 	

Qu	Part		Marking guidance	Total marks
19	2	Explain o	one possible cost of economic growth for an economy.	2
		AO1 = 2		
		Marks	Description	
		2	Complete explanation of cost of economic growth.	
		1	Partial explanation of cost of economic growth.	
		0	Nothing written worthy of credit.	
		Possible	answers include:	
		rising irnegativedepletion	sed inflation nequality ve externalities on of natural resources sed current account (or trade) deficit.	
			is indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses awarded marks as appropriate.	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
20		On Figure 2 , draw and label the effects on the exchange rate of increased UK imports from countries using the Euro.	3
		Euros (E) per pound (E) S_1 S_2 S_3 S_4 S_4 S_5 S_6 S_7 S_8 S_8 S_9	
		 Answer: correct drawing of original equilibrium but no further adjustment (max 1 mark) a leftward shift in supply with new equilibrium in additional to original equilibrium (max 2 marks) A rightward shift in supply (2 marks) – fully labelled showing fall in exchange rate (3 marks) No further marks for any shift in demand, even if labelled supply. Note: The answer could use numbers or letters (as shown here) on each axis when plotting equilibria – either approach is fine, although something must appear here on both axes for 3 marks. Also, if the labelling appears on the vertical axis correctly but does not appear on the horizontal axis, then still credit as they have shown the change in the exchange rate. 	

Qu	Part			Marking guidance	Total marks
21		Using Figure 3 , assess whether the UK government should always aim for low and stable inflation as an objective for the UK economy.			9
		AO2 = 3	, AO3 = 6		
		Level	Marks	Description	
		3	7–9	A fully justified conclusion with sustained evaluation, which is coherent and relevant, with judgements supported by evidence.	
				A full analysis of the economic evidence, a well-developed and logical chain of reasoning.	
				Comprehensive application of knowledge and understanding of pertinent concepts/issues relevant to the context; specialist language used throughout.	
		2	4–6	A partially justified conclusion with an evaluation, which is mostly coherent and relevant; judgements may not be fully supported by evidence.	
				An incomplete analysis of the economic evidence; starts to develop a chain of reasoning.	
				Good application of knowledge and understanding of concepts/issues mostly relevant to the context; specialist language used mostly appropriately.	
		1	1–3	A basic conclusion or assertion may be present based on evaluative judgements supported by little or no evidence. Analysis of discrete points of the economic evidence with no chain of reasoning attempted.	
				Basic application of knowledge and understanding of concepts/issues with limited relevance to the context; may use non-specialist language.	
			0	Nothing written worthy of credit.	
		Possible	e answer	s:	
		Reasons	for aimin	ng for low and stable inflation:	
		less nogreate	eed for iner r confider	etitiveness of UK exports creased interest rates nce for businesses in planning per confidence.	
				aiming for low and stable inflation:	

- keeping low inflation may need high interest rates (for a prolonged period)
- risk of deflation
- may conflict with achieving other objectives
- hard to achieve especially if cost-push in nature.

Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.

Qu	Part	Marking guidance				
		5 6 4				
22		Define the	e term 'multinational company'.	2		
		AO1 = 2				
		Marks	Marks Description			
		2	Complete definition of multinational companies.			
		1	Partial definition of multinational companies.			
		0	Nothing written worthy of credit.			
		Answer:	Answer:			
		 business that operates in more than one country (2) idea of business being involved in more than one country's market (1). 				

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
	ı		
23		Using Table 3 , in Item A , calculate the UK current account balance for 2021 in £ millions.	3
		Tick (✓) one box to indicate whether it is in surplus or deficit.	
		AO2 = 3	
		Answer:	
		 (in £ m): 636 325 – 653 897 – 9947 – 18 114 = 45 633 (deficit) (allow minus sign) (3 marks) balance of trade = 17 572 (1 mark) (must specify deficit or have minus sign) correct calculation of trade balance but incorrect treatment of either primary or secondary income balance – 2 marks max correct workings (as shown above) but incorrect final figure or incorrect balance – 2 marks max. 	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance						
24		•	Using Item A , explain two government policies that could reduce a deficit on the current account of the balance of payments.					
		AO2 = 6						
		Apply grid	d twice:					
		Marks	Description					
		A full and precise explanation applying economic concepts and issues.						
		2 A partial explanation applying economic concepts and issues but lacking detail.						
		1 Fragmented points made.						
		Nothing written worthy of credit.						
		Possible answers include:						
	 lower exchange rate restrictions on free trade – controls/taxes on imports policies to improve competitiveness of UK businesses to boost exports polices to reduce consumer spending (and spending on imports). 							
		Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.						

Qu	Part			Marking guidance	Total marks
25				alyse the possible consequences of increased globalisation developed economies.	6
		AO2 = 2	, AO3 = 4		
		Level	Marks	Description	
		3	5–6	A full analysis of the economic evidence, a well-developed and logical chain of reasoning.	
			3–4	An incomplete analysis of the economic evidence, starts to develop a chain of reasoning.	
		2	3–4	Good application of knowledge and understanding of concepts/issues mostly relevant to the context.	
		1	1–2	Analysis of discrete points of the economic evidence with no chain of reasoning attempted.	
			1-2	Basic application of knowledge and understanding of concepts/issues with limited relevance to the context.	
			0	Nothing written worthy of credit.	
		Possible	e answer	s include:	
		• jobs lo	ost due to anies	tunities if multinational companies set up in country inability of 'local' businesses to compete with foreign al issues if workers exploited by large companies.	
				ive content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses d marks as appropriate.	

Qu	Part			Marking guidance	Total marks
26		increasing as the U	ng globalis K. our answe		15
		AU2 = 5	, AO3 = 1	U	
		Level	Marks	Description	
		5	13–15	A justified conclusion with sustained evaluation, which is coherent and relevant, with judgements fully supported by evidence. Analysis of a relevant selection of the economic evidence, with a well-developed logical chain of reasoning. Comprehensive application of knowledge and understanding of pertinent concepts/issues relevant to the context; effective use of specialist language maintained throughout.	
		4	10–12	A partially justified conclusion with an evaluation, which is mostly coherent and relevant; judgements may not be fully supported by evidence. Analysis of a relevant selection of the economic evidence; a logical chain of reasoning is established but not fully developed. Strong application of knowledge and understanding of a broad range of concepts/issues relevant to the context; mostly effective use of specialist language throughout.	
		3	7–9	A partially justified conclusion with an evaluation, but not integrated in a coherent way; judgements are not fully supported by evidence. Analysis of a relevant selection of the economic evidence and starts to develop a chain of reasoning. Good application of knowledge and understanding of a broad range of concepts/issues relevant to the context; consistent use of specialist language but not always effective.	

		A basic conclusion is present based on simple evaluative judgements supported by little or no evidence.
2	4–6	Analysis of a relevant selection of the economic evidence with no chain of reasoning attempted.
		Simple application of knowledge and understanding of a narrow range of concepts/issues relevant to the context; sporadic use of specialist language.
		Evaluative judgements are simple with no conclusion present.
1	1–3	Analysis of a limited selection of the economic evidence with no chain of reasoning attempted; selection of evidence may lack relevance.
		Basic application of knowledge and understanding of concepts/issues with limited relevance to the context; uses non-specialist language.
	0	Nothing written worthy of credit.

Possible advantages:

- generates higher level of sales/output
- · benefit from economies of scale
- access to wider markets
- spreads 'risk' by operating in multiple markets
- potentially greater source of labour supply
- ability to outsource parts of production to lower cost countries
- use of data.

Possible disadvantages:

- difficulties in competing with producers in less-developed countries
- increase shortage of skilled workers due to 'brain drain'
- downward pressure on prices (and profits) due to increased competition
- theft of intellectual property
- use of data.

Possible evaluation:

- depends on whether producer is selling to the UK market only or overseas
- depends on whether producer needs imports for production
- depends on extent of competition
- depends on size of business bigger businesses may benefit from access to global labour.

Note: This indicative content is not exhaustive, other creditworthy responses should be awarded marks as appropriate.