



Mark Scheme (Results)

June 2011

GCE Economics (6EC01) Paper 01



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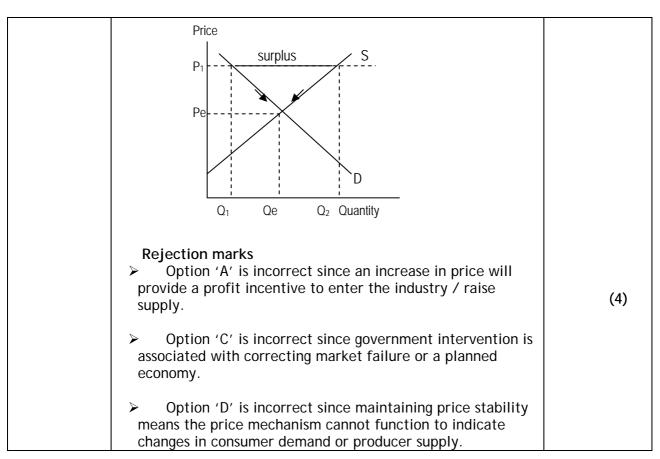
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NB: candidates may achieve up to 3 marks for explaining three incorrect options (provided three different reasons are offered and each option key is explicitly rejected).

Question Number	Answer	Mark
1	Answer B	
	• Definition and development of a positive statement: (one that is based on fact / it can be tested as true or false / a scientific approach to economics / objective approach) (1 mark).	
	• Definition of a normative statement (one that is based on value judgement / it cannot be tested as true or false / a non-scientific approach to economics / subjective approach) (1 mark).	
	• Application (explicit data reference): statement 1 is positive since it can be tested to see whether tax on cigarettes will rise by 2% above inflation. (1 mark)	(4)
	• Application (explicit data reference): statement 2 is positive since it can be tested to see whether tax forms more than 75% of the price of cigarettes. (1 mark).	

Question Number	Answer	Mark
2	 Answer B Definition or explanation of price mechanism (interaction of demand and supply to allocate resources / use of price changes to allocate resources / how changes in demand or supply will alter price to a new equilibrium / or development of the functions of the price mechanism) (1 mark). 	
	 Explanation of a surplus (the quantity supply exceeds the quantity demand at the current price / excess supply of a good) (1 mark). 	
	 Application: as price falls demand extends (accept increase) and supply contracts (accept decrease) until the market equilibrium is reached (1 mark). 	
	 Also award for diagrammatic analysis (identify the surplus / show movement towards price equilibrium) (1+1 marks) 	



Question Number	Answer	Mark
3	Answer D	
	 Definition of price elasticity of demand or formula (the responsiveness of demand for a good due to a change in its price or %ΔD ÷ %ΔP) (1 mark). 	
	 Definition of income elasticity of demand or formula (the responsiveness of demand for a good due to a change in income or %ΔD ÷ %ΔY) (1 mark) 	
	• Milk and cheese are normal goods since they have a positive income elasticity of demand (1 mark).	
	• Milk and cheese are price inelastic in demand since they have values below -1.0 / explanation of inelastic demand in terms of the percentage change in demand being less than the percentage change in price. (1 mark)	
	Rejection marks	
	 Option 'A' or 'C' is incorrect since milk and cheese have a positive income elasticity of demand / do not have a negative income elasticity of demand. (1 mark). 	
	 Option B is incorrect since milk and cheese are not substitutes / there is no data on actual demand levels for either good. (1 mark). 	(4)

Question Number	Answer	Mark
4	 Answer D Definition of producer surplus (the difference between the price firms are willing to sell a good for and the actual market price or the area above the supply curve and below the price line) (1 mark) 	
	 Original producer surplus is P₁XZ (1 mark) New producer surplus is P₂YZ (1 mark) 	
	(the original and new producer surplus may be annotated on the diagram)	
	• P1XL being consumer surplus (1 mark)	
	 Rejection marks > Option A is incorrect since this is consumer surplus. (1 mark) 	
	Option B is incorrect since this is the original producer surplus. (1 mark)	
	Option C is incorrect since this is the new level of producer surplus. (1 mark)	(4)
	NB: Do not double award marks in this question.	(''

Question	Answer	Mark
Number		
5	Answer C	
	 Definition / explanation of division of labour (production broken down into different tasks and labour allocated to each task). (1 mark) 	
	 Application to sandwich production line e.g. cutting bread, spreading butter and packing sandwiches. (1 mark) 	
	 Identification of boredom or monotony of a job (1 mark) 	
	 Increase in recruitment costs / 'total' training costs since increased staff turnover (1 mark) 	
	Rejection marks	
	 Option A is incorrect since division of labour reduces range of workers' skills to specific tasks. (1 mark) 	(4)
	 Option B is incorrect since training costs per worker falls as just doing specific tasks (1 mark) 	
	Option D is incorrect as higher output per head is an advantage of division of labour / means more profits could be made for producer. (1 mark)	

Question Number	Answer	Mark
6	Answer A	
	 Definition of an ad valorem tax (tax set as a percentage of the price of a good). (1 mark) 	
	 It is an ad valorem tax since there is a pivotal shift in the supply curve. (1 mark) 	
	 Producers pay most of the tax since demand is price elastic. (1 mark) 	
	• Producers pay £70 per unit or 10×£70 = £700 (1 mark)	
	• Consumers pay £30 per unit or 10×£30 = £300 (1 mark)	
	 (These may be shown by annotation of diagram of producer and consumer tax but do not double award). (1+1 marks) 	
	 Rejection marks > Option B / D incorrect since a specific tax would cause a parallel shift in the supply curve (1 mark) 	
	Option C incorrect as tax incidence falls mainly on producers as shown by diagram (need annotation here) / or use of figures (1 mark)	(4)

Question	Answer	Mark
Number		
7	Answer B	
	• Definition / explanation of a buffer stock scheme (agency intervention to buy or sell a commodity to reduce price fluctuations) (1 mark).	
	• Without government intervention the market price would fall to 0P1 / or a surplus would cause price to fall below P2. (1 mark)	
	 Government agency purchases L₁Q₁ or XY of barley (1 mark) 	
	 Total government agency spending is LQ₁YX (this may be shown by annotation of diagram and stated as such) (1 mark) 	
	 Rejection marks > Option 'A' is incorrect since there would be an excess supply XY at minimum price P₂ (1 mark). 	
	 Option 'C' is incorrect since in a free market the price would fall to P₁ or to P₂ with agency intervention. (1 mark). 	
	 Option 'D' is incorrect since the agency would only sell from its stockpile if there was a poor harvest. (1 mark). 	(4)

Question Number	Answer	Mark
8	Answer C	
	• Definition / understanding of occupational mobility of labour (the ability of labour to change occupations to take available work (accept to change from one job to another job). Also accept definition / understanding of immobility of labour. (1 mark)	
	• Some unemployed may lack relevant skills / qualifications / work experience to take available work / identification of structural unemployment. (1 mark)	
	• Application to real world example e.g. an unemployed motor vehicle worker may lack skills to become a web designer. (1 mark)	
	• Training programmes help increase the skills / qualifications / work experience for the unemployed to gain work in different occupations (1 mark).	
	 Rejection marks > Option A is incorrect as once public goods are provided it is free for all to use / examples of public goods such as street lighting and how this has nothing to do with increasing occupational mobility of labour. (1 mark). 	(4)
	Option B incorrect since an increase in tax on buying property will impact / reduce the geographical mobility of labour. (1 mark)	
	Option D incorrect since relocation subsidies will impact / increase the geographical mobility of labour. (1 mark).	

Question	Answer	Mark
Number 9(a)	 KAA = 4 marks Definition of opportunity cost (value of next best alternative foregone) (1 mark) Reference to the increase in spending on NHS (£58.5 billion to £115 billion or £127 billion over the period or 96/97 per cent increase) (1 mark). Examples of opportunity cost: (1+1 marks or 2 marks). Lower taxes / which could increase incentive to work. More funds available for education or other areas of government spending / so improving quality of education. Less government borrowing / so placing less debt on to future generations or paying lower debt interest. Discussion of spending in different areas of the NHS. e.g. more funds for managers and less on patient care. Production possibility frontier diagram depicting opportunity cost by movement along the curve/relevant axes e.g. healthcare spending versus other areas of government spending (1+1 marks) 	(4)

Question	Answer	Mark
Number 9(b)	 KAA = 6 marks Identification of two causes (1+1 marks) and their development (2+2 marks or 3+1 marks) Extract 1 offers three causes: Ageing population: means more people living into retirement and so greater chance of requiring NHS services / such as nursing homes or treatment for cancer or Alzheimer's disease. Improved medical treatment: new treatments for illness cost a lot of money / such as better equipment (scanners) or drugs for HIV/AIDS. Increasing staff costs / now 40% of NHS budget / reflects the increase in employment in the organisation which is biggest employer in Europe. Increases in NHS funding coming to an end as government spending has to be reduced / general budget pressures of the government. 	(6)
	Note: Accept other causes of increase demand such as rising population, greater public expectations of healthcare treatment, increase in costs of drugs, changing social habits such as obesity and alcohol consumption.	

Number KAA 6 marks 9(c) KAA 6 marks • Definition of production possibility frontier (the maximum output potential for an economy when all
 its resources are fully / efficiently employed) (1 mark) Diagram depicting an outward shift in the Production possibility frontier (Up to 3 marks) Original PPF (1) Outward shift of PPF or movement along PPF (1) Labelling of PPF (Some appropriate labelling of axes e.g capital versus consumer goods or private versus public sector; accept health care versus non health care) (1) NB: Cap diagram at 2 marks if the PPF is not shifted out. The increase in healthcare provision will lead to a healthier / more productive workforce / especially as it is free at point of consumption so all can use / less absenteeism from work / longer working life /more advanced technology(1+1+1 up to 3 marks) NB: if no diagram offered award a maximum of 4 KAA marks. Evaluation (2+2 marks or 3+1 marks) Discussion of magnitude of the increase in government spending/data reference to healthcare as % of GDP. Discussion of spending on elderly patients or red tape which may not increase the PPF. Discussion of spending on elderly patients or red tape which may not increase the PPF. Discussion of spending on acpital such as new buildings and machinery. Figure 3 shows that productivity has fallen in the NHS so perhaps less impact on the PPF. Short run and long run implications. It may take a long time for health care spending to impact on PPF/also there are budget cuts from 2011.
 Discussion of whether government spending may

Question	Answer	Mark
Number		
9(d)*	 KAA 8 marks available Definition of private benefits (1+1 marks) Benefit internal to an exchange / first or second party effect / internal to the production or consumption of a good / benefit included within the price mechanism / social benefit minus external benefit / revenue received by producer / satisfaction received by consumer. Definition of external benefits (1+1 marks) Benefit external to an exchange / positive third party effect / spillover from production or consumption / benefit which the price mechanism fails to take into account / benefit outside of a transaction / social benefit minus private benefit. 	
	 Diagram (Up to 4 marks) MPB and MC curves (1) MSB curve (1) Identification of market equilibrium and social optimum output or price (could be mentioned in the text) (1) NB: merely stating under-consumption is not sufficient. Triangle of welfare gain (accept welfare loss)(1) Note: accept a parallel outward shift of the MSB curve 	
	Price	
	MPC=MSC P2 Pe MB MB	
	 Qe Q2 Quantity Explanation of private benefits (Up to 3 marks): improved health to those directly treated / increased life expectancy / increased income from employment. Also accept benefits direct to the NHS such as employment, revenue and trading surpluses. 	

	• Explanation of external benefits (Up to 3 marks):	
	healthier workforce for employers / so greater productivity / less absenteeism / more profits / increase in tax revenues / increase in inward investment / reduction in spread of contagious diseases.	
e	NB: Benefits must be explicitly identified as private or external benefits. Otherwise award no marks for this explanation.	
	NB: if no diagram then award a maximum of 6 marks for KAA	
E	Evaluation: (2+2+2 marks or 3+3 marks)	
r r	Discussion of magnitude of private benefits: Extract 1 refers to more than 1 million people being treated every 36 nours. This must have a dramatic impact on the health of the population.	
p l	Short-run and long run effects: since 1997 the costs of providing healthcare free at point of consumption has increased dramatically.	
2	Prioritise between private and external benefits.	
	Discussion of whether the benefits outweigh the costs of funding the NHS. Inefficient use of resources.	
0	Difficult to quantify / attach a monetary value on external or private benefits / possibility of over-provision or under- provision of healthcare funds (asymmetric information).	
f r	There may be significant costs associated with extra funding of healthcare (opportunity cost) / higher taxes / more government borrowing / less funds for other areas of expenditure.	(14)
	Quality of written communication skills will be assessed in this question based on the candidate's ability:	
	 To present an argument and conclude on the basis of that argument. To Organize information clearly and coherently. To use economics vocabulary appropriately. To use grammar, spelling and punctuation 	
	appropriately.	
Level Mark Level 1 1-4	Descriptor Definition of private and external benefits.	

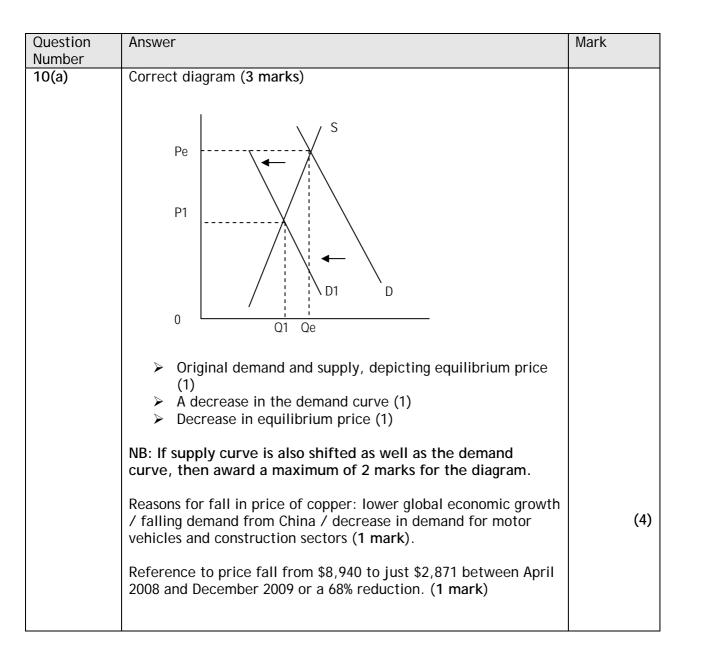
Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Definition of private and external benefits.
Level 2	5-8	Application of private and external benefits to healthcare.
Level 3	9-10	Application of private and external benefits to healthcare with diagram.
Level 4	11-12	Up to one evaluation point.
Level 5	13-14	Two or more evaluation points.

Question	Answer	Mark
Number 9(e)*	KAA 8 marks (2+2+2+2 marks or 3+3+2 marks)	
	Candidates may argue either way. The development of one point of view constitutes KAA. The alternative view is considered as evaluation	
	Definition / understanding of government failure (Government intervention leads to a net welfare loss / inefficient allocation of resources / intervenes to correct market failure but makes it worse) (1 mark).	
	Government failure may have occurred since:	
	Extract 2 refers to the faster increase in NHS managerial staff over nurses and doctors / adding to bureaucracy / use of figures.	
	Extract 2 refers to the introduction of competition in the NHS may have added to bureaucracy and fragmentation according to Dr Brent of BMA.	
	Figure 1 refers to the reduction in number of hospital beds suggests possible reduction provision of service / use of figures.	
	Figure 3 refers to the decrease in productivity for NHS workers between 1997 and 2007 / use of figures.	
	Extract 1 refers to current inefficiencies in the NHS - the government should have taken action earlier to reduce them (cost of purchasing goods and services, staff sickness, IT programme, use of buildings).	
	There may be government failure since the extra resources used in healthcare could have been allocated to other areas (opportunity cost).	
	Evaluation (2+2+2 marks or 3+3 marks)	
	Government failure may not have occurred since:	
	Figure 2 shows hospital waiting times in excess of 13 weeks have fallen / use of figures.	
	More managers may be required to improve the allocation of funds and health provision since a huge operation / reference to the massive NHS budget of £127 billion in 2011.	
	The quality of healthcare may have improved - it is difficult to measure this against productivity shown in	

Figure 3.	
Extract 1 refers to faster treatment of patients in hospital as revealed by the fall in the average length of stay in hospital / from 8.8 to 6.3 days.	
The health reforms are to do with opening up to competition - more of a market failure rather than government failure.	(14)
Extract 1 shows the government has identified ways to increase NHS efficiency (cost of purchasing goods and services, staff sickness, IT programme, use of buildings).	
Figure 3 shows rising productivity between 2005 and 2007 / use of figures.	
Discussion of data accuracy as huge sums of money involved so hard to tell if there has been government failure.	
Other things are not equal / other factors may have affected the general health of the population e.g. decrease in smoking or increase in alcohol consumption.	
Discussion of short run and long run effects e.g. only time will tell if there is government failure from the health reforms.	

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-2	Definition of government failure and basic reference to information.
Level 2	3-6	Use of information to present one view on government failure.
Level 3	7-10	Extensive use of information to present one view on government failure and

Level 4 11-14 Extensive use of information to present one view on government failure and two or more evaluation comments.



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Question Number	Answer	Mark
10(b)	KAA = 6 marks	
	• Definition of income elasticity of demand. (1 mark)	
	• Explanation of a normal good (as income increases so will demand increase or vice versa). (1 mark)	
	• Copper is a normal good since it has a positive income elasticity of demand (1 mark).	
	• Explanation of an inferior good (as income increase then demand will decrease)(1 mark).	
	An inferior good has a negative income elasticity of demand (1 mark)	
	• Data reference (the recession led to a decrease in demand for copper) (Up to 2 marks)	
	Diagram depicting demand for copper as a normal good (1 mark)	
	Level of income	
	D	
		(6)
	0 Quantity demand	
	 Accept higher order analysis e.g. 'ceteris paribus' may not hold, so other factors have affected the demand for copper (1 mark) 	
	NB: Accept plausible case for stating copper is an inferior good (Lower global economic growth implies incomes rising at a slower rate but demand is falling - referred to in first paragraph of Extract 1) (Up to 2 marks).	
	NB: Cap at 4 marks if no reference to information in Extract 1	

Question	Answer	Mark
Number 10(c)	KAA = 6 marks	
	 Definition or formula of price elasticity of supply (the responsiveness of supply due to a change in price or %ΔS ÷ %ΔP) (1 mark). 	
	 Understanding of inelastic or elastic supply (this may be implicit or defined) (1 mark). 	
	 Diagram depicting a price inelastic or price elastic supply curve correctly stated (1 mark) 	
	Reasons for supply being price inelastic include (2+2+2 marks):	
	Extract 2 indicates lengthy planning enquiry to develop new mine at Pebble Mill / danger of protests from local communities.	
	 Many fixed inputs in short run such as building roads / rail lines or dams or construction of open cast mine. 	
	Time taken to train local workforce in mining.	
	Full capacity / no spare stocks of copper.	
	 Reasons for supply being price elastic include: All inputs become variable in long run / understanding of long run. 	
	Huge scale of operations suggests a lot of copper can be produced / spare capacity.	
	New firms may enter industry attracted by high prices / firms exit as prices collapse.	
	 Evaluation (2+2 marks) Use of data in an evaluative manner e.g. magnitude of price changes make it difficult for supply to respond proportionately in the same manner. 	
	• Existing stockpiles could be released on to market - so supply could be elastic in short run / non-perishable commodity so easy to store.	
	 Finite amount of copper available in world - so ultimately highly price inelastic in supply. 	(10)
	• Recycling schemes could make supply more elastic as high prices make such schemes profitable.	
	 Economy is coming out of recession so plenty of spare capacity and factor inputs available - so make supply elastic. 	

Question	Answer	Mark
Number	KAA = 8 marks	
10(d)*	 • Definition of a minimum pricing scheme (a floor price / a minimum price set by an agency (1 mark) • The scheme requires government agency / producer organisation to set 	
	minimum price and purchase surpluses at this price (1 mark)	
	 Diagram / explanation (Up to 4 marks) 	
	 Demand and supply curves with equilibrium price (1). Minimum price line (can be below equilibrium) (1). Identifying excess supply or surplus (1). Area of spending by agency (1). 	
	S	
	P1 X Y Minimum price	
	D	
	0 Q1 Qe Q2 Quantity copper	
	 Economic effects may include: increase in quantity supply and decrease in quantity demand / increase revenues and profits / increase in employment / increase in investment / increase production costs for firms that use copper e.g. builders and car manufacturers / reduce consumer surplus / increase producer surplus. . (1+1+1+1 or 2+2 marks) 	
	NB: If no diagram award a maximum of 4 marks for KAA Evaluation (2+2+2 or 3+3 marks)	
	 The scheme is unlikely to be successful since Problem of rising prices - mean price fluctuations can still occur above the minimum price. 	
	Problem of purchasing the surplus copper output / will run into huge sums of money / opportunity cost.	
	It requires all the major copper producers to participate in the scheme to be successful /danger of secondary markets developing.	
	Problem of deciding on the price to set the minimum price - if below	

market equilibrium price then it has no impact / if too high then it causes problems of excess production.	(14)
Discussion of price elasticity of demand and price elasticity of supply which determine the size of surplus and expenditure on scheme.	
Cost of storage / non-perishable commodity.	
It may reduce competitiveness / efficiency of firms since guaranteed price.	
NB: Do not award for discussion of a buffer stock scheme but be prepared to award marks where relevant e.g. the minimum price and purchase of stock.	

Number KAA = 8 marks 10(e)* KAA = 8 marks • Definition of external costs: cost external to an exchange / negative third party effect / spillover from production or consumption / cost which the price mechanism fails to take into account / cost outside of a transaction / social cost minus private cost equals external cost 1+1 marks). • Application of external costs to copper mining: damage to tourism, fishing and canning industries of \$400 million / noise and visual pollution / loss of employment in these industries and negative multiplier effects / falling property prices / impact on government finances / impact on health of native communities / impact on Balance of trade (Up to 2+2 marks). NB: if the term 'external costs' is not mentioned then cap at 1 mark. • Diagram depicting external costs in production (Up to 4 marks): > MB and MPC curves (1) > MSc curve (1) > MSc remely identifying over-production is not sufficient. > Welfare loss triangle (shaded area) where marginal social costs exceed marginal social benefits for given output slice (1). Price 0 QI QR Quantity NB: If no diagram award a maximum of cap at 4 marks for KAA.

Evaluation (2+2+2 marks or 3+3 marks)	
• Significance of external costs: the market equilibrium output will exceed the social optimum output / copper is over-produced and over-consumed / market price differs from social optimum price (1+1 marks).	
 Magnitude/ time factor: \$400 million per annum fishing industry could be destroyed permanently (1+1 marks). 	
• Prioritise among the external costs.	
• Discussion of short run and long run effects e.g. initial construction may cause greatest amount of external costs.	
 Difficult to quantify and attach monetary value to external costs. 	
• The external costs could be reduced through government intervention e.g. regulation / taxation. Also the mining companies could take measures to reduce environmental damage / compensate victims.	
• External costs could be mitigated by the benefits associated with copper mine (1 + 1 + 1 marks)	(14)
 A new source of income and employment in the area some 1,000 jobs directly created. Export earnings from copper could improve Balance of trade. Help diversify the Alaskan economy. Tax revenue collected from the mining companies 	
can improve local infrastructure. Quality of written communication skills will be assessed in this question based on the candidate's ability:	
 To present an argument and conclude on the basis of that argument. To organise information clearly and coherently. 	
 To use economics vocabulary appropriately. To use grammar, spelling and punctuation appropriately. 	

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-2	Definition of external costs
Level 2	3-4	Application of external costs to copper mining.
Level 3	5-8	Diagrammatic analysis of social and market equilibrium positions
Level 4 Level 5	9-10 11-14	One evaluation point developed. Two or more evaluation points developed.

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