

AQA A-LEVEL ECONOMICS • 7136

ECONOMICS



EXAM QUESTION PACK

3.2.3.2 EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

SCORE

/2250

PERCENTAGE

%

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1.

Extract F (lines 4 – 6) states: ‘some are now arguing that further improvements in the unemployment statistics can only be gained through improvements in the supply-side of the economy, rather than relying on demand.’

To what extent do you agree that a further reduction in the UK’s unemployment rate is most likely to be achieved by improvements in the supply-side rather than the demand-side of the economy? Use the data and your own knowledge of economics, to justify your answer.

[25 marks]

2.

Workers are seeking employment but cannot find employment because of widespread low economic activity. Which type of unemployment are these workers experiencing?

A Cyclical

☐

B Structural

☐

C Frictional

☐

D Voluntary

☐

[1 mark]

3.

The Global Context Extract B (lines 1–3) states: ‘some economists are predicting that the US will play a leading role in driving world economic growth and, as the country which is the UK’s main export partner, this may provide an injection into the UK’s circular flow of income.’

Explain the term ‘circular flow of income’ **and** analyse how economic growth in the US may lead to increased national income in the UK.

[9 marks]

4.

It has been suggested that the NMW should be increased so that it is the same as the Living Wage.

Using **The National Minimum Wage After 15 Years**, explain the possible effects on individuals and the economy if the government were to adopt this suggestion.

[15 marks]

5.

The Global Context Extract C (lines 7–9) states: ‘These policies, however, have created greater divides in terms of the ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’ which may have consequences for the UK’s macroeconomic performance.’

Using the data and your knowledge of economics, assess the importance for UK macroeconomic performance of increasing income inequality, **both** domestically **and** in other economies.

[25 marks]

Extract C: Incentives and economic performance

Could inequality be adversely affecting economic performance? According to some economists, capitalism is not working effectively. Reducing trade union power and creating more flexible labour markets have created greater income inequality. Successive governments have also reduced taxation on companies and high earners (such as the cut in income tax for those earning over £150 000 from 50% to 45%) in order to promote incentives and wealth generation, as well as focusing much of the UK's hopes on the financial services industry. These policies, however, have created greater divides in terms of the 'haves' and 'have nots' which may have consequences for the UK's macroeconomic performance.	1 5
There has been a shift, over the last generation, in the share of GDP from the workforce to shareholders of between 5% –7%, with many low earners finding it difficult to get onto the property ladder. Neo-classical economists cite the trickle-down effect as a way of improving the living standards of all by cutting taxes for upper income groups and business, stating that economic progress depends on saving and innovation which, in turn, depends on the ability to make high profits. However, research by the Tax Justice Network claims that, when there are high levels of inequality, to avoid tax, financial capital often leaves the country, rather than staying in the domestic economy.	10 15
It has been argued that other policies such as public sector pay rise limits of 1%, benefits rising at 1% rather than inflation-linked increases, and the removal of some housing benefit, as well as the culture of bankers' bonuses, have all contributed to growing inequality. This is likely to have consequences for consumer spending power, but may also help to contribute to reduced inflationary expectations. There has also been criticism of the UK banking system, in that it has been too focused on making quick financial returns rather than long-run investment. Ultimately, these factors may damage the UK's ability to achieve its macroeconomic targets.	20 25

Source: News reports, 2013

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

Extract B: Will growing inequality damage the US economy?

Some economists are predicting that the US will play a leading role in driving world economic growth and, as the country which is the UK's main export partner, this may provide an injection into the UK's circular flow of income. However, since the 2008 financial crash, there has been debate in the US over whether or not economic growth can be strengthened and, if so, how best to achieve this. Within this debate, there are growing concerns about the specific issue of income inequality. The top 1% of earners have received 95% of the increase in income since the financial crisis. Since 2009, the top 1% have seen their incomes rise on average by 31.4%, whereas the rest of the population has seen a rise of only 0.4%.

The economist, Joseph Stiglitz, has highlighted inequality as one of the prime reasons why the US has continued to struggle to recover. His basic argument is that the rich have a lower marginal propensity to consume (the proportion of any increase in income spent) and a higher marginal propensity to save (the proportion of any increase in income not spent) than the poor.

Such inequality also creates unsustainable 'property-price bubbles' as wealthy individuals increase the demand for property to let out on the rental market which further fuels inflation. Tax receipts, which could be injected into the economy, also end up being reduced, as the rich are able to exploit loopholes to avoid payment of tax. For this reason, Stiglitz argues that it is necessary for the US Government to intervene to deal with inequality. If the incomes of the poor were raised, increased consumption would occur.

This argument is refuted by Paul Krugman, who states that there are some European economies with much lower income inequality which are also in a mess.

Source: News reports, 2013

8.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[10 marks]

9.

The National Minimum Wage after 15 years

Extract E: The National Minimum Wage: silver bullet or poisoned chalice?

Since its introduction in 1999, the NMW has increased by 75%, whilst average earnings have risen by 61% and the Retail Price Index by 53%. A new report, published by the Institute of Economic Affairs, argues that the NMW should be abolished for apprentices and under 18-year-olds in the UK to tackle persistently high youth unemployment. The rate for 16 and 17 year olds is due to rise to £3.79 per hour in October 2014 and to £2.73 per hour for apprentices. The authors of the report also believe that setting a single NMW is likely to have adverse effects on private sector employment in the regions. In Wales, for example, the NMW is 70% of median hourly earnings in the private sector, compared to just 42% in London. The report recommends that the minimum wage should be regionalised. When determining the minimum wage for each region, differences in productivity and economic conditions should be taken into consideration.

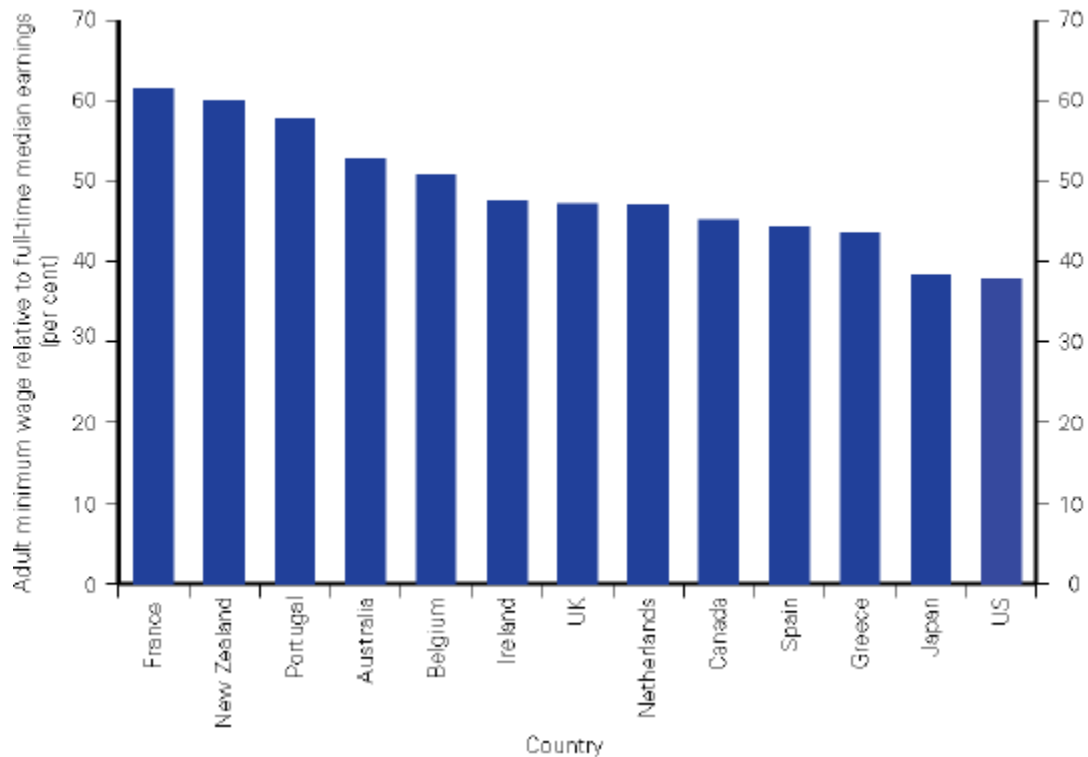
Source: News Reports accessed May 2104

10.**The National Minimum Wage after 15 years****Extract C: International comparison of adult minimum wages by country, December 2013**

Country	Minimum wage in UK £s, using purchasing power parity exchange rates
Australia	7.79
France	7.77
Belgium	7.02
Netherlands	6.97
Ireland	6.80
New Zealand	6.35
UK	6.31
Canada	5.89
USA	5.31
Japan	4.80
Spain	3.48
Greece	3.40
Portugal	2.91

Source: Extracted from National Minimum Wage – Low Pay Commission 2014

Adult minimum wages relative to full-time median earnings, by country, 2012



Source: The Future Path of the National Minimum Wage - Low Pay Commission 2014

Some countries, such as China and India, do not have a single national minimum wage. In China, each province sets its own minimum wage to reflect local conditions. In November the hourly rate in Beijing was equivalent to approximately £1.74, whereas in Hunan it was around £0.93.

International comparisons of productivity, final estimates for 2012

Current price GDP per hour worked

UK = 100

Canada	105
France	132
Germany	131
Italy	111
Japan	89
UK	100
USA	135
G7 average	120

Source: ONS 20 February 2014

11.**The National Minimum Wage after 15 years****Extract D: Calls for employers to commit to paying the Living Wage as the pay gap widens**

The TUC, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London, are just a few of those who have called on employers to pay their workers a living wage. The Living Wage is defined as 'the wage that can meet the basic needs to maintain a safe, decent standard of living within the community'. The Living Wage differs from the minimum wage in that the latter is set by law and may fail to provide people with enough income to have a reasonable quality of life. It has been claimed that five million people are paid less than the Living Wage, which is estimated at £8.80 an hour in London and £7.65 elsewhere. 1

Proponents argue that paying the Living Wage means workers can live with dignity and not just exist. By paying the Living Wage, employers can lift their employees out of poverty, debt, and illness, which will improve family life. Employers benefit because it is easier to recruit and retain staff, productivity increases, and there is a reduction in sickness and absenteeism. 5

Government spending on welfare is also reduced. Everyone is a winner. 10

Source: News Reports accessed May 2104

12.**The National Minimum Wage after 15 years****Extract B: The National Minimum Wage to rise to £6.50 in October 2014**

Will a rise in the National Minimum Wage (NMW) damage the competitiveness of the UK economy? Representatives of businesses in the UK have claimed that the recently announced 3% increase in the National Minimum Wage is 'unwelcome in today's economic climate'. Critics of the increase maintain that 'it is essential that businesses remain competitive and that the above inflation increase in the NMW will add significantly to business costs'. Yet competitiveness is not just about wages, it also, for example, depends on productivity, the exchange rate and innovation. 1

5

Source: News Reports accessed May 2104

13.**The National Minimum Wage after 15 years****Extract A: The role of the National Minimum Wage**

The purpose of the NMW is to provide a wage floor, in order to protect low-paid workers against exploitation, without causing job losses. Many economists have been wary of statutory minimum wages: unless they raise the price of labour at the bottom of the wage distribution above what it would otherwise be they are pointless; but if they raise it then the fear is that they will curb demand for labour, and curb it to the particular detriment of the least skilled. 1

5

However, others have pointed out that labour markets are not perfectly competitive. There are costs and risks for workers who want to change jobs, and some employers enjoy a degree of monopsony power in local labour markets. As a result workers may be paid at levels below the market-clearing rate. The implication is that a statutory wage floor may raise the pay of the lowest earners without adverse employment effects. The challenge is to set the level as high as possible short of causing people to lose jobs. 10

Source: The Future Path of the National Minimum Wage - Low Pay Commission 2014

14. Taking into account the news report, **Brazil: The Hot 'BRIC' Extract D** and the original evidence, do you recommend that the company should invest in Brazil? Justify your recommendation.

[25 marks]

15. Many people were surprised when UK unemployment fell during 2013. The government's policy of deficit reduction was expected to prevent significant falls in unemployment and some called for the government to reverse its policy of planned cuts in expenditure.

Evaluate the view that a policy of budget deficit reduction will make it harder to reduce unemployment further.

[25 marks]

16. Many people were surprised when UK unemployment fell during 2013. The government's policy of deficit reduction was expected to prevent significant falls in unemployment and some called for the government to reverse its policy of planned cuts in expenditure.

Explain why low unemployment is a key objective of economic policy for the UK and most other governments.

[15 marks]

17. In May 2014, the European Central Bank (ECB) President, Mario Draghi, warned that there was a risk of deflation across economies in Europe.

Evaluate the view that the UK government should give higher priority to preventing deflation rather than controlling inflation.

[25 marks]

18. The data below shows economic growth rates, unemployment rates and inflation rates for an economy.

Year	Real output growth rate (%)	Unemployment rate (%)	Inflation rate (%)
2010	2	4	6
2011	3	3	5
2012	4	3	4
2013	5	2	3

All other things being equal, which one of the following is the most likely explanation for the relationship between the rates of growth of real output, rates of unemployment and inflation between 2010 and 2013?

- A A decrease in the money supply. ☐
- B An increase in innovation and productivity. ☐
- C A decrease in the savings ratio. ☐
- D An increase in the current account deficit. ☐

[1 mark]

19.

The Balance of Payments Extract F (lines 21–22) states: ‘The UK’s large current account deficit cannot be ignored easily, and research shows that such deficits are reduced eventually through some combination of slower growth and currency depreciation’.

Using the data in the extracts and your knowledge of economics, evaluate the significance of a large and persistent deficit on the current account of the balance of payments for the UK economy.

[25 marks]

20.

The Balance of Payments

Extract F: Warning on UK's current account deficit

The UK is one of only eight countries to see its current account deficit increase since 2008, and its deficit has increased the most. Should overseas investors be worried? The UK has lived with large current account deficits for decades. From the 1940s to the early 1970s, when the country was operating a fixed exchange rate system, the UK was forced to use contractionary policies to keep the balance of payments in check and had to devalue the pound sterling in 1949 and 1967. From the 1980s onward, with the exchange rate floating, persistent current account deficits stopped being a cause for concern. 1
5

In the boom years before the global financial crisis, the current account deficit remained large, exceeding 3% of GDP in 2006. With hindsight, this should have rung alarm bells that the economy had become seriously unbalanced, with foreign money flowing into the UK to fund unsustainable public and private sector consumption rather than investment. After the crash, it was widely assumed that the UK economy would recover through higher exports and higher business investment. Indeed, the government's 2010 budget forecasted a current account surplus of 0.9% in 2013, driven by a surge in exports. This forecast proved highly inaccurate as the current account deficit increased. 10
15

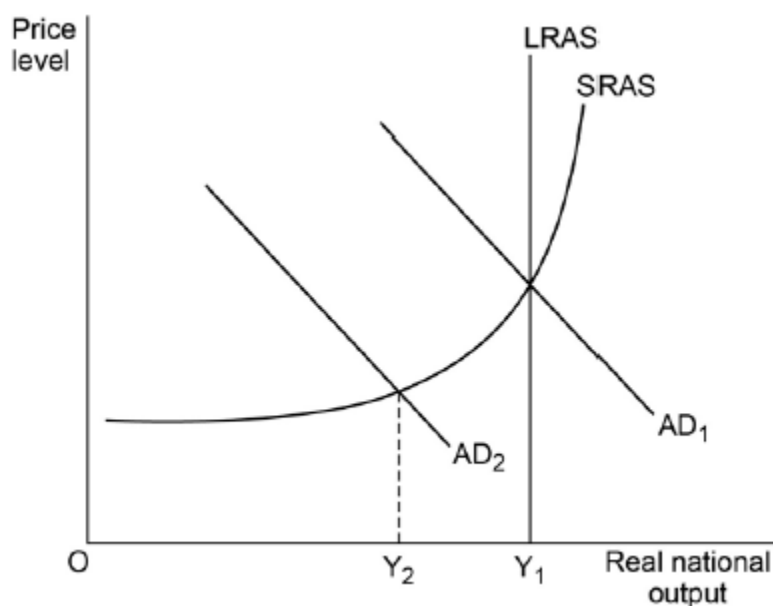
Although surveys show that business confidence is high, investment fell in the year to the end of September 2013, and the UK's export performance has been poor, despite the depreciation of sterling by approximately 25% in the immediate aftermath of the financial crisis. In contrast, other European economies have seen strong export growth. 20

The UK's large current account deficit cannot be ignored easily, and research shows that such deficits are reduced eventually through some combination of slower growth and currency depreciation.

Source: news reports, February 2014

21.

The diagram below shows aggregate demand (AD), short-run aggregate supply (SRAS) and long-run aggregate supply (LRAS) curves for the UK economy. Initial aggregate demand is AD_1 . The shift of the aggregate demand curve to AD_2 is the result of a decrease in bank lending following the 2008–2009 financial crisis.



The shift in the AD curve indicates that the effect of the financial crisis on the UK economy was to create a

- A negative output gap and structural unemployment. ☐
- B positive output gap and cyclical unemployment. ☐
- C positive output gap and structural unemployment. ☐
- D negative output gap and cyclical unemployment. ☐

[1 mark]

22.

In recent years, growth rates in the UK have been low and unemployment has risen. For example, in 2012 output was still below its peak of 2008 and unemployment had risen from 6.4% from 7.8%.

Evaluate the view that a reduction in UK unemployment is best achieved through the use of supply-side policies.

[25 marks]

23.

In 2013, two key aims of the UK Government were: to move the budget deficit towards a surplus over the course of the Parliament and to ensure that the main burden of deficit reduction would be through reduced government spending, rather than increased taxation.

Evaluate the view that the UK Government's policy of deficit reduction through lower government spending is unnecessary and undesirable.

[25 marks]

24.

In 2013, two key aims of the UK Government were: to move the budget deficit towards a surplus over the course of the Parliament and to ensure that the main burden of deficit reduction would be through reduced government spending, rather than increased taxation.

Explain the possible demand-side consequences of an increase in taxation in the UK.

[15 marks]

25.

After a period of inflation below the target rate, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate was recorded as -0.1% in early 2015. The Governor of the Bank of England wrote: 'A temporary period of falling prices, driven by large adjustments in a few specific components of the CPI, is a fundamentally distinct phenomenon from 'deflation'...The UK is not experiencing 'deflation'.'

Evaluate the possible consequences for the performance of the UK economy of the actual rate of inflation being below the Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC's) target rate.

[25 marks]

26.

Government policy Extract F (lines 14–17) states 'Investment forecasts are being revised downward and on top of speculation of interest rate rises and criticism of the UK's quantitative easing programme, the outlook is not looking as good as forecasts first indicated.'

Using the data in the extracts and your economic knowledge, evaluate the effectiveness of monetary policy in achieving macroeconomic stability in the UK.

[25 marks]

27.

In recent years, growth rates in the UK have been low and unemployment has risen. For example, in 2012 output was still below its peak of 2008 and unemployment had risen from 6.4% from 7.8% .

Explain why economic growth is a key objective of UK Government economic policy.

[15 marks]

28.

'George Osborne talks about boosting exports and rebalancing the economy, but the Chancellor is not nearly as worried about the trade deficit as he is about the budget deficit.'

Explain the factors which are likely to cause a large budget deficit.

[15 marks]

29.**Government policy****Extract F: Austerity remains**

The Chancellor, George Osborne, has ruled out the possibility that the UK's improving economy will lead to immediate tax cuts or spending increases when he said reducing the budget deficit would be the priority of his Autumn Statement. The Chancellor said that the UK was still borrowing too much and that any increase in tax revenues generated from faster growth would be used to reduce the budget deficit and the national debt.	1
The move comes as no surprise, with the Chancellor stating, "I would just remind everyone that I still sit down at the table at the G20 with one of the highest budget deficits. The UK still continues to have some very serious public finance challenges that need to be addressed."	5
This week, the IMF revised up its forecasts for UK growth in both 2013 and 2014, six months after its chief economist, Olivier Blanchard, warned Osborne that he might cause more damage with his austerity plan. However, Osborne responded, "We have a clear plan and we are sticking to that plan."	10
The Chancellor's announcement may not be good for UK firms. It is common for business investment to lead the way when emerging from recession, but not this time. Investment forecasts are being revised downward and, on top of speculation of interest rate rises and criticism of the UK's quantitative easing programme, the outlook is not as good as forecasts first indicated.	15
In explaining its forecast downgrades for net investment over the last three years, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) cites two main factors. Firstly, problems in credit markets have made it difficult for firms to borrow to invest. This may have particularly affected small and medium-sized firms that tend to be more reliant on bank financing. This will only be made worse if interest rates rise. Secondly, the uncertainty generated by the eurozone crisis and other events has stifled investment.	20

Source: News reports, 2013

30.

'George Osborne talks about boosting exports and rebalancing the economy, but the Chancellor is not nearly as worried about the trade deficit as he is about the budget deficit.'

To what extent do you agree that a persistent trade deficit is more damaging to the UK's macroeconomic performance than a persistent budget deficit? Justify your answer.

[25 marks]

Mark schemes

1.

In this part of the question, candidates will need to demonstrate that they are able to evaluate issues and arguments to support a conclusion if they are to be awarded **more than 15 marks**.

Where there is no **explicit** reference to the data, award a maximum of **21 marks**.

Level 5	Good analysis <u>and</u> good evaluation	22 to 25 marks <i>Mid-Point 24 marks</i>
Level 4	Good analysis <u>but</u> limited evaluation OR Reasonable analysis <u>and</u> reasonable evaluation	17 to 21 <i>Mid-Point 19 marks</i>
Level 3	Reasonable including some correct analysis <u>but</u> very limited evaluation	10 to 16 <i>Mid-Point 13 marks</i>
Level 2	Weak with some understanding	4 to 9 <i>Mid-Point 7 marks</i>
Level 1	Very weak	0 to 3 <i>Mid-Point 2 marks</i>

Introduction	• Unemployment • Demand-side / Supply-side • Types of unemployment
Developing the response to the question: (Application)	Drawing on the information in the extracts: • Labour market reforms (Extract E and Extract F) • EU possibly recovering (Extract E and Extract F) • Supply-side reforms (Extract E) • Effects on firms / workers (Extract E) • Comparisons with other EU countries (Extract E) • The current state of the UK labour market and wage growth (Extract F) • Subsidies / training / introduction of living wage (Extract F) • Benefits cap and limiting JSA (Extract F)
(Analysis)	Arguments as to why demand-side factors may cause further falls: • Rising real incomes in the UK • Increased confidence • Possible increases in domestic investment • Possible increases in FDI • Multiplier effects • Improved export opportunities (if the EU grows) Arguments as to why supply-side factors may cause further falls: • Consideration of the “voluntary” nature of some types of unemployment • Changes to incentives • Changes to benefits forcing people into low paid jobs • Consideration that living wage may actually entice more people into jobs market • So called “carrot and stick” approaches • Changes to structural unemployment • Improvements to mobility (occupational and geographical) • The UK’s experiences under the “Work Programme” and government policy • Focus on particular groups, such as the 16-24 age group or the long term unemployed.
Evaluation	• The UK could be approaching NRU / NAIRU / full capacity, the supply-side may be vital in order to gain further improvements • Both approaches are not mutually exclusive, improvements could be made on both at the same time • Some factors may be beyond the control of the UK, e.g. external demand in the EU, is trade a significant issue? • Consideration of regional aspects – unemployment rates mask a regional issue which is very difficult to solve with policies which aren’t targeted • Consideration that more jobs may be created but the incomes or conditions provided by those jobs maybe are not as good as others <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>

Also give credit for

- Reference to the UK / other economies
- Diagrams
- An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss issues not mentioned above.

[25]

2.

A

[1]

3.

Explanation:

For a relevant explanation of circular flow: eg A model which demonstrates the flow of money between households and firms and going on to explain the role of injections/leakages or linking the circular flow to measures of national income/output /expenditure.

For a diagram of the circular flow

Analysis:

For Example: Increased growth in the US could lead to rising disposable income of US citizens who may increase their spending this may be on UK's goods or services which would lead to increased export earnings for the UK which would increase the output of UK firms and therefore AD of which exports are a component which therefore increases the national income of the UK.

Use of appropriate diagrams, eg a diagram showing increased AD on an AD/AS diagram or increased FDI from overseas increasing both AD and AS

Reference to the UK or other economies.

[9]

Level of response	Response	Max 15 marks
3	A good response provides an answer that: • is well organised and develops a selection of the key issues that are relevant to the question • shows sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes good application of relevant economic principles and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response • includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning.	11-15 marks
2	A reasonable response provides an answer that: • focuses on issues that are relevant to the question • shows satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present • includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response • includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places.	6-10 marks
1	A weak response provides an answer that: • has one or more relevant issues identified • has some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely • has very limited application of relevant economic principles and/or data to the question • might have some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused.	1-5 marks

Relevant issues include:

- likely to increase the pay of the lowest paid employees
- the effect on the distribution of income
- the effect on employment and unemployment
- the effects on different types of workers
- the effects in a competitive labour market
- the effects in a non-competitive labour market
- the effect on firms' costs, profits and competitiveness
- the effect on productivity
- the effect on growth
- the effect on motivation, absenteeism and labour turnover
- the effect on inflation
- the effect on competitiveness and the balance of payments
- diagrammatic representation of the likely effects

[15]

Introduction	• The meaning of inequality • Differences between income and wealth • UK economic performance measures.
Developing the response to the question: Application	Drawing on the information in the extracts: • the rich having a lower MPC and a higher MPS and if incomes of the poor increased consumption would increase (Extract B) • US economic growth and US being the UK's main export partner (Extract B) • Increased income inequality due to reduced union power (Extract C) • trickle-down effects improving living standards (Extract C) • promoting incentives and wealth generation and focusing on financial services (Extract C) • economic progress often depends on saving and innovation (Extract C) • UK financial services making short term with profits and lacking long term investment (Extract C)
Developing the response to the question: Analysis	Arguments how inequality impacts on UK performance: • impacts on consumption and AD • US as the UK's main export market + other export markets • how supply side reforms have affected UK macro-performance • UK's comparative advantage in financial services • increased savings linking to investment • policies impacting on consumption and investment and different income groups • entrepreneurship, "wealth generation" and the free market. • equity vs efficiency arguments • impact on FDI • asset bubbles • UK banking system and the pursuit of long term investment Analysis of each of the UK's four main macro-economic goals or other social goals or current government targets could be included.
Evaluation	• Does inequality in other countries really impact on the UK economy? • The relative amount of inequality • Does the marginal propensity to consume have such a big impact or are there more important considerations (does increased saving by the "top 1%" have such an impact?)

	• The importance of exports and FDI in the economy. • Other considerations such as domestic policy or financial crisis creating bigger impacts. • The relative importance of each macroeconomic performance indicator • Whether Government intervention is necessary for the improvement of the economy and if so in what way?
Also give credit for	• Reference to the UK/other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

Level of response	Response	Max 10 marks
3	A good response - is well organised and includes at least three relevant, well-developed issues - makes effective use of the numerical/statistical data in Extract C - shows some appreciation of the limitations of the data - includes a supported final judgement concerning the extent to which the NMW affects the international competitiveness of the UK economy	8-10 marks
2	A reasonable response - is fairly well organised and includes at least two relevant and fairly well-developed issues - includes some satisfactory use of the numerical/statistical data in Extract C - may show some limited appreciation of the limitations of the data - at the top of the level, is likely to include a final judgement concerning the extent to which the NMW affects the international competitiveness of the UK economy but the judgement is not very well supported.	4-7 marks
1	A weak response - is very brief and/or lacks coherence - contains very limited or poor use of the data in Extract C - doesn't show any appreciation of the limitations of the data - may include an unsupported judgement concerning the level of the NMW and international competitiveness	1-3 marks

Relevant issues include:

- what is meant by 'competitiveness'
- the relationship between wages, productivity and costs
- the relationship between costs and prices
- the minimum wage in the UK compared to other countries; using the data in the table showing minimum wages at PPP exchange rates and perhaps the data for China
- the extent to which the minimum wage reflects the overall level of wages and hence competitiveness; using the data showing minimum wages relative to full-time median earnings in different countries
- differences in productivity and the relevance of unit labour costs and competitiveness; using the data showing 'GDP per hour worked in a selection of countries'
- the limitations of the data, e.g. only covers a limited range of countries, the productivity data only covers the G7 countries, there isn't any data for a variety of factors that affect competitiveness
- the relevance of other factors that affect competitiveness such as the exchange rate and nonprice factors

[10]

Level of response	Response	Max 25 marks
5	Sound, focused analysis and well-supported evaluation that: • is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes good application of relevant economic principles and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response • includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning • includes supported evaluation throughout the response and in a final conclusion.	21-25 marks
4	Sound, focused analysis and some supported evaluation that: • is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes good application of relevant economic principles and, where appropriate, some good use of data to support the response • includes some well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning • includes some reasonable, supported evaluation.	16-20 marks
3	Some reasonable analysis but generally unsupported evaluation that: • focuses on issues that are relevant to the question, showing satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present • includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response • includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places • includes fairly superficial evaluation; there is likely to be some attempt to make relevant judgements but these aren't well-supported by arguments and/or data.	11-15 marks

2	A fairly weak response with some understanding that: - includes some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely - includes some limited application of relevant economic principles and/or data to the question - includes some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused - includes some evaluation which is weak and unsupported.	6-10 marks
1	A very weak response that: - includes little relevant knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles - includes analysis which is, at best, very weak - includes attempted evaluation which is weak and unsupported.	1-5 marks

Relevant issues and areas for discussion include:

- the stability of the Brazilian economy
- political and social stability
- the rule of law and corruption
- whether the investment is likely to be profitable and whether it is secure
- the nature of any capital controls
- the infrastructure in Brazil
- the skills and abilities of the workforce
- financial and other support from the government
- regulations on business
- the tax regime; both corporate and individual taxes
- availability of finance
- the prospects for future growth of the Brazilian economy
- the size of the Brazilian car market and the potential for future growth
- access and proximity to businesses that can support the car industry, eg component suppliers
- potential for exporting cars from Brazil, eg access to other markets in the Americas
- the prospects for the value of the Brazilian currency, the real, and its stability

[25]

15.**Areas for discussion include:**

- definitions of unemployment and deficit reduction
- different types of unemployment
- policies that can be used to reduce unemployment
- methods by which deficit can be reduced, eg tax increases and/or spending cuts by the government
- reasons for current deficit-reduction policy
- effects of deficit reduction on aggregate demand, output and employment
- multiplier effects
- how different methods of reducing the deficit will affect unemployment, e.g. tax increases, cuts in welfare, cuts in direct government spending on goods and services
- recent changes in unemployment in the UK
- supply-side policies can help to reduce unemployment
- how a reduction in the deficit can affect different types of unemployment
- how other components of AD may rise as the government's contribution to AD falls
- factors that may boost AD to replace the effect of lost government expenditure, eg crowding-in effects
- size and pace of any planned deficit reduction
- cuts in government expenditure may or may not fall on areas that affect employment significantly
- time lag between the deficit-reduction policy and the effect on employment
- the impact of events in the rest of the world
- the impact of changes in the sterling exchange rate
- monetary policy may help to offset policy of deficit reduction, eg low UK interest rates and unconventional monetary policy measures have supported the expansion of AD since 2008/9

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

[25]**16.****Relevant issues include:**

- definition of unemployment
- voluntary and involuntary unemployment
- why some unemployment is inevitable
- UK unemployment levels in recent years
- unemployment leads to a loss of output and is a waste of scarce resources
- unemployment and living standards
- benefits of reduced unemployment on the tax and welfare expenditure of government
- unemployment and inequality
- benefits of reduced unemployment on social cohesion
- personal costs of a period of prolonged unemployment
- problem of long-term unemployment, eg hysteresis
- conflict of reducing unemployment with other macroeconomic objectives, eg growth and inflation

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

[15]

17.

Areas for discussion include:

- UK experience of recent years
- definitions of inflation and deflation
- why price stability is a key objective
- impact of inflation on UK competitiveness
- impact on growth/employment/trade
- the distributional impact of inflation and deflation
- mild v high inflation
- impact of anti-inflationary policies on the economy
- why deflation may lead to even lower spending by consumers/firms
- impact of deflation on the real value of both public and private sector debt
- impact on confidence of households and firms
- effect on business profits
- benefits of deflation
- impact on other macroeconomic objectives
- malign v benign deflation
- policy options to deal with deflation
- extent and magnitude of each problem
- reference to other economies, e.g. Japan, EU , including differences between the situation in the UK and other economies

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

[25]

18.

B

[1]

19.

Areas for discussion include:

- nature and size of the UK current account deficit in recent years
- why large current account deficits are seen as undesirable, e.g. indicate a lack of competitiveness
- potential benefits of running a current account deficit, e.g. improves living standards in the short run, inflows of FDI to finance the deficit may stimulate growth
- current account deficit has to be financed in some way – either by attracting foreign direct or portfolio investment, by borrowing or by running down reserves.
- policies to correct the deficit are not necessarily desirable, either depreciation of the currency or deflationary policies
- large current account deficit may be seen as unsustainable and foreign lenders may eventually withdraw their investment, leading to a sterling crisis
- if deflationary measures are needed to reduce deficit and this would usually be undesirable due to the effects on output and employment
- so far, long periods of current account deficit do not seem to have been a barrier to achieving other policy objectives
- the changing size of the deficit could be compared to growth, e.g. if the growth of nominal GDP is higher than growth in the deficit then it is less likely to be a serious problem
- UK is relatively successful in attracting overseas investment due to other factors (e.g. low tax rates, viewed as a stable economy) which means that the deficit can be financed.
- a floating exchange rate mean that the government can allow exchange rate to depreciate allowing partial correction of current account deficit – this option is not available to those with a fixed or pegged currency

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

[25]

21.

D

[1]

22.

Areas for discussion include:

- UK unemployment and how it is measured
- different causes of UK unemployment
- nature of supply-side policies, interventionist v free-market policies
- supply-side policies and the natural rate of unemployment
- the impact of different supply-side policies on unemployment, eg reducing the replacement ratio, measures to improve labour mobility, reductions in corporation tax
- supply-side policies and real wage unemployment
- supply-side policies and long-term unemployment, eg when there is significant structural change, the problem of hysteresis
- relating supply-side policies to unemployment in the UK
- problems and limitations of supply-side policies as a means of reducing unemployment, eg impact on the budget deficit, time lags, effectiveness, government failure
- the benefits of using supply-side policies to reduce unemployment
- demand-side policies as a way of reducing unemployment, ie expansionary monetary and fiscal policy
- exchange-rate policy as a means of reducing unemployment
- benefits and limitations of demand-side policies
- potential conflicts with other policy objectives and ways of reconciling these conflicts
- circumstances when demand-side and/or supply-side policies are most appropriate
- issues relating to equity, inequality and poverty.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the candidate's response to the question.

[25]

23.**Areas for discussion include:**

- nature and causes of the budget deficit in the UK
- recent changes in the UK budget deficit
- cyclical and structural deficits
- the budget deficit and the national debt
- possible approaches to reducing the budget deficit, such as: cutting government spending, raising taxes and generating economic growth
- problems associated with large deficits, eg crowding-out effects, impact on interest rates and the UK's credit rating, 'inability' to borrow if no action is taken, the burden on future generations
- impact on aggregate demand and associated multiplier effects
- impact on the various macroeconomic policy objectives in both the short run and the long run
- the impact of cutting different types of government spending, eg spending on welfare benefits, education and health, capital spending
- Keynesian v neo-classical perspectives
- government spending and long-run growth
- whether growth and/or inflation will eliminate the deficit in the long run without significant cuts in government spending
- if cutting the deficit is deemed necessary, whether it should be achieved through cuts in spending or increases in taxation
- the distributional impact of cutting government spending, eg rich versus poor, regional effects
- equity considerations, including inter-generational equity
- reference to other economies, eg Greece, Japan, USA, including differences between the situation in the UK and other economies.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the candidate's response to the question.

[25]**24.****Relevant issues include:**

- different types of taxes, eg direct v indirect, progressive, proportional and regressive
- taxation as a withdrawal from the circular flow of income
- how an increase in taxation affects aggregate demand
- the relationship between aggregate demand and each of the main objectives of UK macroeconomic policy, ie unemployment, growth, inflation and the balance of payments
- the different demand-side impacts of different tax changes, eg an increase in the rate of VAT versus a rise in the top rate of income tax
- multiplier effects
- the impact of tax changes on the pattern of demand and hence resource allocation, eg raising taxes on demerit goods
- the significance of elasticities of demand.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the candidate's response to the question.

[15]

25.

In this part of the question, candidates will need to demonstrate that they are able to evaluate issues and arguments to support a conclusion if they are to be awarded **more than 15 marks**.

Level 5	Good analysis <u>and</u> good evaluation	22 to 25 marks <i>Mid-Point 24 marks</i>
Level 4	Good analysis <u>but</u> limited evaluation OR Reasonable analysis <u>and</u> reasonable evaluation	17 to 21 <i>Mid-Point 19 marks</i>
Level 3	Reasonable including some correct analysis <u>but</u> very limited evaluation	10 to 16 <i>Mid-Point 13 marks</i>
Level 2	Weak with some understanding	4 to 9 <i>Mid-Point 7 marks</i>
Level 1	Very weak	0 to 3 <i>Mid-Point 2 marks</i>

Introduction	• Inflation / deflation • MPC / target rate • Monetary Policy • Macroeconomic performance
Developing the response to the question: (application and analysis)	Arguments why a low inflation rate may be damaging: • Indication that an economy may be stagnating and subsequent lack of confidence • Effects on jobs/growth if it is stagnating • Difficulties of policy response to low levels of inflation • Possible damage to investment if firms don't see rising prices • Possible effects on inflationary expectations of low rates of current inflation • Wages may not rise causing problems in the labour market • Inflation may be below target of 2% but still within the boundary of acceptable figures 1-3% • The possibility that very low inflation could lead to deflation and the consequences. Arguments why a low inflation rate may be beneficial: • In relative terms it may boost competitiveness if the inflation rate is lower than in other countries and should benefit the current account of the balance of payments • The ability to maintain low interest rates and as a result, the effects on consumer expenditure, employment and economic growth. • The ability to maintain low interest rates and as a result, the effects on investment, employment and economic growth. • The possibility that costs can remain low, and firms do not have to pay higher wages • Cost of living arguments • Possibly allows the government's finances to improve due to not having to raise welfare payments some of which are index linked.
Evaluation	• The cause of the low rates is vital in ascertaining the potential effects • Low inflation could be beneficial in the short run as cost of living remains low, however this must be weighed up against the growth of wages • A vital aspect is how low is "low"? Low rates that are just under target may be more acceptable than low rates close to zero • The extent to which inflation "greases the wheels" of the economy • The duration of the low levels of inflation. It may be that low levels are good if sustained but a volatile low inflation rate may be damaging • The current state of the economy and the government/MPC's ability to be able to respond with credible policy • The possibility that other countries may be suffering deflation and its potential effects • Does the target rate really matter? <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>

Also give credit for

- Reference to the UK / other economies
- Diagrams
- An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

26.

Areas for discussion include:

- nature of monetary policy
- the Bank of England/MPC and the operation of monetary policy in the UK
- what is meant by macroeconomic stability and the indicators of macroeconomic performance
- how monetary policy affects macroeconomic performance, eg by influencing aggregate demand, influencing expectations, impacts on financial markets
- monetary policy transmission mechanisms
- role of interest rates in affecting aggregate demand
- limitations of changes in bank rate, eg likely to be less effective when confidence is low, may not be reflected in market interest rates, the lower pound problem
- quantitative easing, Funding for Lending, Forward Guidance and other less conventional monetary measures
- monetary policy as a means of fine-tuning the economy and responding to economic shocks
- monetary policy and long-run growth
- monetary policy, debt and asset prices
- monetary policy and the exchange rate
- monetary policy in a world of floating exchange rates and 'unrestricted' capital flows
- the contribution, or otherwise, of monetary policy to the period of stability (eg 1993-2006)
- the contribution of monetary policy to the credit crunch
- the impact of monetary policy since the credit crunch.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the candidate's response to the question.

[25]

27.**Relevant issues include:**

- the nature of economic growth
- short-run versus long-run growth
- UK economic growth and living standards
- UK economic growth, tax revenues, public spending and the budget balance
- UK economic growth, inequality and poverty
- UK economic growth and employment
- UK economic growth and inflation
- UK economic growth and the balance of payments, including export-led growth
- the relationship between the government's wider political and social objectives, eg political and military power, the environment.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the candidate's response to the question.

[15]**28.****Explanation****For defining/explaining**

- Budget deficit
- Government spending / Taxation
- Fiscal policy

**Up to 2 marks per
definition or explanation to
a maximum of 4 marks**

Award 1 mark for each step in a logical chain of reasoning

For example: As an economy goes into recession (1 mark) there may be decreased investment (1 mark) as firms have spare capacity (1 mark) which will lead to reduced purchases of capital goods (1 mark) which reduces firms outputs (1 mark) and also creates a rise in unemployment (1 mark) as labour is in derived demand (1 mark) which increases government spending on JSA (1 mark) and also provides reduced revenue in the form of decreased income tax (1 mark) which may cause a fall in consumption (1 mark) which means fewer goods and services would be sold (1 mark) which reduces indirect tax revenue in the form of VAT (1 mark) and possibly firms profits reducing corporation tax (1 mark). Other examples include: Increased reliance on public services / social provision, discretionary government spending, increased cost of government borrowing due to loss of credit rating, nationalisation / re-nationalisation, economic shocks, fiscal mismanagement.	Up to 15 marks
Use of diagrams to help support explanations, AD/AS, trade cycle	Up to 2 marks per diagram (1 mark for labelling, 1 mark for correct information shown) to a maximum of 4 marks.
Reference to the UK and/or other economies.	1 mark per reference to a maximum of 2 marks

[15]

30.

In this part of the question, candidates will need to demonstrate that they are able to evaluate issues and arguments to support a conclusion if they are to be awarded **more than 15 marks**.

Level 5	Good analysis <u>and</u> good evaluation	22 to 25 marks <i>Mid-Point 24 marks</i>
Level 4	Good analysis <u>but</u> limited evaluation OR Reasonable analysis <u>and</u> reasonable evaluation	17 to 21 <i>Mid-Point 19 marks</i>
Level 3	Reasonable including some correct analysis <u>but</u> very limited evaluation	10 to 16 <i>Mid-Point 13 marks</i>
Level 2	Weak with some understanding	4 to 9 <i>Mid-Point 7 marks</i>
Level 1	Very weak	0 to 3 <i>Mid-Point 2 marks</i>

Introduction	• Budget deficit • Trade deficit • The Balance of Payments
Developing the response to the question: (application and analysis)	Arguments why a trade deficit is more damaging than a budget deficit: • Could indicate lack of productivity • Could cause depreciation of currency • Could cause problems for a country's reserves • A surplus on the financing section of the balance of payments increasing international indebtedness • Deflationary pressure • Could indicate structural weaknesses • Effects on jobs such as structural unemployment Arguments why a budget deficit is more damaging than a trade deficit: • Crowding out • Loss of credit status leading to increased costs of government borrowing • Future generations footing the bill (vertically inequitable) • Possibility of tax rises / cuts in spending • Adds to national debt • Could be inflationary
Evaluation	• Both issues are not mutually exclusive, an improved supply-side performance could help both. • The UK's ability to attract FDI will help finance the capital account and may off-set any problems on the trade deficit, however this may also benefit the UK's budget deficit in terms of job creation and generating tax revenue. • Deficits on both may be necessary and advantageous, they may both benefit living standards in terms of more goods being consumed or boosting AD. • Consideration that trade-offs may take place with the other macroeconomic goals, for example reducing the budget deficit may reduce the trade deficit but at the same time harm unemployment or create deflation. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for	• Reference to the UK / other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

1. Between 2014 and 2018, the pound fell by more than 20% against the dollar and euro. Some argued that this would benefit the UK's macroeconomic performance, but others claimed that a lower exchange rate will cause problems.

Assess the view that a depreciation of the pound against other currencies is likely to improve the UK's macroeconomic performance.

[25 marks]

2. Explain the term 'upturn in the economic cycle' (**Extract E**, line 1) **and**, with the help of a diagram, analyse why this may have caused Spain's unemployment rate to fall.

[9 marks]

3. It is now nearly a decade since the financial crisis caused a recession in the UK. In March 2009, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) set the UK Bank Rate at 0.5%, which was a record low, in order to stimulate economic growth.

Discuss the importance of low interest rates in bringing about sustained economic growth in an economy such as the UK.

[25 marks]

4. Explain the term 'foreign direct investment' (**Extract E**, line 7) **and**, with the help of a diagram, analyse how foreign direct investment **and** improvements to infrastructure may boost productivity.

[9 marks]

5. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast that government spending would account for 36% of GDP by 2020 compared to 45% of GDP in 2010.

To what extent do you regard a contraction of the public sector to be beneficial for the UK economy? Justify your answer.

[25 marks]

6. It is now nearly a decade since the financial crisis caused a recession in the UK. In March 2009, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) set the UK Bank Rate at 0.5%, which was a record low, in order to stimulate economic growth.

Explain the main features of a recession.

[15 marks]

7. In January 2009, £1 could buy approximately 1.04 euros on the foreign exchange market. By July 2015, £1 could buy approximately 1.44 euros.

Evaluate the impact on the UK's macroeconomic performance of a sustained rise in the value of the pound sterling against the euro.

[25 marks]

8. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast that government spending would account for 36% of GDP by 2020 compared to 45% of GDP in 2010.

Explain the economic reasons for government spending.

[15 marks]

9.

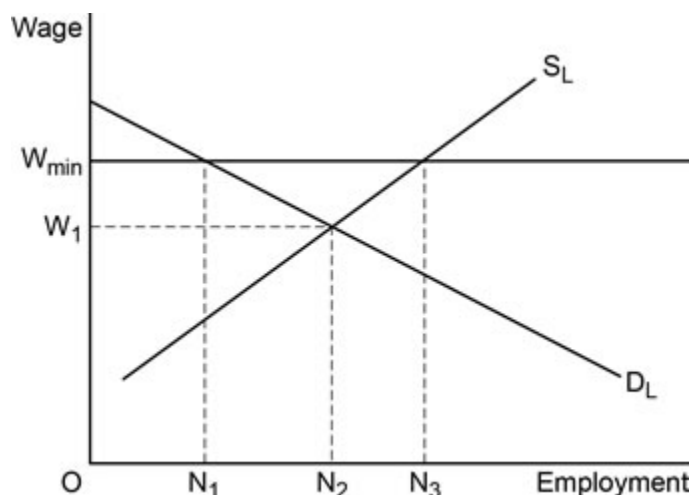
Extract F (line 21) asks: 'Why are productivity rates in other economies important for the UK?'

Using the data and your knowledge of economics, evaluate the significance of productivity improvements in the UK **and** in other EU economies for the performance of the UK economy.

[25 marks]

10.

The diagram below represents the market for unskilled agricultural labourers where the demand for agricultural labourers is D_L and the supply is S_L . The trade union representing agricultural labourers has negotiated a minimum wage of $OW_{\min}$ for its members.



The effect of implementing a minimum wage of $OW_{\min}$ is that

A cyclical unemployment increases by $(ON_3 - ON_1)$.

☐

B frictional unemployment increases by $(ON_2 - ON_1)$.

☐

C real wage unemployment increases by $(ON_3 - ON_1)$.

☐

D the natural rate of unemployment increases by $(ON_2 - ON_1)$.

☐

[1 mark]

11.

Extract C (lines 21 – 22) states: 'Any kind of deal between the EU and ASEAN economies is still a long way off, and the UK must wait to see how new trade deals affect its macroeconomic performance.'

Using the data and your knowledge of economics, evaluate the extent to which international agreements to increase free trade are likely to be beneficial to the UK's macroeconomic performance.

[25 marks]

12.**INVESTIGATION****Scenario**

You are an economist, employed by a firm of economic consultants working for the government. You have been asked to produce a report on the importance of manufacturing for the UK economy. As part of this investigation, you are to provide answers to three questions.

To what extent, if at all, do you consider that the UK manufacturing sector has been in decline since 2003? You must use the data in **Extract B** to support your assessment.

[10 marks]**13.**

The primary measure of unemployment in the UK is based on the

- A** number of people joining the labour force minus the number of people leaving the labour force.
- B** number of people not working who are of working age.
- C** the number of people actively seeking work and available to start work.
- D** proportion of the population of working age without a job.

☐☐☐☐**[1 mark]****14.**

Extract C (lines 2–3) states ‘More recently, India has begun to use more market-based strategies to help its development, including liberalising trade and privatisation.’

Using the data in the extracts and your knowledge of economics, evaluate the view that greater use of market-based strategies is the best way to improve the economic development of India.

[25 marks]**15.**

Between 2011 and 2016, UK unemployment fell from a high of 8.5% to 4.8%. Some argue that government attempts to reduce unemployment inevitably lead to trade-offs with other macroeconomic policy objectives.

Discuss the view that falling unemployment will inevitably lead to trade-offs with other macroeconomic policy objectives.

[25 marks]**16.**

In the 2016 Autumn statement, the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, officially abandoned the government’s policy of trying to achieve a budget surplus by 2020. While some criticise the government for failing to achieve its fiscal target, others argue that the government should be doing more to help the supply side of the economy.

Evaluate whether achieving a budget surplus is a desirable objective of economic policy.

[25 marks]

- 17.** Between 2011 and 2016, UK unemployment fell from a high of 8.5% to 4.8%. Some argue that government attempts to reduce unemployment inevitably lead to trade-offs with other macroeconomic policy objectives.

Explain how government policies can reduce the natural rate of unemployment.

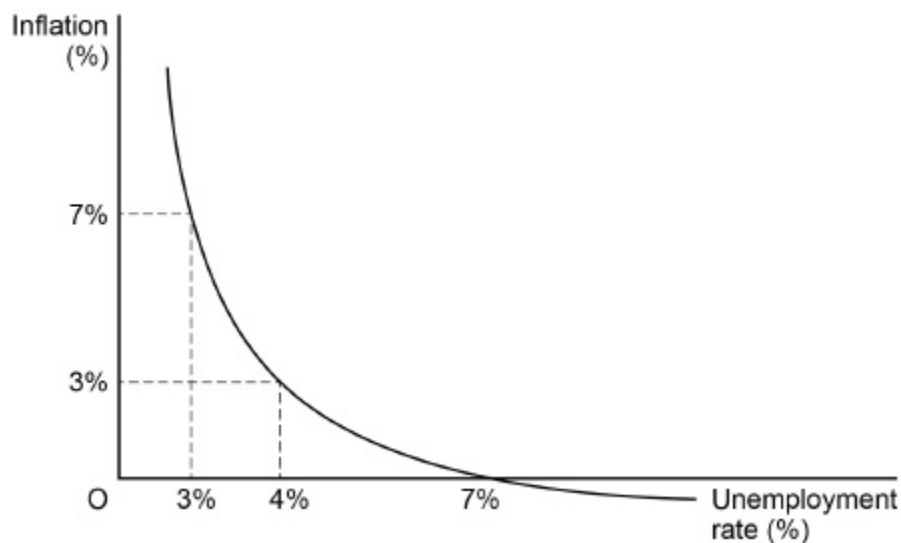
[15 marks]

- 18.** **Extract F** (lines 19–20) states ‘What is not clear is what should be done if low inflation turns to bad deflation.’

Using the data in the extracts and your knowledge of economics, evaluate the view that monetary policy is the most effective way of tackling deflation in developed economies such as the UK and Japan.

[25 marks]

- 19.** The short-run Phillips curve below illustrates the relationship between unemployment and inflation in an economy.



The Phillips curve shows that in this economy

- A** high inflation leads to high unemployment.
- B** there is an inversely proportional relationship between unemployment and inflation.
- C** the trade-off for reducing inflation from 7% to 3% is a 4% increase in unemployment.
- D** the trade-off for reducing unemployment from 7% to 4% is 3% inflation.

☐☐☐☐

[1 mark]

20.

In July 2017, more people were employed in the UK than ever before. At the same time, the UK unemployment rate fell to 4.3%, the lowest rate for 40 years. Whilst this suggests that the government's policies for employment are working, some claim that zero-hours contracts, low real wages and temporary jobs have made many people worse off.

Assess the view that falling unemployment will inevitably lead to an improvement in the standard of living for people in the UK.

[25 marks]

21.

In July 2017, more people were employed in the UK than ever before. At the same time, the UK unemployment rate fell to 4.3%, the lowest rate for 40 years. Whilst this suggests that the government's policies for employment are working, some claim that zero-hours contracts, low real wages and temporary jobs have made many people worse off.

Explain the causes of cyclical **and** structural unemployment.

[15 marks]

22.

Extract B (lines 21) states 'Although some argue that a current account deficit is not a problem, others point to the worryingly large and persistent nature of the deficit.'

Using the data in the extracts and your knowledge of economics, assess the impact of a persistent current account deficit on the macroeconomic performance of the UK economy.

[25 marks]

23.

An African Development Bank report showed that Angola received more direct foreign investment than any other African country in 2015. Angola is a less economically developed country (LEDC) that has had fluctuating economic growth in the past. Despite having suffered from a long civil war which ended in 2002, many multinational corporations (MNCs) are now investing heavily in Angola's growing economy.

Evaluate the view that MNCs play a positive role in the development of LEDCs.

[25 marks]

24.

An African Development Bank report showed that Angola received more direct foreign investment than any other African country in 2015. Angola is a less economically developed country (LEDC) that has had fluctuating economic growth in the past. Despite having suffered from a long civil war which ended in 2002, many multinational corporations (MNCs) are now investing heavily in Angola's growing economy.

Explain the main barriers that LEDCs face when attempting to achieve stable, long-term economic growth.

[15 marks]

25.

Extract F (lines 10–12) states 'The Austrian economist, Friedrich Hayek, highlighted artificially low interest rates and excessive credit creation as being the main causes of cyclical instability.'

Using the data in the extracts and your knowledge of economics, evaluate the view that maintaining low interest rates for a sustained period of time may be damaging to the UK's macroeconomic stability.

[25 marks]

26.

In the past few years, CPI inflation has often differed by more than 1% from its 2% target. In the winter of 2015 the UK experienced a brief period of deflation but, more recently, inflation has been over 3%.

Evaluate the view that inflation is always preferable to deflation.

[25 marks]

27.

Extract E (lines 16–17) states ‘However, some argue that trying to maintain stable prices and low unemployment could create trade-offs.’

With the help of a diagram, explain why a trade-off between price stability and low unemployment might occur.

[9 marks]

28.

The table below contains selected data on a country’s macroeconomic performance over a 20 year period.

Year	Unemployment (%)	Rate of inflation (%)	Balance of trade on current account (\$ bn)
1998	6.0	3.5	–20
2003	5.8	3.0	–19
2008	5.5	2.5	–12
2013	5.2	2.0	–2
2018	5.0	1.5	+3

All other things being equal, which one of the following, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**, can be inferred from the above data?

A The natural rate of unemployment is falling

☐

B The price level is increasing more slowly

☐

C The volume of exports is increasing

☐

D There is an inverse relationship between unemployment and inflation

☐

[1 mark]

29.

In the past few years, CPI inflation has often differed by more than 1% from its 2% target. In the winter of 2015 the UK experienced a brief period of deflation but, more recently, inflation has been over 3%.

Explain the main causes of a rise in inflation.

[15 marks]

30.

Since 1998, the Bank of England has had responsibility for the operation of monetary policy and maintaining price stability. In response to the financial crisis of 2007–08, the Financial Services Act 2012 gave the Bank of England overall responsibility for financial stability. This was designed to reduce systemic risk and the impact on the real economy of problems that arise in financial markets.

Evaluate the view that strict rules and regulations on financial markets are essential to help create a more stable economy.

[25 marks]

Mark schemes

1.

Areas for discussion include:

- definitions/explanations: macroeconomic performance, depreciation
- explaining the causes of a depreciation in the currency
- explaining the impact of depreciation on the price of imports or exports
- explaining the impact of a depreciation of the pound on economic growth
 - such as the effects on AD
 - such as the potential rise in FDI
- explaining the impact of a depreciation of the pound on unemployment
 - such as a rise in exports and the subsequent increase in the derived demand for labour
- explaining the impact of a depreciation of the pound on inflation
 - such as the impact on demand-pull inflation from rising exports
 - such as the increased cost of raw materials or other imports
- explaining the impact of a depreciation of the pound on the current account of the balance of payments
 - such as increased international competitiveness and a rise in exports
 - such as the relative price of foreign goods becoming more expensive and a fall in imports
- considering the extent of the fall in currency and its subsequent impacts
- considering whether the currency self-corrects to some extent
- considering short-run and long-run implications of depreciation, e.g. on economic growth
- considering the Marshall-Lerner condition, elasticities and the 'J-curve' effect
- considering whether it has any impact in the long run, e.g. will the inflationary impact of the depreciation erode its effects?
- considering the short-run and long-run impact of a fall in the exchange rate on living standards.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 25 marks
5	Sound, focused analysis and well-supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response - includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes supported evaluation throughout the response and in a final conclusion.	21 – 25 marks
4	Sound, focused analysis and some supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes some good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some good use of data to support the response - includes some well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes some reasonable, supported evaluation.	16 – 20 marks
3	Some reasonable analysis but generally unsupported evaluation that: - focuses on issues that are relevant to the question, showing satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present - includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response - includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places - includes fairly superficial evaluation; there is likely to be some attempt to make relevant judgements but these aren't well-supported by arguments and/or data.	11 – 15 marks
2	A fairly weak response with some understanding that: - includes some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principle but some errors are likely - includes some limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question - includes some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused - includes some evaluation which is weak and unsupported.	6 – 10 marks
1	A very weak response that: - includes little relevant knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles - includes application to the given context which is, at best, very weak - includes attempted analysis which is weak and unsupported.	1 – 5 marks

[25]

2.

The anticipated diagram would make appropriate use of diagrams, e.g. AD/AS, demand for labour, economic cycle.

Relevant issues include:

- For a relevant explanation of an upturn in the economic cycle: An economic cycle shows the fluctuations in an economy's economic activity over time and an upturn usually refers to a recovery after a recession or slump and indicates that real national income is on the increase.
- If there is an increase in economic activity, it signals that firms are beginning to increase production which may lead to increased business confidence and could lead to increased investment due to the accelerator, seeing as though investment is a component of aggregate demand. This will cause aggregate demand to rise and due to the fact that firms will be producing more output, they will need to hire more workers as labour is a derived demand which will reduce cyclical unemployment leaving consumers with more disposable income and further rises in consumption, further reducing unemployment.

[9]

3.

In this part of the question, candidates will need to demonstrate that they are able to evaluate issues and arguments to support a conclusion if they are to be awarded **more than 15 marks**.

Level 5	Good analysis <u>and</u> good evaluation	22 to 25 marks <i>Mid-Point 24 marks</i>
Level 4	Good analysis <u>but</u> limited evaluation OR Reasonable analysis <u>and</u> reasonable evaluation	17 to 21 <i>Mid-Point 19 marks</i>
Level 3	Reasonable including some correct analysis <u>but</u> very limited evaluation	10 to 16 <i>Mid-Point 13 marks</i>
Level 2	Weak with some understanding	4 to 9 <i>Mid-Point 7 marks</i>
Level 1	Very weak	0 to 3 <i>Mid-Point 2 marks</i>

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• Interest rates • Monetary policy • Economic growth (short-run and long-run)
Developing the response to the question: (application and analysis)	Beneficial effects of low interest rates: • Effects of low interest rates on savings, increased consumption and increased growth • Effects of low interest rates on tracker mortgages, increased disposable income and consumption increasing growth • Effects of low interest rates on credit, consumption and growth • Effects of low interest rates on firms and investment • Effects of low interest rates and its effects on currency and trade flows • Benefits to both short-run and long-run growth. Negative effects of low interest rates: • The effect on long-term investment and bank's willingness and ability to lend • The building up of personal debt and future problems • The potential damage that a rise in interest rates may have after such a sustained low rate • The effects on the housing market of inflated volumes of borrowing and other microeconomic arguments • Arguments regarding the long-term damage of sustained low rates. Other causes of economic growth: • Consideration of the other factors leading to economic growth such as fiscal / other monetary or supply-side policies or exogenous factors.
Evaluation	• The effects are difficult to quantify due to the economy never having experienced such persistent low rates • The fact that the bank rate is very different from lending and borrowing rates and therefore the private sector sets many of these rates • The effect of the credit crunch and confidence in determining the level of consumption and investment • The so called "liquidity-trap" (not in specification) and the ineffectiveness of interest rate as they reach low levels • The importance of other factors rather than interest rates in determining growth • Time-lags • Effectiveness of interest rates <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for	• Reference to the UK / other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

4. The anticipated diagram would make appropriate use of diagrams, e.g. LRAS shifting right, SRAS shifting right, PPF's or AC curves.

Relevant issues include:

- Definition of investment.
- Explaining this in terms of a business entity in one country gaining ownership in another.
- Explaining the difference between FDI and portfolio investment.
- Increased foreign direct investment (FDI) by possibly bringing new technology or production processes into an existing firm which may reduce the need for labour to gain the same output and therefore boosts labour productivity.
- Improvements to infrastructure carried out by government capital spending such as improvements to motorways may allow transport costs to fall allowing the company to produce the same output for lower cost and boosts to efficiency and productivity.
- Research and development and increased competition due to FDI.
- Different forms of transport and communication links for infrastructure.

[9]

5. In this part of the question, candidates will need to demonstrate that they are able to evaluate issues and arguments to support a conclusion if they are to be awarded **more than 15 marks**.

Level 5	Good analysis <u>and</u> good evaluation	22 to 25 marks <i>Mid-Point 24 marks</i>
Level 4	Good analysis <u>but</u> limited evaluation OR Reasonable analysis <u>and</u> reasonable evaluation	17 to 21 <i>Mid-Point 19 marks</i>
Level 3	Reasonable including some correct analysis <u>but</u> very limited evaluation	10 to 16 <i>Mid-Point 13 marks</i>
Level 2	Weak with some understanding	4 to 9 <i>Mid-Point 7 marks</i>
Level 1	Very weak	0 to 3 <i>Mid-Point 2 marks</i>

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• Public sector • The UK economy • Macroeconomic performance / living standards
Developing the response to the question: (application and analysis)	Arguments why a smaller public sector may benefit the UK economy: • Crowding-out arguments (both physical and financial) • The role of potentially lower taxes in affecting growth • The role of potentially lower taxes in supply-side policy • The role of potentially lower taxes on private sector employment and the willingness to work • The role of potentially lower taxes on FDI • Deficit reduction and debt repayment • Potential boosts to the private sector of reduced red-tape and effects on recruitment. Arguments why a smaller public sector may be damaging to the UK economy: • An absence of the “crowding in” effect • A lack of public sector employment and negative multiplier effects • Regional effects especially in places reliant upon high levels of public expenditure • The possibility that some unemployment could be structural in nature due to the nature of some public sector jobs • A lack of provision of public services • A lack of correction of market failures • Possible rising inequality.
Evaluation	• Effects may differ depending on income group and stakeholder group depending upon the focus of government policy • The global economy may have a much larger effect for example FDI may not be forthcoming due to global uncertainty • Effects may differ depending on the employment sector (some government spending may be “ring-fenced”) • Other factors which may be more important than the size of the public sector • The degree of requirement for the size of the government may vary with the trade cycle (alternatively it could be argued that this should be irrelevant to the trade cycle). <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for	• Reference to the UK / other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

6.

For defining / explaining • Recession • Economic growth • The trade cycle.	Up to 2 marks per definition or explanation to a maximum of 4 marks
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Award 1 mark for each logical link in the chain of reasoning:

For example Higher unemployment (1 mark) much of which will be cyclical unemployment (1 mark) due to a lack of AD which causes disposable incomes to fall (1 mark) which leads to further negative multiplier effects (1 mark) which may mean even less revenue and profits for firms (1 mark) . Firms are also likely to be reluctant to hire new staff due to existing spare capacity (1 mark) and may just run down existing stocks (1 mark) rather than increase output (1 mark) which may exacerbate the unemployment problem and lead to both hysteresis (1 mark) and further problems of demotivated “long-term” unemployment (1 mark) . Other issues include: Effects on inflation, balance of payments on current account, poverty, and investment.	Up to 15 marks
Use of diagrams to help support explanations, e.g. trade cycle, AD/AS	Up to 2 marks per diagram (1 mark for labelling, 1 mark for correct information shown) to a maximum of 4 marks
Reference to the UK and/or other economies.	1 mark per reference to a maximum of 2 marks

[15]

7.

In this part of the question, candidates will need to demonstrate that they are able to evaluate issues and arguments to support a conclusion if they are to be awarded **more than 15 marks**.

Level 5	Good analysis <u>and</u> good evaluation	22 to 25 marks <i>Mid-Point 24 marks</i>
Level 4	Good analysis <u>but</u> limited evaluation OR Reasonable analysis <u>and</u> reasonable evaluation	17 to 21 <i>Mid-Point 19 marks</i>
Level 3	Reasonable including some correct analysis <u>but</u> very limited evaluation	10 to 16 <i>Mid-Point 13 marks</i>
Level 2	Weak with some understanding	4 to 9 <i>Mid-Point 7 marks</i>
Level 1	Very weak	0 to 3 <i>Mid-Point 2 marks</i>

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• Balance of payments • Current account and capital account • Exchange rates • Macroeconomic performance indicators
Developing the response to the question: (application and analysis)	Arguments why an appreciation of the pound against the Euro may be beneficial to the UK's macroeconomic performance • The effects of cheaper raw materials from Europe on inflation • The effects on competitiveness with the rest of the world if costs are lower • Impacts on UK manufacturing employment of cheaper European raw materials • Potential improvements to productivity in response to more expensive exports • Impacts of non-price competitiveness in response to more expensive exports • Could reduce inflationary pressure if the economy is in a boom • May act as a stabiliser to UK growth Arguments why an appreciation of the pound against the Euro may be detrimental to the UK's macroeconomic performance • The effects of cheaper raw materials from Europe on unemployment • Outsourcing to Europe affecting employment and growth • The loss of export competitiveness against Europe • Potential falls in FDI from Europe due to increased costs and its effects on growth
Evaluation	• Depends upon the duration of the change, self-correction may occur • Other issues other than exchange rate may have greater potential impacts on the economy such as domestic fiscal and monetary policy • The Marshall-Lerner condition (not in specification) and the effects of changing exchange rates upon the current account of the balance of payments • Changes to the patterns of trade and the importance of the exchange rate multilaterally rather than bilaterally. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for	• Reference to the UK / other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

8.

For defining / explaining - Government spending by area - Current / capital / transfers - The budget or fiscal policy.	Up to 2 marks per definition or explanation to a maximum of 4 marks
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Award 1 mark for each logical link in the chain of reasoning:

For example As a method of redistributing income (1 mark) where taxation has been raised (allow 1 mark for taxation as a source for spending) enabling government to spend on means-tested (1 mark) such as housing benefit (1 mark for examples) or universal (1 mark) benefits such as the winter-fuel allowance (1 mark) which will reduce inequality (1 mark) by increasing the incomes of the poorest in society (1 mark) and correcting a potential market failure (1 mark) . Other examples include: boosting AD, Keynesian multipliers, supply-side policy, influencing the pattern of economic activity through subsidies, provision of merit goods, public goods and correcting other market failures.	Up to 15 marks
Use of diagrams to help support explanations, e.g. AD increasing, LRAS increasing, trade cycle, correcting market failures (such as positive externalities in consumption) or subsidy.	Up to 2 marks per diagram (1 mark for labelling, 1 mark for correct information shown) to a maximum of 4 marks.
Reference to the UK and/or other economies.	1 mark per reference to a maximum of 2 marks

[15]

9.

In this part of the question, candidates will need to demonstrate that they are able to evaluate issues and arguments to support a conclusion if they are to be awarded **more than 15 marks**.

Where there is no **explicit** reference to the data, award a maximum of **21 marks**.

Level 5	Good analysis <u>and</u> good evaluation	22 to 25 marks <i>Mid-Point 24 marks</i>
Level 4	Good analysis <u>but</u> limited evaluation OR Reasonable analysis <u>and</u> reasonable evaluation	17 to 21 <i>Mid-Point 19 marks</i>
Level 3	Reasonable including some correct analysis <u>but</u> very limited evaluation	10 to 16 <i>Mid-Point 13 marks</i>
Level 2	Weak with some understanding	4 to 9 <i>Mid-Point 7 marks</i>
Level 1	Very weak	0 to 3 <i>Mid-Point 2 marks</i>

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• Productivity improvements • The EU economy • Macroeconomic performance.
Developing the response to the question: (Application)	• Improvements to infrastructure & investment (Extract E) • Difficult to improve productivity in some jobs (Extract E) • Links to living standards (Extract E) • Links to wages (Extract E) • Improvements in skills (Extract E) • Improvements to competitiveness (Extract F) • Solutions to unemployment problems (Extract F) • Boosts to welfare and lower prices (Extract F) • Product and process innovation (Extract F) • Structural weakness and lack of investment (Extract F)
(Analysis)	Arguments why productivity improvements may benefit the UK • Improvements in efficiency • Lower unit costs for firms and potential for increased profits • Improved competitiveness and the impact on the current account of the balance of payments • If UK productivity improvements can be achieved it may attract FDI and improve the capital account of the balance of payments • Higher wages • Economic growth • Possible boosts to tax revenue Arguments why productivity improvements may not benefit the UK • Productivity improvements may not require as many workers and impact on unemployment • Other countries may become more competitive at the UK's expense • If other countries are more competitive then it may divert FDI • Productivity improvements don't necessarily improve living standards • Other issues such as exchange rates may distort productivity gains • Opportunity cost of supply-side policies • Difficulties in measuring the impact of supply-side policies
Evaluation	• Potential conflicts between macroeconomic goals are traditionally reduced through productivity improvements. However, due to globalisation this may not always be the case • The UK's membership of the EU allows productivity improvements to be shared easily due to the free movement of workers and capital although this doesn't appear to have helped the UK's current membership • Knowledge transfer and process innovation have improved between economies however, the UK has still remained behind • Competitiveness relies on many other factors which are not covered by productivity • Consideration of UK's decision to leave the EU <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is</i>

	<i>important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for	• Reference to the UK / other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

10.

C

[1]

11.

In this part of the question, candidates will need to demonstrate that they are able to evaluate issues and arguments to support a conclusion if they are to be awarded **more than 15 marks**.

Where there is no **explicit** reference to the data, award a maximum of **21 marks**.

Level 5	Good analysis <u>and</u> good evaluation	22 to 25 marks <i>Mid-Point 24 marks</i>
Level 4	Good analysis <u>but</u> limited evaluation OR Reasonable analysis <u>and</u> reasonable evaluation	17 to 21 <i>Mid-Point 19 marks</i>
Level 3	Reasonable including some correct analysis <u>but</u> very limited evaluation	10 to 16 <i>Mid-Point 13 marks</i>
Level 2	Weak with some understanding	4 to 9 <i>Mid-Point 7 marks</i>
Level 1	Very weak	0 to 3 <i>Mid-Point 2 marks</i>

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• Macroeconomic performance • Trade • Free trade or trading blocs
Developing the response to the question: (Application)	• Focussing on improving trade in services (Extract B) • Sharing technology (Extract B) • Boosting exports, competition and investment (Extract B) • Improving international relations (Extract B) • Growth of Asian economies in comparison to slow EU growth (Extract C) • Problems for trade unions and environmental issues (Extract C) • Regional inequality (Extract C) • Unfair competition from state subsidised industry (Extract C) • Increasing power of MNCs in comparison to elected government (Extract C)
(Analysis)	Arguments why free trade agreements may benefit the UK: • Effects of increased export opportunities on output and employment • Effects of increased inward investment on output and employment • Impacts on the price of imports / semi-manufactures • Economies of scale and the effects on price level • Boosts to productivity and output • Benefits of competitive markets and sharing of technologies • Boosts to international relations • Improved choice / quality • Comparative advantage and the gains from trade. Arguments why free trade agreements may damage the UK: • The UK is unable to use protectionist policies such as quotas, tariffs, export subsidies • Possibly open to more external shocks • Sunrise / sunset industry arguments • May be subject to increased price fluctuations / instability • Loss of potential tariff revenue (although this is not directly received in the EU) • Cultural and strategic industry arguments • May be unable to protect against “dumping” • Environmental issues with increased transportation • Unclear growth and employment effects • Problems for small business in comparison to MNCs • May give an impetus to further deregulation / privatisation.
Evaluation	• The UK being unable to negotiate their own deals due to EU membership at the moment, however after we leave the EU it can conduct its own negotiations. • The EU currently not having deals in place in comparison to other economies • Benefits and costs depending on the various stakeholders points of view and short-term benefits, such as lower prices, may have long-term costs such as increased structural unemployment

	- Regions of the UK may experience different impacts - Trade deals may be done which don't directly involve the UK but could benefit it or could potentially damage it such as the TPP - References to UK's current situation affecting trade <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for	- Reference to the UK / other economies - Diagrams - An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss issues not discussed above.

[25]

12.

Level of response	Response	Max 10 marks
3	A good response that: - is well organised and includes at least three relevant, well-developed issues - makes effective use of the numerical/statistical data in Extract B - shows some appreciation of the limitations of the data - includes a supported final judgement concerning the extent to which UK manufacturing industry has been in decline since 2003.	8 – 10 marks
2	A reasonable response that: - is fairly well organised and includes at least two relevant and fairly well-developed issues - includes some satisfactory use of the numerical/statistical data in Extract B - may show some appreciation of the limitations of the data - at the top of the level, is likely to include a final judgement regarding the extent to which UK manufacturing industry has been in decline since 2003.	4 – 7 marks
1	A weak response that: - is very brief and/or lacks coherence - may include one or more superficial points regarding the extent to which UK manufacturing industry has declined since 2003 - doesn't show any appreciation of the limitations of the data - contains very limited or poor use of the data in Extract B - may include an unsupported judgement concerning the decline in UK manufacturing since 2003.	1 – 3 marks

When assessing the extent to which manufacturing industry has been in decline since 2003, most candidates are likely to base their assessment on the data in Extract B. However, they can also be rewarded for making relevant use of the other extracts and their own knowledge.

Allow candidates a small margin of error, particularly when quoting from Figures 1 and 2.

Relevant issues include:

- the changes in the index of output of manufacturing, e.g. the fluctuations and comparing the start and end values (97.8 to 96.6)
- the decline in employment between 2003 Q1 and 2009 Q1 (3.65m to 2.99m)
- the modest recovery in employment between 2009 Q1 and 2015 Q3
- discussion of output and employment as indicators of the possible decline in manufacturing
- changes in the exports of goods (increase of £97.1bn)
- changes in the imports of goods (increase of £171.2bn)
- changes in the balance of trade in goods (deteriorates by £74.1bn)
- not all goods are manufactures, e.g. basic commodities
- the trade figures do not take into account inflation
- the changing share of manufacturing but precise data for the period 2003 – 2015 has not been provided
- use of data concerning the rate of growth of manufacturing
- the growth of manufacturing compared to the rate of growth of real GDP
- some may use data in the extracts relating to car manufacturing and the steel industry.

As indicated in the table above, a good response will include a supported final judgement concerning the extent to which there has been a decline in manufacturing since 2003. It is likely that they will conclude that the evidence backs the view that manufacturing has declined over the period but should not be penalised for a different conclusion, provided it is well supported.

[10]

13.

C

[1]

14.

Areas for discussion include:

- definitions/explanations: economic development, market-based strategies, interventionist strategies
- differences and links between economic growth and economic development
- examples of market-based strategies such as privatisation, deregulation, liberalisation of foreign trade, removing restrictions on international investment
- examples of interventionist strategies such as government spending on infrastructure, protectionist policies and government spending on health and education
- the pros and cons of market-based approaches to achieving development
- the pros and cons of interventionist approaches to achieving development
- difficulties in measuring development in terms of economic/human development
- the potential barriers that may hinder India's development
- analysis of the impact of development on formal employment/informal employment
- the progression from the primary sector to secondary sector employment
- whether growth and development are sustainable
- economic/social/political freedom arguments
- costs of development **and/or** growth and their impact on living standards
- the effectiveness of policies that might stimulate development
- protectionism as an aid to development
- the role of investment (domestic and foreign direct)
- key industries in development.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the candidate's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 25 marks
5	Sound, focused analysis and well-supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response - includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes supported evaluation throughout the response and in a final conclusion.	21 – 25 marks
4	Sound, focused analysis and some supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes some good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some good use of data to support the response - includes some well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes some reasonable, supported evaluation.	16 – 20 marks
3	Some reasonable analysis but generally unsupported evaluation that: - focuses on issues that are relevant to the question, showing satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present - includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response - includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places - includes fairly superficial evaluation; there is likely to be some attempt to make relevant judgements but these are not well-supported by arguments and/or data.	11 – 15 marks
2	A fairly weak response with some understanding that: - includes some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely - includes some limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question - includes some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused - includes some evaluation which is weak and unsupported.	6 – 10 marks
1	A very weak response that: - includes little relevant knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles - includes application to the given context which, at best, is very weak - includes attempted analysis which is weak and unsupported.	1 – 5 marks

[25]

15.**Areas for discussion include:**

- definitions/explanations: unemployment, macroeconomic policy, macroeconomic goals, trade-offs
- explaining the various causes/types of unemployment
- distinguishing between involuntary and voluntary unemployment
- explaining the different policy responses depending upon the nature of the unemployment
- explaining the effects of falling unemployment on:
 - inflation
 - economic growth
 - trade
 - other goals such as the budget deficit
- highlighting the UK's experience in reducing unemployment whilst maintaining stable inflation and a satisfactory balance of payments position
- the role of supply-side policies and productivity improvements in avoiding conflicts
- the effects of economic shocks on the economy and the difficulty of insulating against these
- the short-run Phillips curve
- government policies to reduce unemployment
- considering the relative success of recent government policies in the UK or other economies
- considering the position of the economy in terms of the proximity to the productive potential
- considering the position of the UK in terms of the economic cycle

The use of relevant diagrams such as the short-run Phillips curve and AD/AS diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the candidate's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 25 marks
5	Sound, focused analysis and well-supported evaluation that: • is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response • includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning • includes supported evaluation throughout the response and in a final conclusion.	21 – 25 marks
4	Sound, focused analysis and some supported evaluation that: • is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes some good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some good use of data to support the response • includes some well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning • includes some reasonable, supported evaluation.	16 – 20 marks
3	Some reasonable analysis but generally unsupported evaluation that: • focuses on issues that are relevant to the question, showing satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present • includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response • includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places • includes fairly superficial evaluation; there is likely to be some attempt to make relevant judgements but these are not well-supported by arguments and/or data.	11 – 15 marks
2	A fairly weak response with some understanding that: • includes some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely • includes some limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question • includes some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused • includes some evaluation which is weak and unsupported.	6 – 10 marks
1	A very weak response that: • includes little relevant knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles • includes application to the given context which, at best, is very weak • includes attempted analysis which is weak and unsupported.	1 – 5 marks

[25]

16.

Areas for discussion include:

- definitions/explanations: budget surplus/deficit, budget, fiscal policy
- explaining arguments in favour of a budget surplus such as:
 - reduction of national debt
 - reducing the burden on future generations
 - the possible improvements to government credit ratings and the effect on coupon rates and debt interest
 - the reduction of crowding out
 - the possible reduction in inflation
- explaining arguments against a budget surplus such as:
 - the possible effects of reduced government spending on merit and public goods
 - the possible effects of reduced spending on the supply side of the economy
 - the possible effects of increased taxation on consumption, and investment
 - the possible effects of increased taxation on international trade
 - the possible effects of a negative multiplier effect
- explaining the possible causes of the UK budget deficit
- explaining the reasons for government spending and types of spending (current, capital, transfer payments)
- the possibility that a budget surplus may be achieved automatically with economic growth rather than discretionary changes
- the debt to GDP ratio may be falling if the economy is growing even if the economy is still running a deficit
- the causes of the deficit may be vital in understanding whether a surplus is desirable, for example, is the deficit a cyclical or structural deficit?
- the state of the economy and position on the economic cycle determines whether a surplus is likely or achievable
- the view that balancing or achieving a small surplus on the current budget is desirable but borrowing to invest isn't a problem
- the issue that borrowing may be beneficial and cheap when coupon rates are low.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 25 marks
5	Sound, focused analysis and well-supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response - includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes supported evaluation throughout the response and in a final conclusion.	21 – 25 marks
4	Sound, focused analysis and some supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes some good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some good use of data to support the response - includes some well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes some reasonable, supported evaluation.	16 – 20 marks
3	Some reasonable analysis but generally unsupported evaluation that: - focuses on issues that are relevant to the question, showing satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present - includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response - includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places - includes fairly superficial evaluation; there is likely to be some attempt to make relevant judgements but these are not well-supported by arguments and/or data.	11 – 15 marks
2	A fairly weak response with some understanding that: - includes some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely - includes some limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question - includes some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused - includes some evaluation which is weak and unsupported.	6 – 10 marks
1	A very weak response that: - includes little relevant knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles - includes application to the given context which, at best, is very weak - includes attempted analysis which is weak and unsupported.	1 – 5 marks

[25]

17.

Relevant issues include:

- definitions/explanations: unemployment, government policies, the natural rate of unemployment
- linking the natural rate to equilibrium in the labour market
- identifying the natural rate as being caused by mainly “voluntary” unemployed workers
- linking the natural rate to structural, frictional or real wage unemployment
- explaining the nature of the supply and demand for labour
- explaining the role of supply-side policies in reducing the natural rate
- considering interventionist or laissez-faire approaches to reducing the natural rate
- explaining the role of wage and inflationary expectations in altering the natural rate
- explaining any of the following:
 - the level of JSA
 - the level of taxation
 - the NMW
 - training schemes
 - transferable skills
 - occupational mobility
 - geographical mobility
 - trade union reform
 - labour market flexibility
 - childcare assistance
 - reducing hysteresis/long-term unemployment
 - reducing wage expectations
 - or any other valid reason.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis such as a long-run Phillips curve or a labour market diagram should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the candidate's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 15 marks
3	A good response provides an answer that: • is well organised and develops a selection of the key issues that are relevant to the question • shows sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response • includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning.	11 – 15 marks
2	A reasonable response provides an answer that: • focuses on issues that are relevant to the question • shows satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present • includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response • includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places.	6 – 10 marks
1	A weak response provides an answer that: • has identified one or more relevant issues • has some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely • has very limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question • might have some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused.	1 – 5 marks

[15]

18.

Areas for discussion include:

- definitions/explanations: monetary policy, deflation, developed economies
- deflation and the different types (malign v benign)
- the effects of deflation
- the nature of developed economies and different experiences of deflation
- the role of interest rates and the transmission mechanism
- the effects of interest rates on investment, employment, saving and consumption
- the link between long-term saving and long-term investment
- the effectiveness of interest rates at very low levels including negative interest rates
- consideration of the MPC's role, primarily in targeting inflation but also in targeting growth
- consideration of differences in the two economies which may determine the effectiveness of monetary policy
- the use of quantitative easing and consideration of its success
- the possible role of the exchange rate in stimulating the economy
- the use of fiscal policy and fiscal stimulus
- considering how government debt may affect the ability to use fiscal policy
- considering how private-sector debt may influence the effectiveness of policies designed to combat deflation
- consideration of the potential conflicts in policy
- the significance of economic shocks and their impact on policies to tackle deflation.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the candidate's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 25 marks
5	Sound, focused analysis and well-supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response - includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes supported evaluation throughout the response and in a final conclusion.	21 – 25 marks
4	Sound, focused analysis and some supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes some good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some good use of data to support the response - includes some well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes some reasonable, supported evaluation.	16 – 20 marks
3	Some reasonable analysis but generally unsupported evaluation that: - focuses on issues that are relevant to the question, showing satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present - includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response - includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places - includes fairly superficial evaluation; there is likely to be some attempt to make relevant judgements but these are not well-supported by arguments and/or data.	11 – 15 marks
2	A fairly weak response with some understanding that: - includes some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely - includes some limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question - includes some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused - includes some evaluation which is weak and unsupported.	6 – 10 marks
1	A very weak response that: - includes little relevant knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles - includes application to the given context which, at best, is very weak - includes attempted analysis which is weak and unsupported.	1 – 5 marks

[25]

19.

D

[1]

20.

Areas for discussion include:

- definitions/explanations: unemployment, standard of living, quality of life
- explaining why falling unemployment may improve living standards through:
 - increased incomes and consumption possibilities
 - allowing individuals to have more disposable income to spend on leisure
 - motivational and possible health effects
 - social interaction
 - increased tax revenue allowing government to continue spending without accumulating debt
- explaining how falling unemployment may not improve living standards such as:
 - possible inflationary effects which may do little to help those on fixed incomes or low bargaining power
 - inequality may get worse particularly for those not in work
 - cost of living increases
 - reduced unemployment may indicate increased output which may indicate more pollution
- explaining other measures of the standard of living such as the HDI
- explaining quality of life factors
- the issue that the type of work and bargaining power of the workers may determine the relative winners and losers from falling unemployment
- productivity and implications for growth and wages
- the possible effects on firm's costs of a tight labour market and the potential of cost-push inflationary pressure
- the nature and security of the jobs that have been created by considering the effects of zero-hours contracts on issues such as the ability to access credit, job security and incomes
- issues around the 'gig economy', underemployment and the lack of permanent or constant employment and income.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 25 marks
5	Sound, focused analysis and well-supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response - includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes supported evaluation throughout the response and in a final conclusion.	21 – 25 marks
4	Sound, focused analysis and some supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes some good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some good use of data to support the response - includes some well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes some reasonable, supported evaluation.	16 – 20 marks
3	Some reasonable analysis but generally unsupported evaluation that: - focuses on issues that are relevant to the question, showing satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present - includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response - includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places - includes fairly superficial evaluation; there is likely to be some attempt to make relevant judgements but these are not well-supported by arguments and/or data.	11 – 15 marks
2	A fairly weak response with some understanding that: - includes some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely - includes some limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question - includes some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused - includes some evaluation which is weak and unsupported.	6 – 10 marks
1	A very weak response that: - includes little relevant knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles - includes application to the given context which, at best, is very weak - includes attempted analysis which is weak and unsupported.	1 – 5 marks

[25]

21.

Relevant issues include:

- definitions/explanations: unemployment, cyclical unemployment, structural unemployment
- in terms of cyclical unemployment, explaining:
 - that cyclical unemployment is often seen as involuntary
 - that cyclical unemployment is linked to demand deficiency
 - possible causes of a fall in aggregate demand
 - the derived demand for labour and linking cyclical unemployment to national output
 - interdependence of economies and global downturns
 - reduction in confidence and animal spirits
 - problems in financial markets affecting the real economy
 - causes of negative output gaps or causes of falling output and linking this to the demand for labour
 - recessions and possible negative multiplier and accelerator effects on cyclical unemployment
- in terms of structural unemployment, explaining:
 - structural unemployment may come about by the decline of an industry due to changes in the pattern of demand
 - structural unemployment is often seen as voluntary
 - structural unemployment as essentially a supply-side problem
 - technological unemployment
 - examples in the UK where structural unemployment has occurred
 - skills mis-matches and the need for geographical and occupational mobility
 - globalisation and the rise of emerging economies
- potential regional issues and the effects on particular industries.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 15 marks
3	A good response provides an answer that: • is well organised and develops a selection of the key issues that are relevant to the question • shows sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response • includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning.	11 – 15 marks
2	A reasonable response provides an answer that: • focuses on issues that are relevant to the question • shows satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present • includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response • includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places.	6 – 10 marks
1	A weak response provides an answer that: • has identified one or more relevant issues • has some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely • has very limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question • might have some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused.	1 – 5 marks

[15]

22.

Areas for discussion include:

- definitions/explanations: trade or current account deficit, trade, balance of payments, macroeconomic performance
- explaining how a trade or current account deficit may impact upon:
 - economic growth
 - unemployment
 - inflation
 - other measures of performance
- considering the causes of the trade or current account deficit
- explaining the difference between trade in goods and services
- considering other parts of the current account of the balance of payments, ie primary and secondary income flows, and their significance
- the role of the capital and financial accounts
- the significance of having a floating exchange rate
- possible government responses to the deficit and their impact on macroeconomic performance
- the UK's past experiences with current account deficits
- the relative importance of the current account deficit in comparison to the other economic goals
- the "persistent" nature of the deficit
- the potential costs and benefits of surpluses on the financial account
- possible structural problems in the UK economy causing the imbalance.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 25 marks
5	Sound, focused analysis and well-supported evaluation that: • is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response • includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning • includes supported evaluation throughout the response and in a final conclusion.	21 – 25 marks
4	Sound, focused analysis and some supported evaluation that: • is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes some good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some good use of data to support the response • includes some well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning • includes some reasonable, supported evaluation.	16 – 20 marks
3	Some reasonable analysis but generally unsupported evaluation that: • focuses on issues that are relevant to the question, showing satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present • includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response • includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places • includes fairly superficial evaluation; there is likely to be some attempt to make relevant judgements but these are not well-supported by arguments and/or data.	11 – 15 marks
2	A fairly weak response with some understanding that: • includes some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely • includes some limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question • includes some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused • includes some evaluation which is weak and unsupported.	6 – 10 marks
1	A very weak response that: • includes little relevant knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles • includes application to the given context which, at best, is very weak • includes attempted analysis which is weak and unsupported.	1 – 5 marks

[25]

23.

Areas for discussion include:

- definitions/explanations: economic development, MNCs, LEDCs
- positive roles of MNCs in developing nations such as the effects on:
 - employment and job creation
 - economic growth (short-run and long-run)
 - the trade balance (eg increase exports)
 - productivity and international competitiveness
 - infrastructure
 - investment and positive multiplier effects
 - development of human capital
 - knowledge and technological transfer
 - standards of living
- potential negative roles of MNCs in developing nations such as the effects on:
 - the environment
 - the exploitation of workers
 - the destruction of culture
 - the indigenous industries being unable to compete
 - the unfair political influence which MNCs may possess
 - possible tax avoidance
 - the repatriation of profits which is negative on GNP
- explaining the main differences between LEDCs and MEDCs
- examples of MNCs and countries in which they have set up
- the issue that job creation may be limited due to the capital-intensive nature of the FDI and filling management roles from the source nation
- that the role depends upon the objectives of the MNC and that initial positive effects may change over time
- what may happen if the MNC had not been involved in the economy. Would domestic firms have fared better?
- the individual government's ability to control the power of the MNCs may determine whether, on balance, they have a positive impact on development.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 25 marks
5	Sound, focused analysis and well-supported evaluation that: • is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response • includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning • includes supported evaluation throughout the response and in a final conclusion.	21 – 25 marks
4	Sound, focused analysis and some supported evaluation that: • is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes some good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some good use of data to support the response • includes some well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning • includes some reasonable, supported evaluation.	16 – 20 marks
3	Some reasonable analysis but generally unsupported evaluation that: • focuses on issues that are relevant to the question, showing satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present • includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response • includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places • includes fairly superficial evaluation; there is likely to be some attempt to make relevant judgements but these are not well-supported by arguments and/or data.	11 – 15 marks
2	A fairly weak response with some understanding that: • includes some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely • includes some limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question • includes some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused • includes some evaluation which is weak and unsupported.	6 – 10 marks
1	A very weak response that: • includes little relevant knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles • includes application to the given context which, at best, is very weak • includes attempted analysis which is weak and unsupported.	1 – 5 marks

[25]

24.

Relevant issues include:

- definitions/explanations: economic growth, stable growth, LEDCs
- explaining the main characteristics of LEDCs with reference to measurements such as the HDI or GDP
- explaining factors that may be barriers to growth such as:
 - corruption
 - lack of property rights (both physical and intellectual)
 - poor infrastructure
 - a lack of, or poor quality, human capital
 - a lack of, or poor quality, physical capital
 - a lack of savings causing a lack of capital accumulation
 - institutional factors
 - primary product dependency
 - informal employment and a lack of tax revenue.

Note: some candidates may answer this question in terms of why MEDCs find it easier to achieve economic growth. This approach is fine and should be rewarded accordingly.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 15 marks
3	A good response provides an answer that: • is well organised and develops a selection of the key issues that are relevant to the question • shows sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response • includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning.	11 – 15 marks
2	A reasonable response provides an answer that: • focuses on issues that are relevant to the question • shows satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present • includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response • includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places.	6 – 10 marks
1	A weak response provides an answer that: • has identified one or more relevant issues • has some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely • has very limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question • might have some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused.	1 – 5 marks

[15]

25.**Areas for discussion include:**

- definitions/explanations: interest rates, monetary policy, economic stability, cyclical instability, credit creation
- explaining the possible effects of low interest rates on:
 - saving and borrowing, including loans and mortgages
 - consumption
 - investment
 - the exchange rate
 - confidence
- explaining the benefits of low interest rates for:
 - growth (long-run and short-run)
 - unemployment
 - inflation or avoidance of deflation
 - the current account of the balance of payments
- explaining the drawbacks of persistently low interest rates such as:
 - inflationary pressure and overheating the economy
 - asset-price and speculative bubbles
 - over-complacency in firms and the build-up of private-sector debt
 - effects on financial institutions and the real economy if people/firms default on their debt repayments
 - effects on the housing market if interest rates need to rise
 - effects on people relying on savings such as pensioners
 - possibly leading to malinvestment and sustaining zombie businesses
- considering why interest rates were low in the first place
- explaining the role of the MPC in setting Bank Rate and the factors taken into consideration when setting the rate
- explaining the monetary policy transmission mechanism
- explanation of alternative schools of thought regarding monetary policy
- the role of other aspects of monetary policy (eg forward-guidance or Q.E.) alongside conventional interest rate policy
- the potential short-term benefits of lower interest rates such as household consumption rising compared to long-term financial burden
- the role of the financial authorities in reducing the possibility of households taking on too much debt.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 25 marks
5	Sound, focused analysis and well-supported evaluation that: • is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response • includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning • includes supported evaluation throughout the response and in a final conclusion.	21 – 25 marks
4	Sound, focused analysis and some supported evaluation that: • is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes some good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some good use of data to support the response • includes some well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning • includes some reasonable, supported evaluation.	16 – 20 marks
3	Some reasonable analysis but generally unsupported evaluation that: • focuses on issues that are relevant to the question, showing satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present • includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response • includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places • includes fairly superficial evaluation; there is likely to be some attempt to make relevant judgements but these are not well-supported by arguments and/or data.	11 – 15 marks
2	A fairly weak response with some understanding that: • includes some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely • includes some limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question • includes some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused • includes some evaluation which is weak and unsupported.	6 – 10 marks
1	A very weak response that: • includes little relevant knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles • includes application to the given context which, at best, is very weak • includes attempted analysis which is weak and unsupported.	1 – 5 marks

[25]

26.

Areas for discussion include:

- definitions/explanations: inflation, deflation
- explaining the different types of inflation (demand-pull and cost-push)
- explaining the different types of deflation (malign and benign)
- explaining the UK's recent history of inflation and deflation
- explaining the causes of inflation and deflation
- explaining the effects of inflation or deflation upon:
 - individuals, such as inflation causing a higher cost of living
 - borrowers, such as the relative value of debt falling with inflation
 - savers, such as inflation eroding the value of savings
 - those on fixed incomes such as the current government policy of raising JSA at 1% or inflation (whichever is lowest)
 - real interest rates and borrowing
 - firms and investment
 - labour markets, such as individuals with low bargaining power being unable to negotiate higher wages
 - consumption decisions, such as delayed consumption due to deflation
 - international competitiveness
 - activity and stability
- considering the different types of inflation in terms of creeping or hyper-inflation
- considering that inflation may benefit one group but at the expense of another
- considering that the type of deflation may determine the effects
- considering the duration of the inflation or deflation
- considering the ability of the MPC to return to the target of 2% inflation, eg the problem of the lower bound to interest rates (liquidity trap).

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the candidate's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 25 marks
5	Sound, focused analysis and well-supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response - includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes supported evaluation throughout the response and in a final conclusion.	21 – 25 marks
4	Sound, focused analysis and some supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes some good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some good use of data to support the response - includes some well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes some reasonable, supported evaluation.	16 – 20 marks
3	Some reasonable analysis but generally unsupported evaluation that: - focuses on issues that are relevant to the question, showing satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present - includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response - includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places - includes fairly superficial evaluation; there is likely to be some attempt to make relevant judgements but these aren't well-supported by arguments and/or data.	11 – 15 marks
2	A fairly weak response with some understanding that: - includes some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principle but some errors are likely - includes some limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question - includes some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused - includes some evaluation which is weak and unsupported.	6 – 10 marks
1	A very weak response that: - includes little relevant knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles - includes application to the given context which is, at best, very weak - includes attempted analysis which is weak and unsupported.	1 – 5 marks

[25]

27.

Level of response	An answer that:	Max 9 marks
3	- is well organised and develops one or more of the key issues that are relevant to the question - shows sound knowledge and understanding of relevant economic terminology, concepts and principles - includes good application of relevant economic principles and/or good use of data to support the response - includes well-focused analysis with a clear, logical chain of reasoning - includes a relevant diagram that will, at the top of this level, be accurate and used appropriately.	7 – 9 marks
2	- includes one or more issues that are relevant to the question - shows reasonable knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present - includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles and/or data to the question - includes some reasonable analysis but it might not be adequately developed and may be confused in places - may include a relevant diagram.	4 – 6 marks
1	- is very brief and/or lacks coherence - shows some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely - demonstrates very limited ability to apply relevant economic principles and/or data to the question - may include some very limited analysis but the analysis lacks focus and/or becomes confused - may include a relevant diagram but the diagram is not used and/or is inaccurate in some respects.	1 – 3 marks

A short-run Phillips curve diagram is expected with co-ordinates plotted. An AD/AS diagram with an upward sloping AS curve and showing a shift in AD is also acceptable.

Relevant issues include

- definitions/explanations: unemployment, price stability, inflation, trade-off
- explaining how lower unemployment leads to higher disposable incomes
- describing the possible effects on consumption and demand-pull inflation
- describing how a smaller pool of labour may cause labour shortages leading to increased wage demands and cost-push effects
- describing the wage-price spiral.

[9]

28.

B

[1]

29.

Relevant issues include:

- definitions/explanations: inflation, cost-push inflation, demand-pull inflation, the general price-level, price indices
- explaining possible causes of rises in demand-pull inflation through an increase in the components of AD such as:
 - increased consumption due to the falling unemployment
 - increased investment due to falling interest rates
 - increased government spending due to a discretionary policy to raise welfare spending, e.g. pensions
 - increased exports due to higher economic growth in a trade partner
 - decreased imports and increased exports due to a depreciation in the currency
 - a rise in the money supply supporting the monetarist view and using the Fisher equation
- explaining possible causes of rising cost-push inflation through an increase in the costs of the factors of production such as:
 - rising wage costs
 - rising raw material costs
 - rising commodity prices such as oil
- explaining external shocks which may impact upon inflation
- explain microeconomic issues which may impact upon inflation such as rising housing costs affecting the RPI measure or possible collusion in energy markets affecting domestic fuel prices
- explaining possible short-run reasons for increases in prices and long-run reasons.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis such as rising AD/AS should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 15 marks
3	A good response provides an answer that: • is well organised and develops a selection of the key issues that are relevant to the question • shows sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors • includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response • includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning.	11 – 15 marks
2	A reasonable response provides an answer that: • focuses on issues that are relevant to the question • shows satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present • includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response • includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places.	6 – 10 marks
1	A weak response provides an answer that: • has identified one or more relevant issues • has some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some errors are likely • has very limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question • might have some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused.	1 – 5 marks

[15]

30.

Areas for discussion include:

- definitions/explanations: financial markets, macroeconomic stability, financial stability
- relating rules and regulations to the FPC, FCA, and PRA and explaining the functions of each of the regulatory bodies
- explaining both micro and macro prudential regulation
- giving examples, such as explaining the build up to the last major financial crisis in the UK in 2007/08
- explaining systemic risk and the impacts on the real economy in terms of:
 - growth
 - unemployment
 - inflation
 - government finances

- explaining liquidity ratios and the 'stress-testing' of banks
- explaining the role of other economic agents in attempting to create macroeconomic stability
 - such as the MPC's role in price stability and helping achieve the government's objectives for growth and unemployment
 - such as the OBR's role in monitoring the impact of government budgetary changes
 - such as the EU's rules regarding fiscal stability
 - such as the Basel accords
- considering the possibility of government failure in banking or regulatory capture
- considering financial market failure, speculative bubbles and moral hazard
- considering that too much regulation may cause 'banking brain-drain' and damage the UK's financial services industry in the long run
- considering the relative success (or failure) of current regulations or improvements that can be made to the system
- considering the possibility of market failure in banking such as asymmetric information in financial products
- considering that economic stability is much more than just financial stability
- considering that some external economic shocks may not be fully insulated against.

The use of relevant diagrams to support the analysis should be taken into account when assessing the quality of the student's response to the question.

Level of response	Response	Max 25 marks
5	Sound, focused analysis and well-supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, good use of data to support the response - includes well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes supported evaluation throughout the response and in a final conclusion.	21 – 25 marks
4	Sound, focused analysis and some supported evaluation that: - is well organised, showing sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles with few, if any, errors - includes some good application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some good use of data to support the response - includes some well-focused analysis with clear, logical chains of reasoning - includes some reasonable, supported evaluation.	16 – 20 marks
3	Some reasonable analysis but generally unsupported evaluation that: - focuses on issues that are relevant to the question, showing satisfactory knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles but some weaknesses may be present - includes reasonable application of relevant economic principles to the given context and, where appropriate, some use of data to support the response - includes some reasonable analysis but which might not be adequately developed or becomes confused in places - includes fairly superficial evaluation; there is likely to be some attempt to make relevant judgements but these aren't well-supported by arguments and/or data.	11 – 15 marks
2	A fairly weak response with some understanding that: - includes some limited knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principle but some errors are likely - includes some limited application of relevant economic principles to the given context and/or data to the question - includes some limited analysis but it may lack focus and/or become confused - includes some evaluation which is weak and unsupported.	6 – 10 marks
1	A very weak response that: - includes little relevant knowledge and understanding of economic terminology, concepts and principles - includes application to the given context which is, at best, very weak - includes attempted analysis which is weak and unsupported.	1 – 5 marks

[25]

1.

'While it is necessary to have macroeconomic policy objectives, such as price stability and full employment, they can sometimes prove difficult to reconcile.'

Discuss ways in which government economic policies can be used to try to reconcile conflicts between macroeconomic objectives.

[25 marks]

2.

'Failure to get a new trade deal would put another dark cloud over the world economy.'

Source: PETER MANDELSON, EU Trade Commissioner, July 2008

Evaluate the significance for the UK balance of payments on current account of increased use of protectionist policies around the world.

[25 marks]

3.

The Budget Report of April 2009 estimated that UK government borrowing for 2009-10 would be £175 billion, or about 12% of GDP.

To what extent should government borrowing be a cause for concern?

[25 marks]

4.

The Global Context Extract B (lines 35–37) concludes: 'Globalisation must surely have played its part in the success of the UK economy...whatever problems it may also have created.'

Using the data and your economic knowledge, to what extent do you agree with the view that globalisation has been of benefit to UK macroeconomic performance?

[25 marks]

5.

The Budget Report of April 2009 estimated that UK government borrowing for 2009-10 would be £175 billion, or about 12% of GDP.

Explain possible economic reasons for changes in the level **and** distribution of government expenditure.

[15 marks]

6.

'Failure to get a new trade deal would put another dark cloud over the world economy.'

Source: PETER MANDELSON, EU Trade Commissioner, July 2008

Explain the main economic determinants of a country's demand for imports.

[15 marks]

7.

'It is better to do everything you can to prevent deflation before it begins, even if there is only a small chance of it occurring.'

Assess the impact on UK macroeconomic performance of a prolonged period of deflation.

[25 marks]

- 8.** An economy which is enjoying rapid economic growth experiences a significant rise in the external value of its currency within a floating exchange rate system.
- Evaluate the possible macroeconomic consequences for an economy of a rise in the exchange rate of its currency.
- [25 marks]
- 9.** 'The UK economy has recently been in the grip of its worst recession for 60 years.'
- Assess the contribution which supply-side reforms might make in helping avoid major recessions.
- [25 marks]
- 10.** 'Inflation needs to be avoided at all costs but it is nowhere near as damaging to an economy as deflation.'
- To what extent might it be argued that inflation is preferable to deflation?
- [25 marks]
- 11.** 'The UK economy has recently been in the grip of its worst recession for 60 years.'
- Explain possible reasons for an economy moving from a period of prosperity to one of recession.
- [15 marks]
- 12.** **The Global Context Extract B** (lines 33–34) argues that 'the living standards of developed countries, including the UK, will be affected by economic growth in Africa'.
- Using the data and your economic knowledge, assess the view that living standards in the UK are likely to benefit from sustained economic growth in the economies of Africa.
- [25 marks]
- 13.** **The European Union Context Extract D** (lines 27–28) states that 'the impact of the increased government borrowing arising from budget deficits across the EU is of concern amongst some economists'.
- Using the data and your economic knowledge, assess the impact on the UK economy of increased government borrowing by EU governments.
- [25 marks]
- 14.** **The European Union Context Extract D** (lines 22–23) argues that government spending 'can initiate a powerful stimulus to an economy through the multiplier process'.
- Explain 'the multiplier process' **and** analyse its possible impact on an economy's unemployment **and** economic growth.
- [9 marks]

Extract D: Is EU unity threatened?

Europe, and indeed much of the world, was shaken by the depth of the economic downturn from 2008. Many countries, including the UK, saw the solution to be a return to Keynesian economics and, therefore, tolerance of large budget deficits. This was coupled with significant monetary expansion, so that, in the UK for example, the Bank of England Bank Rate was cut to 0.5% in 2009, accompanied by a policy of 'quantitative easing' (increases in the money supply).

The UK pressed other EU governments to embark on fiscal expansion. Not all shared the UK's enthusiasm and, at best, wanted only a much more modest fiscal stimulus than was the case in the UK. However, events sometimes overtook such wishes. Ironically, given the scale of the UK fiscal stimulus, until the latter part of 2009 the UK was the only major economy to remain in recession. This may reflect the greater significance of the housing and financial sectors in the UK compared to other EU countries.

The fiscal position of many EU countries has given rise to concern. Italy, for example, now has a national debt (the total outstanding debt of central government) of around 120% of GDP, even though its annual budget deficit is not exceptionally large. Some countries have shown a greater determination than Italy to cut their deficits. In December 2009, for example, Ireland announced sharp cuts in public sector wages. But it is certainly not just Italy which has shown complacency. The EU's Stability and Growth Pact limits annual borrowing to 3% of GDP. EU governments are under increasing pressure to return to this target by 2014.

The short- to medium-term benefits of fiscal expansion during downturns cannot be denied. Government spending can initiate a powerful stimulus to an economy through the multiplier process. Aggregate demand therefore rises. The UK Pre-Budget Report put government spending at £676 billion. Tax cuts will give households more spending power. Coupled with cheap credit and retail price discounts, recovery can therefore be helped through increased consumption.

However, the impact of increased government borrowing arising from budget deficits across the EU is of concern amongst some economists. It may eventually force the authorities to increase interest rates, lead to 'crowding-out' of private sector activity and make public spending cuts and tax increases an inevitability. In the UK, for example, a VAT rate of 17.5% was restored in January 2010 following a temporary cut to 15%. Equally, the 2009 Pre-Budget Report announced an increase in National Insurance contributions.

The problem in trying to assess the impact of fiscal expansion is, of course, not knowing what might have happened without it. Certainly, some economists are quick to attribute the end of recession in France and Germany in 2009 to such fiscal loosening. Indeed, it is difficult to argue that, for any country in the EU, economic growth and employment cannot be beneficial to some extent at a time when business and consumer confidence are both at a low level.

Whether such a policy eventually causes inflation to make an unwelcome return remains to be seen. At that point, EU members may experience a greater urgency to balance budgets and reduce monetary expansion.

Source: various sources, 2010

16.

The deficit on the UK balance of trade in goods and services rose from £26 billion in 2003 to £44 billion in 2008.

Evaluate government policies which might bring about a reduction in the UK deficit on the balance of trade in goods and services.

[25 marks]

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

Extract B: Living standards

Economists can generally agree on the causes of economic growth such as investment, innovation and improvements in productivity. There is greater disagreement over the consequences. An important part of the debate is the impact of economic growth on living standards. The debate has become more complex as measurement of living standards has taken on greater sophistication. GDP per capita (income per head) remains one of the basic measures.

Supporters of continued economic growth point to increased consumption possibilities, greater welfare, more support for the disadvantaged and more resources for health, education and infrastructure.

Opponents of unlimited economic growth point to the rapid depletion of exhaustible natural resources and environmental deterioration. The Copenhagen Summit of December 2009 brought the latter issue into sharp focus once again.

Various indices, such as the Human Development Index, incorporate a number of factors into their calculations in order to give as comprehensive a view of living standards as possible and to allow more accurate international comparisons. Factors include life expectancy, infant mortality and nutritional levels.

The Legatum Institute publishes a global survey annually, popularly known as a 'prosperity index'. It brings together data on, for example, economic growth, welfare, happiness, crime and healthcare. This data is then used to rank countries.

The 2009 index ranked 104 countries. The UK was placed 12th (its best position for three years). Low scores for key public services kept it out of the top ten. All African countries were in the bottom half of the index.

However, the continent of Africa is undergoing economic change. The World Bank points to a rapid transformation in some countries. Mozambique has seen annual average growth of 8% in the last decade, Kenya has emerged as a major global supplier of cut flowers and Rwanda is developing tourism very successfully. While Lesotho is developing its clothing industry, Ethiopia is starting to manufacture footwear. Can we look to Africa for the next wave of 'emerging economies', to follow India and China? In 2009, Africa as a whole had the world's third highest rate of growth behind India and China. Africa's role as a major supplier of raw materials to China also illustrates its increasing economic links with the rest of the world.

As a result of this economic change, living standards in Africa will no doubt improve. Additionally, the living standards of developed countries, including the UK, will be affected by economic growth in Africa. Export markets for both goods and services will strengthen, as will investment opportunities, and natural resources will become more accessible.

But how long before the UK faces stiff competition from Africa in agriculture, manufacturing and service activities? No one can accurately predict the impact on the UK economy but the careful monitoring of developments in Africa will become increasingly necessary.

Source: various sources, 2010

18.

In 2009, the World Bank described the Chinese economy as a “relative bright spot in an otherwise gloomy global economy” (**The Global Context Extract B**, lines 34-35).

Using the data and your economic knowledge, assess the consequences for the UK economy of China’s continued economic growth during a global recession.

[25 marks]

19.

The deficit on the UK balance of trade in goods and services rose from £26 billion in 2003 to £44 billion in 2008.

Explain the main factors which might help determine the volume of UK exports and imports.

[15 marks]

20.

‘Oil, as a form of energy, reigns supreme but it has brought significant problems to economies in terms of inflation in particular, and the potential for economic instability in general.’

Discuss how rising oil prices might affect the macroeconomic performance of an economy.

[25 marks]

21.

‘While it is necessary to have macroeconomic policy objectives, such as price stability and full employment, they can sometimes prove difficult to reconcile.’

Explain the various macroeconomic policy objectives **and** their importance to an economy.

[15 marks]

Extract D: Is European Union (EU) unity threatened?

In March 2009, the Hungarian Government asked Germany for €190 billion to prevent what it saw as a new economic 'Iron Curtain' from going up across Europe. The term 'Iron Curtain' was intended to remind Europeans of the Soviet-era divide between the poorer Communist East and the more prosperous, free, democratic West. Hungary argued that, without such help, the contrast between the richer and poorer members of the EU would only widen further. Germany's refusal of Hungary's request symbolised, for many, the deepening divide between the EU's richer and poorer members.

The contrast in fortunes is seen by newer members of the EU, such as Latvia, Lithuania and Hungary, as one which can only worsen during the recession and which may threaten the EU's existence in the long term. On the other hand, some people in the more-established members of the EU, such as the UK and France, have become increasingly disillusioned with the EU and especially with the level of assistance now expected from these more-established members by the newer members.

At the Brussels Summit of March 2009, the Czech Prime Minister warned of 'the greatest crisis in the history of European integration'. Gordon Brown, for the UK, spoke of the need for unity and common policies. The Single European Market, for example, is seen as an evolving policy which can foster prosperity for all and bring closer integration.

Cyclical unemployment is now widespread, however, and has been growing faster in the Eastern members of the EU than in those of the West. This could increase tensions between Eastern and Western members of the EU. The impact of cyclical unemployment on both individuals and whole economies can be serious, as incomes and output fall and welfare-dependency becomes more widespread.

Nevertheless, it would be wrong to argue that the wealthier members of the EU have been totally immune to the problem. The Netherlands, the worst affected Western member, experienced a 34% rise in unemployment between January 2008 and March 2009. There was a much greater rise in Latvia and Lithuania, both in the East.

During a recession, questions are likely to be asked about the future of the EU as policy disagreements emerge. Supporters claim that the EU is a force for good and needs to be strengthened, rather than weakened or abandoned. In this way, it is argued, East-West tensions can be kept at bay.

Such supporters feel that an enlarged EU, with open markets based on the Single European Market policy, helps spread benefits of membership across the whole organisation and offers the best chance of rapid recovery. In the UK, however, many see openness as a threat to jobs and to living standards.

In the current climate, it has also been argued that a more ambitious set of common macroeconomic policies would help speed recovery in the EU. Fiscal and supply-side policies come into this category, as well as monetary policy, even though only 16 members of the 27-member EU have adopted the euro. Even so, limited agreement on monetary policy, such as interest rates, could be of benefit.

The UK has not had the leading role in EU recovery policies that it has had globally, but it has shown a willingness to play its part in fostering unity and economic revival so that Europe can make a vital contribution to international recovery. Talk of disunity and the break-up of the EU can only cause instability and hinder economic recovery. This is something that members can ill-afford, particularly the UK. Growth, jobs and stable prices are desperately needed.

Source: various sources

23.

'Oil, as a form of energy, reigns supreme but it has brought significant problems to economies in terms of inflation in particular, and the potential for economic instability in general.'

Explain the main causes of inflation.

[15 marks]

24.

The European Union Context Extract D (lines 35-36) argues that 'a more ambitious set of common macroeconomic policies would help speed recovery in the EU'.

Using the data and your economic knowledge, assess the impact on the UK economy of a recovery in the EU as a whole.

[25 marks]

25.

The European Union Context Extract D (lines 18-20) suggests that cyclical unemployment 'is now widespread' and that this 'could increase tensions between Eastern and Western members of the EU'.

Explain the term 'cyclical unemployment' **and** analyse **two** effects of cyclical unemployment.

[9 marks]

1.

The issues identified below are intended to provide an indication of some of the areas which might be discussed. Candidates can only be expected to consider a few of these and / or other issues in the time available.

Issues and areas for discussion include:

Introduction:	• macroeconomic objectives in contrast to microeconomic • the meaning of conflicts between macroeconomic policy objectives • how objectives might be ranked in order of importance by any one government
Developing a response to the question:	• examples of potential conflict, eg ◦ economic growth and price stability ◦ full employment and price stability ◦ demand-led growth and the balance of payments on current account ◦ attempted corrections to the balance of payments deficit on current account and economic growth and / or employment • the differing impact of expenditure-switching and expenditure-dampening policies • supply-side policies
Evaluation:	• some ways of trying to reconcile conflict may not be politically expedient, eg increasing unemployment in order to control inflation • government may attempt to reconcile conflict through fine-tuning which does not have a good track record • conflict can be short term, supply-side remedies long term • limiting growth in order to stabilise prices might harm material living standards • supply-side improvements may be made, eg productivity, but may not bring a reduction of conflict if other countries have seen improvements to a greater extent, eg economic growth increases the flow of imports. An export drive to balance this may be unsuccessful if our productivity improvement is outpaced by that in other countries. • the rate of inflation may be controlled but inflation may still be higher than in the economies of our trading partners, perhaps limiting the desired improvement to the current account (inflation having caused a deterioration) • the policy constraints for members of the eurozone which won't apply to those members of the EU, including the UK, who have not adopted the euro
Also give credit for:	• relevant use of evidence and examples from the UK / other economies

- | | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• diagrams |
|--|--|

[25]

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• protectionism v free trade • the UK balance of payments on current account • the work of GATT/WTO • the Doha Round of talks • types of protectionism
Developing the response to the question:	• an overview of UK exports/imports; manufactures v services • competitiveness of exports, e.g. productivity trends, innovation, design, other non-price factors which might compensate for increased protectionism or mean that we are at a greater disadvantage if these factors remain weak • the potential significance of the exchange rate • supply and demand elasticity conditions as far as exports and imports are concerned • the danger of further deindustrialisation and the consequent impact on the balance of payments on current account • the potential significance of the EU trade bloc and whether even more of our trade is with the EU as protectionism elsewhere increases • account in the context of impediments to trade of various kinds • any other valid issue
Evaluation	• the impact on the balance of payments may depend on the extent of the increased protectionist policies • the impact may depend on the level of protectionism which existed before the further increase in trade barriers • the degree of impact may depend on the flexibility of the supply-side of the UK economy to take appropriate action given the specific nature of increased protectionism • the economic conditions in which the strengthening takes place around the world will be significant • given that the UK may be part of the process of strengthening, it will have to consider the impact on import flows compared to the impact on export performance • of some importance will be the particular elasticity conditions for exports and imports • the different parts of the current account might be affected in different ways <i>Examiners should note that it may be possible to award some marks for basic evaluation such as a consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of protectionism. However, this must be considered as</i>

	<i>low-level evaluation and awarded accordingly.</i>
Also give credit for:	• relevant use of evidence and examples from other economies • diagrams • an overall judgement on the issues raised

[25]

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• government borrowing put into its fiscal context • the basic functions of government borrowing, e.g. to finance spending in a way that negates the need to raise taxes or to help supplement the revenue from tax as tax rates are raised • the recent UK experience and/or that of other countries • the significance of the Budget and Pre-Budget reports in the UK
Developing the response to the question:	• an outline of the criteria for assessing concern • the potential impact on inflation/deflation • economic growth • employment • cyclical reasons for borrowing, perhaps argued as essential in the circumstances • business and consumer confidence • the exchange rate • interest rates • the impact on the private sector, e.g. complacency • 'crowding-out' • the potential difficulty of financing a large borrowing requirement • the possible impact on the money supply • the potential impact on future tax-payers • any other valid issue
Evaluation	• the level of concern/acceptability of borrowing may depend on the economic circumstances at the time • concern may depend on the actual level of borrowing • assessment may be coloured by the decisions made by other countries • borrowing needs to be related to the National Debt to help any assessment • the uses to which the borrowed money is put • whether borrowing creates a necessity to raise taxes in the future or to cut spending • whether it breaks any fiscal rules and, in turn, whether this is seen as important (up to mid-2008 the UK Code for Fiscal Stability and the on-going EU Stability and Growth Pact) <i>Examiners should note that it may be possible to award some marks for basic evaluation such as a consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of increased spending which has led to the need to</i>

	<i>borrow more. However, this must be considered as low-level evaluation and awarded accordingly.</i>
Also give credit for:	• relevant use of evidence and examples from other economies • diagrams • an overall judgement on the issues raised

[25]

4.

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• explanation of globalisation • how benefit can be measured • macroeconomic performance criteria
Developing the response to the question:	• economic growth • employment/unemployment • inflation/price stability/deflation • trade flows • investment flows • balance of payments • competitiveness • any other valid issue
Evaluation	• not knowing what might have happened to the UK economy had globalisation not become so evident • the assessment may depend on the view taken of how significant or essential globalisation has been in bringing about various domestic supply-side reforms • whether cyclical factors have sometimes prevented the UK from obtaining the full benefit of globalisation <i>Examiners should note that it may be possible to award some marks for basic evaluation such as a consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of globalisation. However, this must be considered as low-level evaluation and awarded accordingly.</i>
Also give credit for:	• relevant use of evidence and examples not contained in the data • diagrams • an overall judgement on the issues raised

[25]

- define government expenditure;
- place expenditure into the context of the Budget and hence taxation;
- explain the difference between 'level' and 'distribution' of government expenditure

explain reasons for changes in the level of expenditure, e.g.

- cyclical: in a recession, for example, welfare spending will automatically increase as more of the population become eligible, but government may also decide to spend more over and above this in order to minimise the recession and initiate a multiplier effect through capital project schemes
- new decisions made over the provision of merit goods
- new decisions made over the provision of public goods
- to influence the distribution of income
- changed priorities regarding the drive to reduce poverty and the general standard of living of the population
- to underpin key sectors of the economy, e.g. financial services, the car industry
- changing taxation revenue allows an increase in, or makes it necessary to reduce, government spending
- changing views on government borrowing to finance spending plans

explain reasons for changes in the distribution of government expenditure, e.g.

- changing economic circumstances, brought about by changing domestic or international conditions, which in addition to changing the level of spending, may cause governments to have to re-distribute spending, e.g. reducing defence spending in order to give more support to domestic sectors of the economy, e.g. banks or postponing capital projects in order to increase welfare payments
- the changed priorities of a new government compared to the previous government or a long-standing existing government trying to breathe new life into itself, e.g. action on poverty might cause less spending on transport
- demand-determined items of expenditure (perhaps reference to a cyclical/structural distinction)
- the impact of an ageing population
- changing levels of concern internationally over environmental issues forces the UK government to commit more spending to the problem which could reduce, for example, the government financial support for the arts/culture etc
- public or private sector investigations and reports highlight failings in key parts of the public sector, notably education and the NHS, and these are therefore given priority in spending over defence, for example
- the topical issue of interest payments on the National Debt

Reward references to the UK/other economies

It should be possible for an A-Level student to disaggregate government spending and address the issue of distribution, rather than just consider the level of spending.

6.

- define imports;
- relate import performance to export performance, perhaps with an invisible/visible reference;
- explain imports in the context of the balance of payments on current account, perhaps referring to imports explicitly as a debit item;
- put imports into the context of the circular flow of income

explain determinants of a country's demand for imports, eg

- income which allows consumers to demand more goods and services, assuming disposable income also increases with gross income. Some will be purchased from overseas sources, given that UK consumers traditionally display a high propensity to import. This may be for reasons such as consumer preference, as characteristics such as quality and after-sales service are seen to be stronger in imports or because the goods or services in question are no longer produced/supplied in the domestic economy.
- relative prices (terms of trade)
- protectionist policies
- cheaper credit helping to finance purchases
- deindustrialisation
- raw material, component and energy requirements
- the impact of the Single European Market
- exchange rate trends
- cyclical factors, e.g. recession
- a change in comparative advantage

Reward references to the UK economy

[15]

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• deflation v inflation • criteria for assessing the economic impact of deflation • the relevance of the issue to the last few years
Developing the response to the question:	• the shorter term benefits in terms of consumer demand for goods and services falling in price • competitiveness • impact on profits and hence possibly on investment and on sustainability of businesses • the impact on confidence, especially where deflation is a feature of a recession • economic growth • employment • trade flows and the impact on the balance of payments on current account • inward investment • UK experience • the potential impact on consumer demand • the impact on the real value of debt, important particularly in light of high UK home ownership • the impact on the exchange rate • any other valid issue
Evaluation	• whether or not deflation has set in worldwide or just nationally • the extent of the deflation • the duration of the deflation • the flexibility/resources the government/central bank has to deal with the problem • the extent of damage to consumer and business confidence • how much it impacts on profits • whether deflation causes consumers to keep delaying purchases hoping for even lower prices <i>Examiners should note that it may be possible to award some marks for basic evaluation such as a consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of deflation. However, this must be considered as low-level evaluation and awarded accordingly.</i>
Also give credit for:	• relevant use of evidence and examples from other economies • diagrams

- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an overall judgement on the issues raised |
|--|---|

[25]

8.

It is hoped that candidates will briefly explain the macroeconomic criteria by which consequences can be measured, before providing some discussion of the potential impact of appreciation and arriving at a final judgement.

The issues identified below are intended to provide an indication of some of the areas which might be discussed. Candidates can only be expected to consider a few of these and / or other issues in the time available.

Issues and areas for discussion include:

Introduction	• appreciation versus depreciation of currency • criteria for measuring macroeconomic consequences • exchange rate systems.
Developing the response to the question:	• the potential impact on economic growth as exports perhaps become more difficult to sell overseas • the possible stimulus to growth as imports of raw materials and energy become cheaper • the possible benefits to inflation as lower demand for exports reduces pressure on domestic production and resources and imports of goods and services are cheaper • the impact on employment as cheap imports threaten domestic production and hence jobs and as the overseas demand for exports falls away • the impact on a significant tourist industry in the economy concerned and hence on growth and jobs in an expanding sector of an increasingly service economy • the impact on the balance of payments on current account given relative changes in exports and imports of goods and services • the strong currency making inward investment less attractive, perhaps affecting growth and jobs.
Evaluation	• the extent of the rise in the exchange rate • the external value of the currency from which the rise begins to take place • the significance of the exchange rate factor compared to other influences on the macro-economy • whether or not exports have been an important, or sole, cause of growth for an economy • elasticity conditions for exports and imports • the period of time in which the appreciation lasts • the role of speculators in terminating the rise • the effectiveness / speed of a corrective market mechanism or a decision to 'dirty float'

	the state of the world economy as the appreciation takes place, eg might a prosperous world merely absorb higher prices arising from a country's exchange rate appreciation? <i>Examiners should note that it may be possible to award some marks for basic evaluation such as for a general account of the pros and cons of appreciation, but with minimal reference to the macro-economy. However, this must be considered as low-level evaluation and awarded accordingly.</i>
Also give credit for:	- reference to the UK / other economies - diagrams - an overall judgement on the issues raised

[25]

9.

It is hoped that candidates will be able to display a good knowledge of recent supply-side reforms (both government policy and private sector initiatives) and then be able to arrive at an informed judgement by relating the impact of them to demand-side initiatives.

The issues identified below are intended to provide an indication of some of the areas which might be discussed. Candidates can only be expected to consider a few of these and / or other issues in the time available.

Issues and areas for discussion include:

Introduction	• the economic cycle with particular reference to recession • the nature of supply-side reforms • brief reference to alternative policies for helping recovery • macroeconomic objectives.
Developing the response to the question:	• more detailed references to supply-side reforms such as welfare-to-work, mobility policies, training and education • the way in which supply-side reforms may help reduce conflict between macroeconomic objectives such as growth and inflation • supply-side reforms helping to achieve sustained growth • supply-side reforms and the UK experience • policies designed to influence aggregate demand (AD) • a balanced approach to managing the economy, for example, managing AD with the short / medium term in mind while developing supply-side reforms designed to have a long-term impact.
Evaluation	• consequences may all depend on the nature and scale of the reforms • is 'avoidance' wishful thinking when alleviation is probably a more realistic aspiration, especially when placed in an international context? • supply-side reforms can give an underlying strength to an economy which might help avoid recessions • the net effect may be small if Africa compensates for the decline of other UK markets (temporary or permanent) • global recession which impacts on any one economy may require an immediate (perhaps Keynesian) response on the demand side and continuing demand management policies • the limited immediate relevance of supply-side reforms whatever the economic shock suffered • the inability of markets to deal at all with serious shocks to the macro-economy even where there have been supply-side reforms • such a response may also be seen as most appropriate even if a downturn is peculiar to one economy

	• the benefits of supply-side reforms becoming apparent in a global recession when other economies begin to recover • a strong impetus for supply-side reforms may only appear because of a recession rather than as a consequence of recession (and so the changes in the economic cycle come first) • the prospect that supply-side reforms can help sustain periods of high economic growth and prevent any downturn, e.g. they help avoid or control inflation as an economy grows. • it should not always be assumed that recessions have no benefits, eg providing an impetus to efficiency drives and structural reform, and supply-side reforms may ease this process • the value of comparing interventionist versus free-market supply-side measures. <i>Examiners should note that it may be possible to award some marks for basic evaluation such as for a general account of the pros and cons of supply-side reforms, but with no attempt to place them into the context of the question or to prioritise them explicitly. This must be considered as low-level evaluation and awarded accordingly.</i>
Also give credit for:	• reference to the experiences of other economies • diagrams • an overall judgement on the issues raised

[25]

10.

It is anticipated that candidates will review the various consequences of both inflation and deflation, a review interspersed with evaluative comments, before arriving at a final judgement. Examiners should reward well informed, relevant discussion and conclusion.

The issues identified below are intended to provide an indication of some of the areas which might be discussed. Candidates can only be expected to consider a few of these and / or other issues in the time available.

Issues and areas for discussion include:

Introduction	• the concept of price stability / price instability • definitions of inflation and deflation • the UK experience of recent years • the UK Government's setting of an inflation target • price stability as a desired objective and its relationship with other macroeconomic objectives.
Developing the response to the question:	• inflation damaging competitiveness with a potential impact on the balance of payments on current account • anti-inflation policies which are potentially harmful to the economy • the impact on business and household confidence • the impact on real income and hence real spending power • the ultimate damage to economic growth and jobs • deflation as being far less common than inflation in many economies • the impact on real incomes and real purchasing power • the dangers of consumer postponement of purchases hoping that prices will fall further • the impact on profits • the impact of lower profits and lower business confidence on investment • the potential benefits of reflationary policies • the benefits of falling prices to competitiveness • the possible harm done to growth and jobs • the impact on creditors / debtors • whether one is more / less anticipated than the other
Evaluation	• the extent of the problem, i.e. how significant the rate of inflation or deflation is • the length of time in which prices rise or fall • the potential benefits of mild inflation which might not be said of mild deflation

	• the relative ease / difficulty of executing, and making effective, policies to deal with either of the problems • the simultaneous experience of other countries • whichever problem prevails, the danger of the authorities overshooting targets, eg. quantitative easing and low interest rates bringing too much reflation and hence more inflation • the difficulty of making a judgement without more detailed information on an actual occurrence and the events surrounding it • both inflation and deflation have redistributive effects and it is impossible to predict which might be the more beneficial • a realistic conclusion is that, whatever the relative impact, neither may be desirable and the authorities should be aiming for a period of sustained price stability <i>Examiners should note that it may be possible to award some marks for basic evaluation such as for a general account of the pros and cons of inflation and / or deflation, but with no attempt to place them into the context of the question or to prioritise them explicitly. This must be considered as low-level evaluation and awarded accordingly.</i>
Also give credit for:	• reference to the experiences of other economies • diagrams • an overall judgement on the issues raised

[25]

11.

Define / explain economic growth and / or recession, perhaps with reference to GDP, criteria for identifying parts of the economic cycle, the UK experience of recent years

Explain possible reasons, eg

- an economic shock such as higher oil prices. Higher oil prices may then impact on inflation since oil can be a significant cost of production and can adversely affect households' cost-of-living. Anti-inflation policy may need to be used such as higher interest rates but such a response, especially if too severe, might slow the economy too much. This and the declining confidence of households and businesses may bring about a downturn and eventual recession
- other external economic shocks, such as the global banking crisis or recession amongst our major trading partners for whatever reason
- deterioration in domestic leading sectors such as construction and the car industry
- high levels of demand domestically causing demand-pull inflation and remedial action by the authorities follows which inadvertently plunges the economy into recession
- government failure to take remedial action quickly enough or the wrong type of action or inadequate action as the macroeconomy deteriorates for whatever reason
- a slump in private sector investment with no compensatory activity in the public sector
- any other valid point.

Make use of diagrams in the analysis.

[15]

12.

The issues identified below are intended to provide an indication of some of the areas which might be discussed. Candidates can only be expected to consider a few of these and / or other issues in the time available.

Issues and areas for discussion include:

Introduction	• sustained economic growth • living standards • reference to general living standards in the UK • criteria on which judgements are to be made.
Developing the response to the question: Application	• line 5 GDP per capita as a basic measure of living standards; higher growth may lead to higher GDP per capita in the UK • lines 17-19 references to aspects of the quality of life, which may or may not benefit from economic growth • lines 29-31 Africa as a major supplier of raw materials which could facilitate UK economic growth and thus impact on living standards • lines 36-37 Africa as a potential competitor to the UK in the world economy with a possible adverse impact on UK growth and living standards • discussion of whether both can be pursued at once
Developing the response to the question: Analysis	• how UK manufacturing might benefit from African demand for manufactured goods and components and hence contribute to economic growth • the potential, eventual competition for UK manufacturing and a consequent adverse impact on growth • the potential benefits to UK financial services helping African development, providing further stimulus to this traditionally successful growth sector • investment opportunities opening up in Africa • greater accessibility to African raw materials and energy supplies, helping to facilitate UK economic growth • benefits to other UK services, e.g. tourism • an assessment of the net effects on UK economic growth and therefore on living standards • the impact on employment, the more successful and competitive Africa becomes, and hence on average incomes • the possible adverse impact on manufacturing regions of the UK, while more service based regions may benefit, so adversely affecting disposable income in the former • the overall impact on income per head depending on the UK response to developments in Africa • the impact on UK living standards if African development begins to

	allow successful encroachment on other UK markets • growth and the quality of life, allowing a widening out of the discussion on living standards.
Evaluation	• a comparison of short run and long run effects • the economic changes in Africa may be so gradual and piece-meal as to have little measurable impact on the UK • however, countries such as Mozambique growing rapidly in the last decade, albeit from lowly positions, may bring pressure to the developed world sooner than was originally thought • the net effect may be small if Africa compensates for the decline of other UK markets (temporary or permanent) • the potential benefits of African expansion in the context of UK recession, opening up markets which had not been envisaged just a few years earlier • the difficulty of making generalisations, eg parts of Africa providing new sources of energy and raw materials to help UK growth while others begin to present competition for UK manufacturing • the possibility of having to avoid generalisations because of the diverse character of the continent, so that comments on the potential impact on the UK economy and its living standards are only pertinent to individual economies; stark contrasts between various parts of Africa are likely to persist • the possibility of complementarity, eg African expansion of secondary activities requiring and stimulating the UK tertiary sector. • the environmental impact and the increasing demand on resources arising from growth in Africa, possibly impacting on the UK, eg higher oil prices. <i>Examiners should note that it may be possible to award some marks for basic evaluation such as for a general account of the pros and cons of growth in the context of living standards, with no attempt to place it into the context of the UK / Africa and with only limited reference to living standards. However, this must be considered as low-level evaluation and awarded accordingly. Marginally more credit could be given to this type of evaluation if placed in the context of the countries concerned.</i>
Also give credit for:	• relevant use of evidence and examples not contained in the data • diagrams • an overall judgement on the issues raised

[25]

13.

It is hoped that candidates will place the answer firmly into the context of the EU and not simply base the answer on the impact of the UK borrowing requirement, so that any final judgement is sufficiently comprehensive and relevant.

The issues identified below are intended to provide an indication of some of the areas which might be discussed. Candidates can only be expected to consider a few of these and / or other issues in the time available.

Issues and areas for discussion include:

Introduction	• government borrowing • budget deficit • PSNCR as one technical measure • the EU fiscal position as a whole • the Stability and Growth Pact • proposals for some regulation of fiscal policy independent of government • criteria for measuring the impact.
Developing the response to the question: Application	• line 3 reference to Keynesian economics and tolerance of deficits because of the benefits they can bring • lines 21-22 reference to the multiplier process and aggregate demand • lines 28-29 the potential impact of borrowing on interest rates and (line 40) on inflation • lines 36-39 EU fiscal stimulus counterbalancing any loss of business and consumer confidence
Developing the response to the question: Analysis	• the reasons behind the increased borrowing • the benefits of government spending • the benefits of tax cuts • the potential impact of increased borrowing on interest rates within the EU and whether greater differences emerge between interest rates in the euro area members of the EU and non-euro members of the EU • the dangers of 'crowding-out' of private sector activity amongst member countries • the uncertainty that increasing borrowing can create for households and businesses • the potential impact on the nation's international credit rating and hence on its ability to borrow in the future on favourable terms • the possibility of seeking help from, for example, the IMF and the impact of this • the economic pain associated with eventual remedial measures

	such as spending cuts and tax increases • the impact on the UK if EU fiscal expansion generally provides a stimulus to the UK economy • the impact on the value of the euro and the implications of this for the external value of the pound • any problems which emerge may become EU-wide problems making recovery even harder to achieve • measuring the impact in terms of growth, jobs and prices.
Evaluation	• the relevance of the scale of borrowing • assessment in terms of the net impact, eg do the benefits clearly outweigh any problems? • the economic context in which the borrowing is taking place, eg recession or recovery • whether the fiscal policy is accompanied by monetary expansion and the possible impact of this combination of expansionary policy • the perceived costs associated with fiscal balance or surplus • the speed with which borrowing can be reduced • the confidence that households and businesses have in government efforts to stabilise the fiscal position • whether the EU is at one with fiscal policy around the world or very much out on a limb. <i>Examiners should note that it may be possible to award some marks for basic evaluation such as for a general account of the pros and cons of borrowing, or of higher public spending and / or higher taxation, but with no attempt to place it into the context of the UK and the EU. However, this must be considered as low-level evaluation and awarded accordingly. If these pros and cons are put into the context of the UK and EU, perhaps with an explicit attempt to prioritise, greater credit can be given.</i>
Also give credit for:	• relevant use of evidence and examples not contained in the data • diagrams • an overall judgement on the issues raised

[25]

14.

For candidates who:

Explain

- by first defining the multiplier, eg the amount by which an increase in injections into the circular flow of money will increase total income in the economy
- by referring to the various injections into the circular flow and perhaps providing the contrast with leakages or withdrawals
- by providing a formula or formulae
- the process by relating the multiplier to aggregate demand, GDP etc.

Analyse the impact on unemployment, eg:

- the multiplier may be initiated by an increase in government capital expenditure, eg on road building. This not only creates jobs in the road-building sector but, as these workers begin to spend their income, jobs are also created in other sectors and so unemployment in the economy can be reduced
- exports and job creation
- private sector investment and job creation
- income changes across the economy.

Analyse the impact on economic growth, eg:

- if the multiplier serves its purpose and stimulates AD, by increasing incomes and household consumption, this will stimulate domestic production to some extent and this will cause a rise in actual growth as measured by GDP
- the impact of an investment-induced multiplier on AD and on productive capacity, and hence potential growth
- the impact of an export-led multiplier on AD with the potential for supply-side benefits also
- to the extent that the multiplier process may help sustain AD, it will make it less likely that capacity will be 'destroyed', eg plant being scrapped, and this may have beneficial consequences for future economic growth.

Reward references to the UK / other economies

[9]

16.

The issues identified below are intended to provide an indication of some of the areas which might be discussed. Candidates can only be expected to consider a few of these and/or other issues in the time available.

Issues and areas for discussion include:

Introduction:	- the balance of trade in goods and services - the balance of payments accounts - surplus/deficit.
Developing a response to the question:	- supply-side policies - exchange rate manipulation - protectionist policies - controlling aggregate demand in order to constrain import growth and release more output to the export sector - adoption of an export-led growth strategy - control of inflation if this is perceived to be the cause of the problem - expenditure-switching policies compared to expenditure-dampening policies.
Evaluation:	- the need to distinguish between those policies which offer a possible short-term improvement and those which offer a potential cure for the problem in the long term (e.g. a reference to expenditure-dampening v expenditure switching). - the need to distinguish policies which can be regarded as realistic in the current climate, e.g. supply-side policies, from those which might be politically unacceptable, e.g. protectionism - some policies may not bring immediate improvement, eg the long-term nature of supply-side policies; exchange rate manipulation and the J-curve effect - there may be less significance attached to the deficit if it is seen as part-and-parcel of a maturing economy which, although successful in the trade in services, has lost much of its industrial base, thus needing to import more finished goods - the underlying issue of whether or not a deficit really matters if it does not impede economic growth and job creation and does not damage investor and business confidence.
Also give credit for:	relevant use of evidence and examples from the UK / other economies

[25]

18.

It is hoped that candidates will clarify the criteria by which consequences can be measured and then relate China's growth to the performance of the UK economy in an evaluative way.

The issues identified below are intended to provide an indication of some of the areas which might be discussed. Candidates can only be expected to consider a few of these and / or other issues in the time available.

Issues and areas for discussion include:

Introduction:	• recession • economic growth • criteria for assessing consequences
Developing a response to the question:	• reference to the growth performance of the Chinese economy • reference to the problems of the UK economy • why continued growth of a major economy may be important to another country in recession • economic growth • the balance of payments • employment / unemployment • investment flows • inflation • China's growth perhaps causing inflation exacerbated by the UK pursuing a potentially inflationary policy of quantitative easing and fiscal expansion • the impact on the UK of China taking increasing control over world resources by its investment • China's contribution to the IMF which might ultimately be of benefit to the UK • impact on the exchange rate.
Evaluation:	• the extent to which China wishes to share the 'proceeds' of growth with other countries by importing more goods • although the phrase 'global recession' is used it may be that some other UK markets are not faring too badly, so making China's contribution to UK economic performance less significant • the ability of the UK to maintain / increase market share in China • China is pushing ahead with export-led growth which may not be in the long-term interests of UK manufacturing • the extent to which the UK economy welcomes Chinese investment in its economy and whether China reciprocates. <i>Examiners should note that it may be possible to award some marks for basic evaluation such as for a general account of the pros and cons of growth and with no attempt to place it into the context of the UK/China.</i>

	<i>However, this must be considered as low-level evaluation and awarded accordingly.</i>
Also give credit for:	• relevant use of evidence and examples not contained in the data • diagrams

[25]

19.

For candidates who:

Define/explain

- exports/imports
- balance of trade in goods and services
- define / explain the term global investment, eg expenditure to generate future income; spending on capital equipment to increase output, perhaps to displace labour; human capital
- the balance of trade in goods and services in the context of the current account or the balance of payments as a whole
- the possible nature of a country's exports and imports given its own stage of development
- the UK may adopt a strategy of export-led growth. This may be because it is perceived as the most rapid way of achieving economic growth and/or because it feels itself to be very competitive in world markets. It may recognise that a good export performance will initiate a multiplier effect which should benefit the economy beyond the export sector and that exports may well encourage supply-side improvements such as innovation and higher productivity to sustain good external performance
- favourable terms of trade (examiners note that this term is not included in the specification but candidates may well discuss relative export/import prices even if the term is not used)
- the need for imports of raw materials, energy and/or finished goods, e.g. because the UK has lost so much of its industrial base
- a sustained favourable exchange rate motivates an export drive
- absolute/comparative advantage, e.g. UK comparative advantage in financial services
- the impact on UK exports of overseas recession, especially the US and the EU as far as the UK is concerned
- exchange rate movements
- relative inflation rates
- relative rates of productivity (traditionally unfavourable for the UK) and impact on competitiveness
- the ability of the UK to impose protectionist policies

[15]

20.

The issues identified below are intended to provide an indication of some of the areas which might be discussed. Candidates can only be expected to consider a few of these and / or other issues in the time available.

Issues and areas for discussion include:

Introduction:	• reference to the quote in the question • the recent experience of rising oil prices • criteria for assessing macroeconomic performance
Developing a response to the question:	• the implications of this for the pattern of production • consequences for the balance of payments on current account • inflation • the impact of inflation on jobs • the impact of inflation on economic growth • rising oil prices and business and consumer confidence • implications for government revenue and expenditure • the impact on export performance
Evaluation:	• whether the oil price increases are simply building on past price increases or whether they represent a supply-side shock of which there has been little or no recent experience • whether or not petrol taxes are reduced to compensate for higher oil prices • mature economies having less dependency on oil • whether price increases are sustained over a long period of time • whether, as in the UK's case, an economy is also an oil exporter as well as an importer • whether rising economic growth and inflation-reducing forces are in evidence to dull the impact of rising oil prices
Also give credit for:	• relevant use of evidence and examples from the UK / other economies • diagrams

[25]

21.

Define the concept of macroeconomic policy objectives in terms of reference to the criteria by which macroeconomic performance is measured

Explain macroeconomic policy objectives, e.g.

- economic growth can be defined as increases in the productive capacity of an economy. Such increases will determine the long-run trend rate of growth and will shift the LRAS curve and the PPC to the right. Actual growth can be measured by GDP
- price stability
- full employment or low unemployment
- improving the performance of the balance of payments on current account
- exchange rate stability
- fiscal stability

Explain the importance of macroeconomic policy objectives to an economy, eg

- price stability and international competitiveness
- economic growth and living standards
- the balance of payments on current account
- the importance of reducing unemployment
- an essential requirement for efficient policy making
- they establish benchmarks against which the authorities, NGOs, economists, business can measure success / failure within the economy
- they allow policies to be formulated in good time if objectives seem increasingly unlikely to be met
- because of the inherent weaknesses there may be in an economy, it is vital to have objectives which give a sense of direction and which provide the prospect of being able to remedy those weaknesses
- if achieved, they create a stable economic climate for the private sector

[15]

23.

- inflation, with an explanation perhaps in terms of official UK measurement, how measurement is arrived at, recent experiences, other relevant factors

Explain causes of inflation, eg

included within **cost-push factors** could be:

- the rising cost of oil, which for many firms will be a significant cost of production. As oil costs rise, assuming no fall in other costs of the firm a decision has to be made that either profit margins be narrowed or prices of final output need to rise. One consideration will be the price elasticity of demand for the product in question, i.e. the more inelastic is demand, the more likely consumers will absorb any price increase
- wage costs
- supply-side weaknesses, eg low productivity
- imported inflation, perhaps via exchange rate depreciation

Included within **demand-pull factors** could be

- the demand-pull inflationary process
- the impact of monetary policy
- the impact of fiscal policy
- earnings growth

other factors could also be considered, eg

- expectations
- money supply / monetarist explanation

[15]

24.

The issues identified below are intended to provide an indication of some of the areas which might be discussed. Candidates can only be expected to consider a few of these and / or other issues in the time available.

Issues and areas for discussion include:

Introduction:	• common macroeconomic policies • economic recovery • the significance of the rest of the EU to the UK • the criteria by which the impact on the UK economy might be assessed.
Developing a response to the question:	• the implications for economic growth • the impact on employment / unemployment • the consequences for the balance of payments on current account • the effects on the £ / € exchange rate • the greater likelihood of avoiding a period of deflation • the dangers of inflationary pressures building up • the further development of the SEM in a period of recovery and increasing prosperity.
Evaluation:	• the possible significance of a slow recovery • the possible supply problems if recovery is too rapid • whether the UK can take advantage of EU recovery • whether the advantage lies more with the rest of the EU in terms of exporting to the UK than for the UK exporting to the rest of the EU • the significance of EU recovery for the UK relative to recovery taking place elsewhere in the world, i.e. in markets which have significance for the UK • whether or not recovery has implications for the movement of labour in and out of the UK and how this affects the UK labour market.
Also give credit for:	• relevant use of evidence and examples not contained in the data • diagrams

[25]

25.

Explanation:

- cyclical unemployment (perhaps also referred to by a candidate as demand-deficient unemployment) occurs when aggregate demand in the economy is insufficient to buy the output produced when all resources are fully employed; aggregate demand is not sufficient to allow all workers to work who wish to work at current wages
- cyclical unemployment in terms of a negative output gap
- cyclical unemployment by relating it to the economic cycle
- cyclical unemployment by contrasting it with other types of unemployment

Analysis:

- the likely official response to cyclical unemployment in that it is probable that government will attempt a fiscal boost of higher spending and tax cuts and the Bank of England may decide to cut interest rates. Through the multiplier process and the onset of cheap credit, AD will rise
- the impact on incomes and living standards
- the impact on output and thus GDP
- an increased willingness to take wage cuts / improve productivity in order to preserve jobs and the implications of this for business costs
- increased welfare dependency and the fiscal implications
- the economic consequences of EU disunity if some countries blame other members for suffering more from cyclical unemployment.

[9]

1.

Sustained economic growth can often benefit a country's living standards through higher income per head. In the UK from 2001 to 2007, the annual average growth in real income per head was +3%.

For 2008 and 2009, it was –3%.

Explain how supply-side factors might help to achieve sustained economic growth.

[15 marks]

2.

‘For a strong recovery there is a need to encourage spending, ideally by businesses but also by households in the short term.’

Discuss the importance of low interest rates in bringing about a recovery from recession in an economy such as the UK.

[25 marks]

3.

The Global Context Extract B (lines 29 –30) states that ‘the UK needs to have a strong economy to be able to respond successfully to all types of global event ...’.

Using the data and your economic knowledge, assess the significance to UK macroeconomic performance of major global events such as sports competitions, natural disasters and economic downturns.

[25 marks]

4.

The Global Context Extract B (lines 4-5) refers to global investment undertaken by China.

Explain the term ‘global investment’ **and** analyse **two** economic consequences for an economy receiving such investment.

[9 marks]

5.

‘UK government policy might not always be able to achieve fully all the macroeconomic objectives which are regarded as important.’

Evaluate the view that, in the long run, conflict between the major macroeconomic objectives can be avoided.

[25 marks]

Extract B: China: a bright spot in a gloomy world

China, despite its recent rapid growth, has not remained immune to the economic downturn as some economists had hoped. However, it remains an economy which is looking to the future with some optimism. It continues to invest in the production of raw materials and resources in other countries. The consequent increased global investment should give a much-needed boost to jobs and growth in countries benefiting from it. Despite this investment, growth in demand from China is likely to continue to push up world raw material prices in the long term.

Certainly, China has shown an increased recognition of the need to play its part in bringing about global recovery. For example, in a recent international agreement to boost the funds of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by \$500 billion, China has agreed to contribute \$40 billion, compared to the UK's \$15 billion. The IMF can now fulfil its promise of loans to such countries as Poland and Mexico, which should contribute to the greater global stability needed for recovery.

Nevertheless, China, fearing inflation, has expressed its concern about the policy of some leading central banks, including the Bank of England, of quantitative easing (increasing the money supply) in order to bring about economic revival by increasing aggregate demand. China also knows that its policy of holding down the external value of its currency in order to boost export-led growth is only likely to be successful if a global revival of demand is achieved. For example, China saw a 25% decline in exports in 2008. The depressed UK market will have contributed to this decline.

The other major world economies are keen to keep talking with China and win its approval for a host of measures to bring about recovery. They want to engage China in more long-term talks as well. These will include international financial reforms and environmental policies, especially as China's industrial growth continues to create negative externalities.

China has every reason to be optimistic about its future prospects. In June 2009, the *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development* (OECD) forecast growth for that year of 7.7% and 9.3% for 2010. To a country used to double-digit growth figures, this may seem like a recession. However, such figures are a far cry from the negative growth seen in many parts of the global economy, including the UK economy.

Nevertheless, the ongoing concern of the Chinese Government is reflected in the decision to give a \$565 billion fiscal stimulus to its economy in 2009. It is also considering protectionist policies, which may impact on those countries hoping to increase exports to China. For the World Bank, however, the Chinese economy remains a 'relative bright spot in an otherwise gloomy global economy' and countries such as the UK are keen to see China help pull the global economy out of recession.

China has reacted coolly to suggestions that a solution to the world's economic problems lies in the hands of two powers: itself and the US. Although the UK has played a leading role in international discussions on recovery, such an assertion may yet prove to have a ring of truth. What is certain is that co-operation is vital in ensuring that appropriate policies are followed to bring about a new era of sustained growth.

Source: various sources, 2009

7.

The European Union Context Extract D (lines 33 –34) argues that the ‘UK must not be blind to the potential problems of Turkey’s possible membership of the EU and must also be in a position to grasp the opportunities which are sure to appear’.

Using the data and your economic knowledge, assess the potential economic consequences for the UK if Turkey joined the EU.

[25 marks]

8.

THE EUROPEAN UNION CONTEXT

Extract D: Turkey – gateway to Asia

Turkey has been in talks since 2005 regarding possible membership of the European Union (EU). While further enlargement of the EU causes some concern, serious consideration needs to be given to Turkey. Its geographical position links Europe and Asia. Since Asia is currently driving world economic growth, Turkey can be an important strategic gateway to Asia for the EU.

The UK Government supports Turkey’s application for EU membership but questions still persist. If Turkey joins the EU, can the UK successfully take up the resulting trade and investment opportunities? Will the UK be overwhelmed by imports and cheap migrant labour? Will UK businesses be determined enough to grasp any opportunities?

Turkey has a population of 75 million, which is expected to rise to 100 million by 2020. The average age is just 27 and it has vast economic potential. Turkey’s GDP is ranked 18th in the world, and GDP per capita is £7163. Like the UK, there has been some negative growth in recent years but the economy recovered to achieve 11% growth in the first quarter of 2010. Between 2002 and 2007, Turkey’s annual average economic growth of 7% was far greater than that of the UK.

About 50% of Turkey’s exports are to Europe, with textiles being particularly important. Machinery and semi-manufactured goods are major imports. The UK does not yet rank alongside countries such as Germany, Italy, China and the US as important exporters to Turkey, but opportunities certainly exist.

Turkey has had a reputation for economic instability. Since 2005, for example, inflation has been between 5% and 12%. Unemployment has remained in double figures: 10% of the labour force in 2005 and 14% currently. However, Turkey now boasts a relatively modest budget deficit of between 4% and 5% of GDP.

Despite a degree of instability, Turkey is seen as an attractive centre for investment. For example, the country received £115 bn in foreign direct investment in 2009. However, Turkey’s infrastructure still leaves much to be desired.

UK businesses need to consider the potential economic opportunities. Lord Digby Jones, formerly of the *Confederation of British Industry* (CBI), points out that Turkey’s recent economic growth is from a low base. According to Lord Jones, “Whereas a little bit of growth in a prosperous country such as Germany does not make much difference, in a developing country such as Turkey millions of people get richer”. This is perhaps an exaggeration, especially in the short run, but a valid point is being made.

The UK must not be blind to the potential problems of Turkey’s possible membership of the EU and must also be in a position to grasp the opportunities which are sure to appear.

Source: news reports, 2010

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

Extract B: Winners and losers

The debate over the consequences of globalisation for individual countries continues. Inevitably, there will be benefits and costs, winners and losers. For example, whilst the UK has experienced deindustrialisation, its service sector has been successful in world markets.	1
As the debate continues, one aspect of globalisation cannot be disputed: that the greater integration of economies has meant that major events occurring in one part of the world will have an impact not just on the affected country or region but are now much more likely to have global significance.	5
Some events are known about well in advance of them actually happening. Major sports competitions are an example. In 2012, for instance, the UK will host the Olympic Games. Similarly, Russia and Qatar will host the football World Cup in 2018 and 2022 respectively. The economic impact of such events on host countries is likely to be positive. For other countries, the immediate impact is likely to be more limited. However, the UK and other economies could benefit if these events make the host countries more open to trade and investment in the long term.	10
Other events are far less predictable or are completely unpredictable. For example, how might the UK cope with a disruption to gas and oil supplies if relations with Russia deteriorate or political turbulence in the Middle East escalates? What path to recovery will the UK take following the devastating effects of the 2008 US financial crisis?	15
Generalisations about the economic impact of natural disasters are often unhelpful. Hurricane Katrina in 2006, which caused billions of dollars of damage in the New Orleans area of the USA, had minimal economic impact on the rest of the world. However, the Japanese earthquake and tsunami in 2011 are on a different scale. Japan accounts for 7% of world GDP. There are fears that the scale of the damage may lead to a return to recession in Japan, as fearful Japanese consumers spend less and save more. Global supply chains originating in Japan, such as car components supplied to the rest of the world, have been severely disrupted. The UK, as well as Japan's other trading partners, will struggle to maintain exports to the Japanese market until stability is restored.	20
Like any other country, the UK needs to have a strong economy to be able to respond successfully to all types of global event and to secure sustained economic growth. Important factors include high productivity, resource mobility, innovation, skilled labour, a strong infrastructure in its widest sense and general flexibility in the economy. The ability to make use of these supply-side qualities will, however, also depend on aggregate demand. The impact of major global events on UK aggregate demand will inevitably vary considerably, positively or negatively, with unknown consequences for macroeconomic performance.	25
	30
	35

Source: news reports, 2010/11

Using **The Global Context Extract A**, calculate to one decimal place the % change in the average unemployment forecast in February 2010 compared with December 2010 **and** identify **one** significant point of comparison between the forecasts for unemployment and GDP growth over the period shown.

[2 marks]

11.

The global economic slowdown in recent years saw UK unemployment, as measured by the claimant count, rise from 870 000 in 2004 to 1.5 million in 2009.

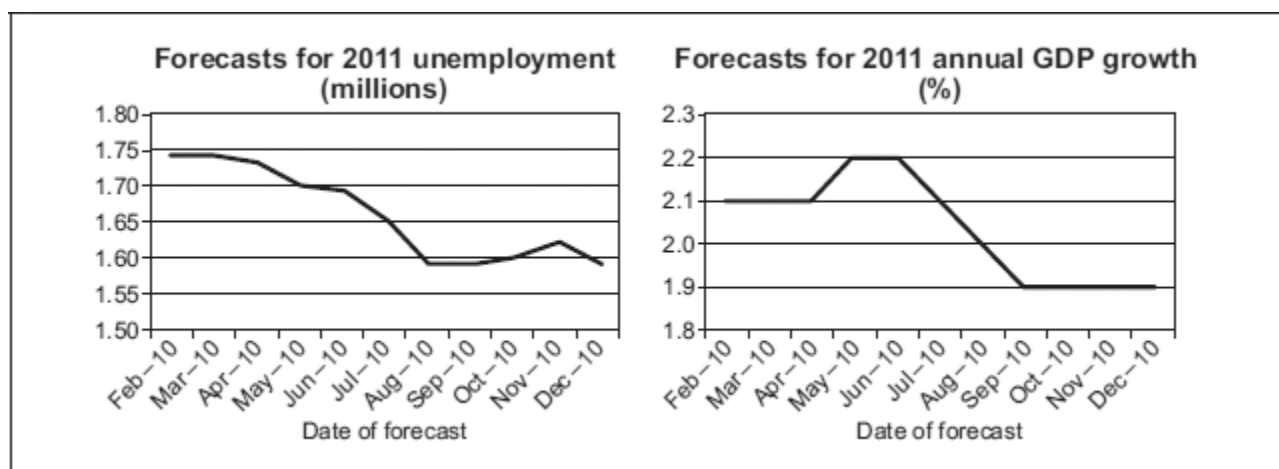
As unemployment rises, explain **two** possible economic problems which might affect individuals in the UK **and two** possible economic problems which might affect the UK economy as a whole.

[15 marks]

12.

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

Extract A: Monthly average of forecasts made in 2010 for 2011 UK unemployment and 2011 UK annual GDP growth*



* The data show the average of forecasts for 2011 made each month in 2010. For example, the figure for unemployment of 1.7 million for June 2010 is the average of all the forecasts made in that month (June 2010) for unemployment in 2011. The figure for annual GDP growth of 1.9% for September 2010 is the average of all the forecasts made in that month (September 2010) for the annual rate of growth of GDP in 2011.

Source: official statistics, accessed on 6 January 2011

13.

The European Union Context Extract D (lines 16–18) suggests that France and Germany would like the EU to have ‘the power to impose an EU-wide fiscal policy on all member states and not just the eurozone’.

Using the data and your economic knowledge, assess the possible economic consequences for the UK economy of an EU-wide fiscal policy requiring all member states to balance their budgets.

[25 marks]

14.

Sustained economic growth can often benefit a country’s living standards through higher income per head. In the UK from 2001 to 2007, the annual average growth in real income per head was +3%.

For 2008 and 2009, it was –3%.

Discuss the view that the main reason for a country wanting to achieve sustained economic growth is to bring about an increase in private sector consumption.

[25 marks]

15.

UK exports of goods which, in 2002, were valued at £187 billion, had risen to £228 billion in 2009.
The deficit on the UK balance of trade in goods rose from £48 billion in 2002 to £82 billion in 2009.

Evaluate the view that an increasing deficit in UK trade in goods is a major problem for the UK economy.

[25 marks]

16.

The Global Context Extract B (lines 2–3) states that ‘India’s economic success could help to bring some relief to the UK economy and speed the recovery process through increased exports’.

Using the data and your economic knowledge, assess the importance to the UK economy of continued economic growth in India.

[25 marks]

17.

‘The avoidance of price deflation must always be the major macroeconomic objective.’

Evaluate the view that the avoidance of price deflation should always be the major macroeconomic objective.

[25 marks]

18.**THE EUROPEAN UNION CONTEXT****Extract D: The fiscal remedy for recession**

The recession of 2009 brought renewed interest amongst EU governments in a so-called Keynesian approach to spending their way out of recession. They were desperate to avoid a prolonged period of negative growth and the accompanying mass unemployment. 1

In the UK, as well as within the eurozone, fiscal rules were abandoned as the fight for economic recovery began. The Stability and Growth Pact of the eurozone, to which the UK had also adhered in an informal way before the recession, limited budget deficits to 3% of GDP and a nation's debt to 60% of GDP. Such constraints were often far exceeded and increasing concerns were being expressed. In May 2010, the new UK Government became a prominent voice within Europe for a reversal of fiscal policy, with public spending cuts and tax increases. 5 10

The UK Government's policy was given some support by the economic crisis unfolding in Greece, a member of the eurozone. The Greek Government needed to be 'bailed out' by fellow member states if it was not to default on its debts. It had a budget deficit of 14% of GDP and a national debt of 115% of GDP in 2009, a year when its GDP also fell by 2%.

There was concern in the EU that such a situation had been allowed to develop, with increasing calls for EU-wide controls. France and Germany were pressing for an EU institution such as the European Commission to provide such a role, with the power to impose an EU-wide fiscal policy on all member states and not just the eurozone. 15

The UK Government opposed any such powers over member countries. However, it had gone as far as to establish an Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), intended to keep the Government's tax and spending plans under control by providing a reality check on the state of the nation's finances. The OBR, however, does not have the powers that some were envisaging for the EU. 20

In a climate of greater stability in 2010, some still believed that an EU-wide fiscal policy needed to be a key part of the evolution towards a federal state. It cannot be denied that the best way forward must be that which delivers macroeconomic stability across the EU. Whether this comes about through member governments each developing a policy of fiscal responsibility or through a fiscal policy imposed by the EU on all member states remains open to debate. 25

Source: various sources, 2010

19.

The Global Context Extract B (line 10) suggests that 'there is often a trade-off' between inflation and economic growth.

Explain why there might be a trade-off between inflation and economic growth **and** analyse **one** cause of inflation.

[9 marks]

20.

The formation of single markets by countries in various parts of the world, including within Europe, has shown that much is to be gained from increased economic cooperation.

Evaluate the possible economic costs and benefits to an EU member state, such as the UK, of being part of the EU single market.

[25 marks]

Extract B: A passage to India

In July 2010, the UK Prime Minister led a Government delegation to India. The hope was that India's economic success could help to bring some relief to the UK economy and speed the recovery process through increased exports. 1

India's growth in 2010 is expected to be about 9%. Its GDP per capita is \$3100, although over 400 million Indians live below the international poverty line of \$1.25 per day. It has a labour force of almost 500 million but an official rate of unemployment of 11%. Quarterly sector growth is impressive: 1.8% in services, 2.2% in manufacturing and 1.7% in agriculture between January and March 2010. 5

For the Indian Government, inflation and economic growth are top of the agenda. Unfortunately, there is often a trade-off between these two macroeconomic indicators. Inflation jumped from 1.3% in October 2009 to almost 5% in November 2009. However, food inflation was 19%. As in other countries, rising oil costs are also amongst the causes of inflation for the Indian economy. 10

The UK Government still hopes to promote increased UK economic involvement in India. Certainly Indian business has become more involved in the UK. *Tata*, one of India's oldest companies, is now the UK's leading manufacturer through its ownership of *Corus Steel and Jaguar Land Rover*. India is now more likely to be creating jobs in the UK through direct investment rather than 'stealing' them, for example through call-centre activity relocated from the UK. UK business needs to rise to the challenges and opportunities presented in India. Companies such as *Vodafone* (telecommunications) and *BAE Systems* (defence and aerospace) are amongst the recent success stories and it is widely believed that India's increased demand for world-class services, for example financial and legal, can be met by the UK. 15 20

Infrastructure investment is urgent. Each year, about 40% of India's agricultural produce rots before arriving at market because of inadequate storage facilities and poor road and rail links. The Indian Government's plans to spend \$500bn between 2010 and 2013 on new ports, roads, rail links and airports will help to improve the situation. This investment is an export opportunity for UK firms specialising in infrastructure projects. The growth of the Indian economy will also help UK service exporters such as banking, education and health-care businesses. Currently, India accounts for only 1% of UK exports. 25 30

However, India remains fiercely protective, and investment and trade flows from the UK could remain limited. Progress will depend on whether a long-awaited EU-India trade deal becomes a reality and on the outcome of the *World Trade Organization's* global trade talks. Many argue that India can only benefit from increased international trade.

The UK Government said at the time of the Prime Minister's July 2010 visit to India that the UK had a vital stake in India's rise to becoming a global power and in its future prosperity. At the same time, a view was also expressed that the UK needs India much more than India needs the UK. It is hoped that all aspects of the UK's macroeconomy can eventually benefit as India develops further. 35

Source: news reports, 2010

22.

Weaknesses in the UK balance of trade in goods persist, with a deficit of £27.6 bn in the third quarter of 2011, compared, for example, to £23.3 bn in the same quarter in 2010.

Discuss the possible contribution of supply-side reforms to achieving an improvement in the UK balance of trade in goods.

[25 marks]

23.

In November 2011, the UK inflation rate was 4.8%, the rate of unemployment was 8.3%, while Bank Rate remained at 0.5%.

To what extent are low interest rates appropriate in the UK at a time of high inflation?

[25 marks]

24.

The European Union Context Extract D (lines 39–41) argues that the ‘best hope for stronger UK economic growth must therefore surely rest with the EU, but this requires the eurozone to be stabilised and macroeconomic conditions to improve throughout the EU’.

To what extent would you agree that the EU is likely to offer the ‘best hope for stronger UK economic growth’ over the next few years? Justify your answer, using the data and your economic knowledge.

[25 marks]

25.

The European Union Context Extract D (line 18) states: ‘Overall, the fears of a double-dip recession still loom large.’

Explain the phrase ‘double-dip recession’ **and** analyse **two** possible reasons for unemployment rising in a recession.

[9 marks]

Extract D: Economic growth or a double-dip recession?

In the third quarter of 2011, UK real GDP rose by 0.6%. Within this, manufacturing output increased by just 0.1%, while services such as banking and finance showed a 0.7% increase. Unemployment was around 8% of the labour force.	1
Such weak growth figures are a reflection of the economic situation within the European Union (EU) as a whole. The likelihood is that the next few years for the UK economy will be bleak. This pessimism is shared by other EU countries.	5
Prospects do not look good for the EU economy as a whole but, of course, the detailed picture varies between member countries. There has been a general deterioration in confidence. Intense financial turmoil in money and capital markets is affecting both investment and consumption. Deficit-reduction programmes are also suppressing domestic demand. Weaknesses in the global economy are holding back UK and EU exports. In mid-2011, the hope had been expressed by some economists that exports would be a major driver of economic growth, but such optimism proved groundless.	10
Attention has again turned to domestic demand within the EU. The projected decrease in inflation in the UK and in other member countries, coupled with limited wage growth, should at least limit any further significant erosion of real disposable income. However, there is continuing concern over the level of household debt which may yet constrain demand. Overall, the fears of a double-dip recession still loom large.	15
Within the UK, there is a debate over the relative importance of the various potential sources of growth in the next few years. There is a view that tightening of fiscal policy in the UK, together with similar policies in other EU countries, is damaging consumer demand and business confidence unnecessarily. The UK think-tank, the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), argues for changes to be made to UK fiscal policy, and supports more severe spending cuts only when the economy improves.	20
The Institute therefore points to three possible solutions to the problem of slow UK and EU growth. These are: increases in government spending; substantial increases in global demand; and households and firms being given stronger incentives to spend more, for example through tax cuts. While growth in demand is seen as an important determinant of economic growth over the next few years, elements of government spending and incentives to business can make important contributions to the strengthening of the supply side of the economy.	25 30
None of the solutions offered by the IPPR seems likely to occur at the moment. The UK Government appears to be determined to maintain its tight fiscal policy, arguing that it is the only basis for sustained long-term growth. The global economy is far from stable, with increased talk by some of greater protectionism, although the emerging markets, such as India and Brazil, offer some hope for UK and EU exports. Households lack the confidence, and often the ability, to increase spending, while companies lack the optimism to invest. It needs to be borne in mind that the EU remains the UK 's most important single trading partner by far. The best hope for stronger UK economic growth must therefore surely rest with the EU, but this requires the eurozone to be stabilised and macroeconomic conditions to improve throughout the EU.	35 40

Sources: news reports, 2012

27.

The Global Context Extract B (lines 36–37) states that, if other MENA economies were to follow Jordan's lead, there would be a 'significant strengthening of MENA's economic importance in the global economy'.

To what extent, if at all, should developed countries such as the UK be concerned about a significant strengthening of the economic importance of MENA countries in the global economy? Justify your answer, using the data and your economic knowledge.

[25 marks]

28.

Using the data on unemployment in **The Global Context Extract A**, calculate the number of people unemployed in Egypt in 2010, given a labour force of 27 million.

[2 marks]

29.

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

Extract A: Real GDP growth, unemployment rate, and inflation, selected Middle Eastern economies, 2010

Economy	Real GDP growth (%)	Unemployment rate (% of labour force)	Inflation (%)
Egypt	5.1	9.0	11.7
Iran	3.2	13.2	12.4
Iraq	0.8	15.3	2.4
Jordan	2.3	12.5	5.0
Qatar	16.6	0.5	-2.4
Saudi Arabia	4.1	10.8	4.1

Source: official statistics, 2011

Extract B: A decade of change, challenge and opportunity

This year, ten years will have passed since the downfall of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. Over these years the Middle East and North African countries (MENA) have continued to witness economic and political instability, culminating in the recent so-called 'Arab Spring' uprisings in countries such as Egypt, Libya and Syria.	1
The <i>Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)</i> distinguishes two groups within the MENA region. The resource-rich economies, such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Dubai, are recognised as being different from those seen as resource-deficient, such as Egypt and Jordan. For both groups, however, and despite the political problems for some, the OECD is optimistic about future growth.	5
The OECD argues that, as the global economy recovers, demand for goods and services from European and emerging markets in particular will encourage development of MENA's manufacturing and service sectors. Just as the UK, for example, enjoys a comparative advantage in financial services, some MENA economies are now developing attractively priced manufactured goods. Tourism is also ripe for further development.	10
However, although the OECD points to economic progress having been made, recent years have highlighted challenges which need to be faced in the MENA economies if there is to be further progress. Improvements in labour productivity and hence competitiveness are essential for increased trade with the rest of the world. More foreign investment in infrastructure and manufacturing plant is desperately needed, with advanced countries such as the UK having a role to play here. Unemployment remains persistently high in some MENA countries, as does inflation.	15
Jordan is beginning to show what can be done to bring about a more successful economy. Through productivity improvements, it is now one of the most competitive MENA countries. This has helped it to negotiate a number of significant free trade agreements, including those with the EU and the US. Exports have brought increased economic growth to Jordan, as has domestic investment.	20
One of the benefits of economic success can be a higher standard of living. The Human Development Index (HDI) allows international comparisons of living standards. The Arab states of the Middle East have seen an improvement in the index from 0.444 in 1980 to 0.641 in 2011. The latter figure can be compared with 0.862 for the UK.	25
Income per head, access to healthcare and education, life expectancy, the quality of the environment and a fair distribution of income are key factors in any assessment of living standards. The UK and other developed countries need to remember that higher living standards can mean bigger markets for goods and services.	30
In many of the MENA economies, there is still much to be done to achieve sustained economic success. But, where Jordan leads, others will begin to follow. To do so would see a significant strengthening of MENA's economic importance in the global economy.	35

Source: news reports, 2012

Mark schemes

1.

For

- defining supply side or supply-side factors
- government policy or business initiatives
- defining economic growth or sustained economic growth
- explaining the connection between supply-side factors and sustained economic growth, ie supply-side generated growth is less likely to bring conflict with other objectives.

Supply-side factors will have an impact on both the long- and short-run aggregate supply curves of an economy shifting them to the right, indicating that the productive potential of the economy has increased. The production possibility frontier will also shift to the right, indicating that the economy has gained more resource or is using existing resources more efficiently. The trend rate of growth should therefore show an improvement.

The impact of investment.

The impact of productivity.

Education and Training.

Welfare Reform.

Occupational and geographical mobility.

Any other valid point.

Use of diagrams to help support explanations, e.g. AD/AS, PPF

Reward references to the UK economy.

Where a candidate does little more than list a number of supply-side factors in the explanation, award a maximum of 7 marks for the answer as a whole.

[15]

Introduction	• the economic cycle • the nature of a recovery • interest rates and the role of the MPC • brief reference to other policy options.
Developing the response to the question: Application / Analysis	• the relevance of interest rates to bringing about a recovery • consumer credit • investment • housing costs • aggregate demand • economic growth • unemployment • the limitations of interest rate policy • the function of other aspects of monetary policy, e.g. quantitative easing • the potential role of fiscal policy • the importance of a sound supply-side to underpin a recovery • the significance of business and consumer confidence • the potential significance of overseas markets • interest rate changes influencing “hot-money flows” , bringing instability which may impede a recovery but also of potential benefit • ‘hot-money flows’ and the exchange rate • aspects of an economy which may not directly benefit from low interest rates, e.g. structural unemployment • use of diagrams • reference to the UK and / or other economies.
Evaluation	• the extent to which interest rates are allowed to fall • over what period of time low interest rates are tolerated • the support given, if at all, by other aspects of monetary policy • the limitations if, simultaneously, a tight fiscal policy is followed by government • the limitations if business and consumer confidence are very low • low interest rates used to bring about a recovery in an internationally hostile context • business and consumer concern over how long such a policy will be maintained • microeconomic policies may show themselves to be more effective

- | | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• low interest rates as a cause of inflation which may impede the recovery• a final judgement made on the policy. |
|--|--|

Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

Introduction	• macroeconomic performance • the possible nature of major global events such as sports competitions, natural disasters and economic downturns.
Developing the response to the question: Application	• the stimulus to countries hosting major events benefiting other countries (lines 5-8) • the distinction between predictable and unpredictable events (lines 16-19) • the importance of such events forging stronger economic ties between countries (lines 13-15) • the need for a strong economy in order to take advantage of opportunities (lines 29-30) • US financial crisis (line 19) • the Japanese earthquake and tsunami in 2011 (line 23). • use of AD / AS analysis • the multiplier • economic cycle
Developing the response to the question: Analysis	• economic growth • stability of prices • employment / unemployment • the balance of payments on current and capital accounts • creating a strong economy in order to be able to respond to the stimuli of global events • the possibility of global events having a negative impact and the ability of an economy to respond • analysis of fundamental factors such as productivity, quality of resources, flexibility • references to the UK and / or other economies • use of diagrams.
Evaluation	• what we might regard as “significant” • what we decide to be the key measure(s) of “significance” • the likelihood of major global events not being good news, e.g. disruption to oil supplies • how we might be perceived to be economically weak by other countries because of our possible inability to play a key role as an event unfolds • is the impact of any major global event nothing more than transitory? • with so many potential “players” internationally any one country

	can't always expect to have a significant role to play • the short term impact of an “event” in contrast to long term sustaining of, and benefits from, trade and investment links • possible contrasting abilities to respond to positive events as opposed to negative ones or vice versa • a final judgement on the overall significance. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
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It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

4.

Explanation:

explain the concept of global investment, eg

- define global investment in terms of international capital flows, perhaps with a reference to the role of multinational companies in this respect
- explain the growth of global investment, eg in terms of outsourcing, utilising cheap labour, establishing ownership of raw materials and energy supplies
- define / explain the term global investment, eg expenditure to generate future income; spending on capital equipment to increase output, perhaps to displace labour; human capital
- simply define global investment in terms of ‘total investment in the world’.

Analysis:

explain the concept of global investment, eg

- it promotes economic growth in that it is an injection into the circular flow of income, generating higher AD through the multiplier process but also adding to the productive capacity of the recipient economy
- its impact on the further economic development of less-developed economies
- human capital formation helping to promote skills within a country’s workforce
- financing innovation
- helping to improve productivity
- a general improvement in business efficiency

[9]

Introduction	• macroeconomics • macroeconomic objectives • brief reference to relevant policies • the notion of 'conflict'.
Developing the response to the question: Application / Analysis	• long run v short run • potential conflict between economic growth and stable prices • potential conflict between economic growth and a healthy balance of payments on current account • inflation beginning to impede growth • inflation damaging employment prospects • inflation and the balance of payments on current account • attempts to correct a balance of payments on current account harming employment and growth, at least in the short term • attempts to stabilise prices causing harm to employment • attempts to achieve full employment causing inflation to rise (Phillips Curve analysis) • economic growth and the environment • economic growth and income distribution • the significance of the supply side in reducing or avoiding conflict • the possible need for compromise • use of diagrams • references to the UK and / or other economies.
Evaluation	• the idea that avoidance might be utopian in a complex modern economy • the acceptability of compromise between objectives – control rather than complete avoidance • the intensity of any problems arising from conflict • the degree of persistence of conflict or a short-term phenomenon • the importance of supply-side reforms and the time taken for them to become effective in the context of conflict • a particular objective may have key importance in an economy's economic strategy in a certain period of time and will be pursued for this reason irrespective of conflict and without any attempt made at avoidance • given any set of macroeconomic policies what is the net impact of them and is this acceptable? For example, limited environmental controls in the context of needing to secure economic growth • a final judgement on the idea of conflict avoidance.

<i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

Introduction	• criteria for measuring economic consequences • nature of potential problems • nature of potential opportunities • the EU • the issue of enlargement of the EU.
Developing the response to the question: Application	• Turkey's geographical position (line 3) • an expected population in Turkey of 100m by 2020 (line 10) • Turkey's vast economic potential (line 11) • Turkey's impressive growth for at least 5 years, 2002 – 2007 = 7% (lines 14 – 15), 2010 first quarter = 11% (lines 13 – 14) • Turkey's reputation for economic instability (line 20) • high inflation in some recent years in Turkey (lines 20-21) • an attractive centre for investment (line 24) • migration and the impact on UK PPF • consequences for UK AD as the EU expands • export-led multiplier.
Developing the response to the question: Analysis	• the diverse nature of member countries of the EU • the UK approach to the EU and to enlargement in particular • demands upon the EU budget and hence upon individual members • Turkey as part of the SEM and the likely flow of cheap imports to UK • cheap migrant labour impacting on the UK labour market and social and economic infrastructure • Turkey as an additional market for the UK • investment opportunities • investment income coming back to the UK • the benefits of its established links with Asia • UK economic growth • UK unemployment • UK balance of payments • UK inflation / deflation • reference to other economies • use of diagrams.
Evaluation	• Turkish membership may be seen as the “straw which breaks the camel's back” as EU enlargement gathers pace

- short term v long term considerations
- the ability of the UK to take up opportunities successfully
- the UK's possible inability to take up opportunities in the context of having to shoulder some of the problems which Turkey's membership may give rise to in the EU
- the possibility that the UK macroeconomic indicators do not all head in the same direction (for example, Turkey as a stimulus to economic growth but migrant labour causing an unemployment problem)
- the difficulty of giving "values" to pros and cons pre-membership and therefore being unable to take up a decisive stance with confidence
- the impact could change over time as circumstances change
- continuing enlargement, including Turkey, potentially providing ammunition to the Euro-sceptics in government and beyond causing the UK to remain by choice on the sidelines of the EU. An assessment of the significance of this issue for the UK
- a final judgement on the overall impact on the UK economy.

Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

10.

The calculation:

Value: Feb 10 = 1.74m unemployed

**Dec 10 = 1.59m unemployed, giving a change of $(0.15 / 1.74 \times 100)$
= -8.6%**

Allow answers in the range -8.4% to -8.8%. For example, assuming a forecast decline in unemployment from 1.73m to 1.58m, the figure arrived at would be -8.7%. Also reward answers which take December as the base month $(0.15 / 1.59 \times 100)$ 9.4%. Here the acceptable range is 9.2% to 9.6%. Credit answers within the ranges which go to more than one decimal place.

For the correct answer (working need not be shown) with negative sign shown and to at least one decimal place	2 marks
For the correct answer without including the negative sign (or without stating that it is a decrease in the forecast for unemployment) and to at least one decimal place.	1 mark

[2]

For

- defining unemployment
- making reference to official measures of unemployment
- explaining types of unemployment

The impact on AD as average incomes fall reducing household spending power and a consequent fall in confidence discouraging business investment. In contrast, AD will be influenced if businesses may make greater efforts to secure export markets, while government spending may increase to help the unemployed.

Changes in government spending and taxation and the economic impact of these.

Impact on government finances as spending increases but tax revenues fall.

Overall impact on economic growth.

The problem of rising inequality.

The waste of resources so that the economy operates at less than full capacity.

Any other valid point.

The effect on living standards generally as consumption of goods and services, such as food and alcohol, is curtailed. The quality of life is affected as spending limits are placed on, for example, heating and holidays. The type of housing may need to be reconsidered as a mortgage or existing rent become unaffordable.

The level of income in particular and the impact on living standards.

The reluctance to claim, but the necessity of claiming, welfare benefits – perhaps further demoralising the individual.

Lower morale, perhaps resulting from unsuccessful job search impacting on worker performance.

Lower morale, perhaps resulting from unsuccessful job search impacting on worker performance.

The dangers of long-term unemployment.

The need for geographical and/or occupational mobility (with implications for re-training).

Long-term financial implications in terms of savings and pensions.

Any other valid point.

Use of diagrams to help support explanations, e.g. AD/AS, PPF.

Reward references to the UK economy.

Where more than two problems are considered for either the individual or the economy, reward the best two problems.

Award a maximum of 10 marks if only the individual or the economy is considered.

[15]

Introduction	- the nature of the EU perhaps with reference to institutions - the UK position within the EU - fiscal policy and budgetary positions - criteria for assessing consequences.
Developing the response to the question: Application	- Lines 1–3: the remedial Keynesian approach now denied to member states - Line 4: the abandonment of fiscal rules - Lines 11–14: the crisis in Greece arising from fiscal looseness - Lines 19–23: the UK Government seeming to be a step ahead of some in the EU especially with the setting up of the OBR. - Keynesian multiplier - Budgetary positions - Current account deficits.
Developing the response to the question: Analysis	- the general economic consequences any individual economy might expect in trying to achieve a balanced budget - the consequences for the EU as a whole of achieving that position - the idea of 27 nations being required to follow the same policy - the reasons for the policy - the impact on economic growth - the impact on living standards in the short term and long term - the impact on employment/unemployment - the impact on the UK's balance of payments on current account - the impact on inflation - the possibility of deflation - the impact on types and levels of government spending - the changes in taxation and the possible impact of the changes - use of relevant diagrams - reference to other economies.
Evaluation	- whether or not the policy is introduced for economic reasons or to reflect a particular political philosophy may influence judgement on the policy - the time given for any one country to achieve a balance - the UK's original fiscal position at the time the policy is introduced - for how long a country will be expected to continue with the policy - whether or not the policy will be effectively enforced - whether the UK pursues the policy mainly through tax increases or

public spending cuts or a combination of both

- whether it will be short-term 'pain' for long-term benefit
- the differing impact on particular sections of the UK population
- whether additional private sector activity will compensate
- whether monetary policy has the same constraints imposed
- the problems which 'one-size-fits-all' policy tends to generate for individual nations
- a final judgement on the overall impact on the UK economy.

Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.

[25]

Introduction	• sustained economic growth • public sector v private sector origins • private sector consumption • standard of living • measures of living standards.
Developing the response to the question: Application / Analysis	• higher living standards as the ultimate objective in securing sustained economic growth which will include, importantly, private sector consumption • the other benefits of growth in terms of the balance of payments on current account, the attractions of a growing economy to overseas investors, and to employment, but some of these ultimately have a link with private sector consumption • economic growth and material well-being • economic growth and the quality of life • economic growth and the increased resources available for environmental purposes • measures such as the Human Development Index showing that income per head is one small part of a bigger picture • reference to the UK and/or other economies • use of diagrams.
Evaluation	• the necessity of sustaining the growth process if there is to be a significant impact on income per head • negative economic growth causing average incomes to come under pressure • the motivation/reasons for securing sustained growth will vary with the individual country and government with the ultimate objective perhaps being more political rather than economic. • the weakness of certain aspects of the macroeconomy may be the reason for securing growth and the secondary impact on private sector consumption seen as a bonus • the benefits to income per head may pale into insignificance if sustained growth really has meant environmental protection and conservation of resources, rather than, as some view it, just growth without conflict with other macroeconomic objectives such as stable prices • individuals may welcome the initial boost to incomes but then recognise that this has come at a price in terms of their quality of life • a final judgement on whether sustained growth is really only sought for securing higher income per head.

Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.

[25]

Introduction	• the trade in goods • the balance of payments on current account – deficits and surpluses • criteria for assessing the impact of a deficit • the potential nature of the problem in the context of the UK economy.
Developing the response to the question: Application / Analysis	• the possible determinants of a successful export performance • possible determinants of imports • whether competitiveness in world markets is an underlying issue and is the real cause for concern • Whether global macroeconomic conditions provide part of the answer and whether they will be a temporary phenomenon • whether deficits arise from a loss of comparative advantage • the part played by the exchange rate at any one time and whether this is a temporary difficulty • whether non-price factors must be seen as a cause for concern • deindustrialisation as part of the explanation over the long term • the impact of deficits on other macroeconomic indicators – growth and employment • the compensatory role of invisibles • the compensatory role of capital flows • the possibility that a deficit might be a reflection of rising living standards in a country • use of diagrams • reference to the UK and/or other economies
Evaluation	• how persistent the deficit is • how large the deficit is, for example, in relation to GDP • whether it has an impact on the exchange rate and the consequences of this • the ability to borrow, if necessary, to finance the deficit • whether, in reality, it has had any lasting adverse impact on growth or jobs • whether the attempts to reduce it cause more problems, e.g. deflation of AD • whether the deficit brings higher living standards, if only in the short term • is the deficit indicative of a country 'living beyond its means'? • it may lead to calls for increased protectionism which may cause

long term problems

- the need to distinguish actions to control the deficit from actions to bring about a long term solution
- international opinion of the deficit
- whether it brings intervention by the IMF
- a final judgement.

Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.

[25]

Introduction	• economic growth • other macroeconomic performance indicators • the contrasting economies of India and the UK.
Developing the response to the question: Application	• Line 3: reference to increased exports • Lines 6–8: impressive quarterly growth which, if maintained, could create spin-offs for the UK • Line 18–19: GDP, multiplier, accelerator • Line 19: inward investment from India • Lines 24–28: benefits for the UK from India's infra-structure development • Line 31: the limitations for the UK if India remains 'fiercely protective'.
Developing the response to the question: Analysis	• how it is expected that India might develop in the future • the current importance of India to the UK and how this might change in the future • the potential impact on UK economic growth • the potential impact on the UK balance of payments both on current and capital accounts • the potential impact on employment/unemployment • UK structural change influenced by economies such as India • the impetus that stronger links with India may give to supply-side reforms • the impact on productivity and competitiveness • the impact on investment flows • use of diagrams • reference to other economies.
Evaluation	• India needs to be put into the context of other significant fastdeveloping nations which may all eventually play a part in UK macroeconomic performance • India needs to be put into the context of our currently important trading partners – the US and the EU • India may decide to remain protectionist in terms of certain types of investment and trade • how more effective, if at all, some of our competitors are in penetrating the Indian economy • the net trade flow • the net investment flow

	• whether the UK produces what India's development requires, and, if not, whether the UK is able and willing to carry out the required structural change • how supportive the UK government is of private sector efforts in penetrating the Indian economy • whether or not India's growth and development continues in the current global economic climate • a final judgement on the overall likely importance of India to the UK economy. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
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[25]

17. Issues and areas for discussion include:

Introduction	• inflation and deflation defined • the issue of price stability as an objective • the issue of avoidance of deflation, eg the possibility of being able to do so • other macroeconomic objectives • the UK experience • the current inflation target of 2% (CPI).
Developing the response to the question (application and analysis)	• 'benign' v 'malevolent' • the benefits to competitiveness of a period of deflation • the benefits to real income and real purchasing power, boosting AD • the benefits of reflationary policies to correct deflation • the danger of entering a 'liquidity trap' scenario (examiners note that this term is not in the specification) • the impact on the real value of savings • the impact on business and household confidence • postponement of consumption • the impact on profits, for example, if consumption is postponed or wages are 'sticky' downwards, and hence the impact on investment • the ultimate damage to growth and jobs • the impact on creditors/debtors • the ultimate impact on living standards • deflation increasing the real burden of debt • arbitrary distributional effects • possible adverse macroeconomic implications overall worsening the fiscal position • use of diagrams • reference to the UK • reference to other economies.

Evaluation	• 'a' or 'the' major macroeconomic objective • the degree to which the problem can be anticipated and corrective policies followed • the degree of deflation • the duration of the problem • deflation or inflation? Both to be avoided and the control of both seen as a major economic objective • avoidance of deflation as always needing to be the major objective: an assessment of deflation as the major macroeconomic objective in relation to an assessment of the importance of other macroeconomic objectives, eg deflation and the balance of payments as opposed to deflation and economic growth • the issue of whether equal weight needs to be given to all macroeconomic objectives and their interrelationships recognised • such weighting may change to suit changing circumstances • an assessment of deflation in relation to a possible alternative, ie mild inflation which might be welcomed or runaway inflation which would not • the simultaneous experience of other economies • mild deflation as a minor problem compared to the effects of the authorities over-reacting and reflatting too strongly • a final judgment, eg price stability needs to be the major macroeconomic objective with control over changes in the price level whether these are pointing to inflation or deflation because this can be seen as the foundation upon which a strong macroeconomy can be built. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
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It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

19.

For defining the concept of trade-off, inflation, demand-pull inflation, cost-push inflation, economic growth, or any other relevant definition.

How rising aggregate demand as a result of the growth process might put pressure on prices, leading to demand-pull inflation, and hence cause action to be taken to reduce AD.

How economic growth might increase pressure of demand on resources, cause producer costs to rise, causing in turn price increases and hence cost-push inflation. Action might then be taken to limit growth in order to reduce pressure of demand on resources.

For use of relevant diagrams, e.g. AD/AS, Phillips Curve.

Loose monetary policy such as lower interest rates and increased money supply causing AD to rise because of, for example, cheaper consumer credit, causing prices to rise if AS cannot respond.

Loose fiscal policy such as lower taxation.

Supply-side shocks such as rising oil prices.

Other cost pressures such as rising wage costs.

Rising expectations of future price rises.

Analysis in terms of demand-pull factors generally.

Analysis in terms of cost-push factors generally.

Any other valid analysis.

Make use of appropriate diagrams in the analysis, e.g. AD/AS, Phillips Curve

[9]

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• the concept of a single market • other examples of single markets • the development of the EU single market • possible criteria for assessing benefits in outline.
Developing the response to the question (analysis and application)	<i>It will be perfectly legitimate for a candidate to cite benefits and, by evaluating these, to identify costs (or vice versa), eg competition as a spur to efficiency, but in evaluation, the UK not able to match the achievements in efficiency seen in some other member states with higher unemployment being a potential cost (consequence) of this.</i> • economic growth • economies of scale • comparative advantage • specialisation • efficiency, with inefficient firms failing (static v dynamic efficiency) • productivity • competition • choice of goods and living standards • mobility of resources • harmonisation of economic policies possible • trade expansion/trade creation • standardisation of national regulations • greater ease of doing business between members • investment • the single market as a 'driver' to further enlargement of the EU in general (although some would see this as a cost) • costs for the UK associated with being geographically separate from the rest of the EU and peripheral to the core • unemployment • low wages arising from mass immigration • a steady weakening, perhaps ultimately loss, of UK economic links with the rest of the world as trade diversion becomes more prevalent • costs associated with a 'survival of the fittest' scenario • bullying by dominant members into accepting economic policies seeking to strengthen the single market which are not in UK's long-term interests • regulations not necessarily being removed but imposed at EU, rather than national, level • use of diagrams • references to the real world.

Evaluation	• much of any objective evaluation may rest on to what extent the single market is allowed to develop ultimately • non-EU countries which did have strong economic ties with one or other members of a single market may find them weakening (trade diversion taking place), eg the Commonwealth and UK • progress can be slow, eg the single market in services still needs to be developed, and yet some members are largely dependent on services • a single market may not mean fewer regulations faced by members but just regulations raised to organisation, rather than national, level and this may not be efficient from the national perspective or, ultimately, from the single market perspective • threat of competition for an individual economy from lower-cost members with implications for the balance of payments and jobs, perhaps irrespective of the efficiency gains in the higher-cost country • labour mobility does not always deal with surplus/shortage problems very neatly and individual countries may suffer • migration driven not by economic factors (e.g. prospects of employment) but the supportive mechanisms in place in the recipient countries (eg welfare and health-care), perhaps causing a heavier burden on an economy's public finances and downward pressure on wages • higher living standards for all cannot be assumed; improvements may well be patchy • any economic benefits such as higher growth can be diluted by developments beyond the single market, notably global recession • the possibility of any one member being continually pressured to accept developments e.g. the single currency and/or a common fiscal policy • the drawing of different conclusions is possible when considering the likelihood of a two-speed EU, ie euro members v non-euro members • a final judgement on the potential benefits of the single market for a country such as the UK. Some central facts: access to 500m people; over half of UK trade is with other members of the single market; estimated that 3.5mn UK jobs are linked to export of goods and services to the remainder of the single market; another estimate suggests that member countries trade twice as much with each other as they would in the absence of the single market. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
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It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• definition of supply-side reforms • the balance of trade in goods • improvement: reduced deficits or from deficit to surplus.
Developing the response to the question (analysis and application)	• aggregate supply • aggregate demand • productive capacity • cost-push/demand-pull inflation • productivity • the concept of competitiveness • supply-side reforms in outline • objectives of reforms, e.g. flexibility, mobility, quality, lower unit costs, choice, structural change • individual reforms relevant to the trade in goods • the significance of overseas demand for UK exports and UK demand for imported goods • other policies not linked to the supply side • use of diagrams • references to the real world.
Evaluation	• the nature, extent and effectiveness of UK reforms in relation to those of other countries • whether or not supply-side reforms can in any way compensate for decades of deindustrialisation so that imported goods are an inevitability • the long-term nature of reforms so that deficits may persist in the short and medium terms • the significance of changing tastes in world markets • supply-side reforms at a time of a sustained global downturn • supply-side reforms concentrating on lowering unit costs rather than quality and choice, so imports remain attractive, exports no more attractive • whether supply-side reforms will always be a story of 'too little, too late' • relative merits of supply-side policies to other policies that can be used to reduce deficits eg significance of exchange rates • a final judgement, perhaps in the context of recent UK experience. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• interest rates • role of MPC • inflation and government target • understanding of 'high inflation' • cost-push/demand-pull inflation.
Developing the response to the question (analysis and application)	• aggregate demand • aggregate supply • cost-push inflation • Phillips Curve theory • macroeconomic indicators • liquidity trap (examiners note: this is not in the specification) • interest rates and the transmission mechanism • the impact of low interest rates, eg on consumer credit, investment • interest rates as a cost of production • the importance of identifying the prime cause of inflation • other macroeconomic problems at the time of high inflation • the function of interest rates in controlling inflation • analysis of the possible irrelevance of interest rates to inflation given the known cause of inflation • the impact of high interest rates on other aspects of the macroeconomy if they were to be used to control inflation, e.g. unemployment • other anti-inflation policies when interest rates are being kept low • use of diagrams • references to the real world perhaps including the stats included in the preamble to the question, as well as others known by the candidate.
Evaluation	• the importance of having low interest rates because of the condition of the macroeconomy, eg the perceived need to prevent recession and future deflation • interest rate policy as a possible irrelevance given the type of inflation which is prevalent • high inflation seen as a manageable problem irrespective of what happens to interest rates • how permanent/temporary the high inflation is seen to be • the duration of the era of low interest rates • the possible importance of having a favourable exchange rate in world markets which can be achieved through low interest rates • an assessment of the potential contribution of other policies to the battle against inflation, eg supply side, fiscal, so that high interest rates are not so vital even if the inflation arises from high demand • the extent of inflation in an international context: 'high' may be in a historical context domestically, possibly in relation to a government

- | | |
|--|---|
| | <p>inflation target, rather than in the current international context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a final judgement perhaps in the context of recent UK experience. |
|--|---|

Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• economic growth • general causes of economic growth • the EU • 'the best hope' in relation to what?
Developing the response to the question (Application)	• economic growth theory • trade cycle and recession • fiscal policy and deficit-reduction policy • application to recent/current events so heavily represented in the media • the EU tumbling back into recession (lines 4–6) • variation in prospects between EU member countries (lines 7–8) • strict fiscal policies in UK and in much of the rest of the EU (lines 20–22) • recovery in the global economy (lines 35–36) • hopes for stabilisation in the eurozone (lines 40–41).
Analysis	• how the EU can help UK GDP growth, eg demand for exports, euro and other currencies strengthening against the pound • stimulus from those EU economies recovering more quickly than others • the EU and the single market • stimulus from other parts of the world, eg the emerging markets • UK supply-side reforms giving a competitive edge in albeit depressed markets • the contribution of domestic demand within the UK, eg if fiscal constraints are relaxed on spending, tax cuts are introduced, consumers begin to show a stronger response to low interest rates • the impact of any increase in domestic wage increases should they occur after a period of restraint • UK private sector beginning to more than compensate for the contraction of the public sector • investment trends in the UK • trends in the exchange rate of the £ against other currencies impacting on UK global exports • use of diagrams • references to the UK and/or other economies.

Evaluation	• whatever growth is seen within the EU, other parts of the world may grow more strongly and offer more opportunities to the UK • the speed of recovery particularly in the eurozone • the persistence/exacerbation of economic problems for the UK should the eurozone begin to break up • whether or not the UK is competitive enough against the emerging markets • greater reliance for growth from within the UK if recovery becomes more rapid, perhaps on the back of a looser fiscal policy, increased consumer and business confidence, a stronger government growth strategy • the dangers of discussing just in terms of eurozone/non-eurozone countries; analysis must be of individual EU economies to assess their potential contribution to UK growth in the future and their past importance to the UK economy • in more stable times, the size of population in the EU, total spending power, and the benefits to the UK of the single market • whatever the UK prospects for growth emanating from the EU, the long term sense of limiting UK reliance on one area of the world and developing stronger links elsewhere • a final judgement on the prospects for the UK <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
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It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

25.

Relevant issues/logical chains of analysis include:

- definition of the phrase 'double-dip recession', eg an economy which has been in recession, experiences a tentative recovery, but then slips back into recession; a definition of recession, eg in terms of 2 consecutive quarters of negative GDP growth
- further explanation of the term with particular reference to the term recession and its characteristic, perhaps putting it into the context of the trade cycle, or the output gap
- As the economy slips into recession, unemployment will begin to rise as consumers begin to spend less and businesses dismiss workers in order to cut costs and ensure their survival until the upturn. This unemployment will be the cyclical portion of total unemployment
- UK recession as part of a global recession or a recession amongst our major trading partners
- Less investment and so potentially less job creation
- Higher savings amongst consumers as confidence wanes, and therefore less spending
- Industries or regions already weak now facing further, perhaps more severe, decline
- Housing as a major, labour-intensive sector, comes under pressure and initiates a negative multiplier process
- Deflation and the potential for deferred spending
- Governments refuse to take adequate counter-cyclical (Keynesian) measures perhaps already constrained by fiscal problems
- Wage inflexibility

[9]

Issues and areas for discussion include

Introduction	• criteria for assessing 'significant strengthening of the economic importance' • identification of one or more MENA economies • the range of economic experience in the MENA economies.
Developing the response to the question (Application)	• comparative advantage • labour productivity • production possibilities • supply of resources from the resource-rich MENA economies (line 6) • opportunities for UK financial services (lines 12-13) • the threat from MENA manufacturing (lines 13-14) • further investment opportunities for UK in the MENA economies (lines 18-20) • the potential significance of free trade agreements between MENA and other economies (lines 24-26) • potential benefits to the UK of higher living standards in MENA countries (lines 27-30).
Analysis	• economic growth • employment and unemployment • balance of payments on current account • supply-side reforms • AD/AS analysis • comparative advantage • further structural change in the UK economy • living standards • direction of investment • use of diagrams • references to the UK and/or other economies.

Evaluation	• 'concern' needs to be measured against opportunities in the MENA economies • continuing political instability in the MENA region may dilute any threats to the UK and any opportunities for the UK in the MENA economies • the inflexibility of the UK economy may mean lost opportunities • if and when importance strengthens, the MENA economies' more powerful negotiating position regarding prices of resources needed by developed countries • MENA economies in relation to other opportunities elsewhere in the global economy • opportunities/threats in the UK domestic economy compared to those presented by the MENA economies • how the UK might compare to other economies with similar aims of gaining a foothold in the MENA economies, eg, the emerging markets • the significance of relative inflation rates between MENA economies and the UK, and between the UK compared to other economies showing interest in the MENA economies • the possible greater impact on the UK and a cause for concern if the UK's major markets, the EU and US, continue to have problems • the threat the MENA economies pose to the UK in established UK markets especially in the long term • a final judgement on the economic consequences. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill..</i>
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It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

28.

The calculation:

Value: Given the labour force in Egypt of 27m and the data indicating that 9% of the labour force is unemployed, the number of people unemployed is 2.43m (accept 2.4m)

For the correct answer of 2.43m (working need not be shown). 2.4m is acceptable. The unit (millions) must be shown.	2 marks
For an answer without the unit shown	1 mark

[2]

1.

Globalisation and outsourcing of manufacturing provides several potential benefits to economies. However, some countries, such as the UK, continue to suffer persistent trade deficits but are unable to resort to import controls.

Assess the view that, for the UK, the economic benefits of globalisation outweigh the costs.

[25 marks]

2.

In March 2011, the UK Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast that the budget deficit would fall from 7.9% of GDP in the financial year 2011-2012 to 1.5% in 2015-2016.

Discuss whether the UK Government should **either** raise taxes **or** cut government spending to achieve its 2015-2016 fiscal objective.

[25 marks]

3.

‘Economic shocks can bring with them significant consequences for macroeconomic performance, as the UK knows only too well.’

Evaluate the likely impact of world economic growth **both** on the UK economy **and** on individuals in the economy.

[25 marks]

4.

The European Union Context Extract D (lines 28–29) states that it ‘is difficult to predict what the economic impact on the UK might be should there be a break-up of the eurozone’.

Using the data and your economic knowledge, assess the possible impact on the UK economy if a number of countries leave the eurozone.

[25 marks]

5.

The Global Context Extract B (lines 21–22) suggests that ‘targeted programmes in the labour market are vital’ in order to reduce unemployment.

Using the data and your economic knowledge, to what extent would you agree that such programmes are likely to be the most effective way of reducing unemployment in developed economies such as the UK? Justify your answer.

[25 marks]

Extract D: Can the eurozone survive?

Before the global recession of 2008, the euro had emerged as a successful major currency, making travel and trade for member countries much easier. Those countries traditionally with weaker currencies, such as Italy, Greece and Spain, were given a degree of stability which fostered economic growth. Some leading economists and politicians were urging the UK to adopt the euro, seeing it as a major step towards the full integration of the UK into the European Union (EU). 1 5

The global recession changed everything. By 2011, there were many in the UK relieved that we were still outside the eurozone. The growing debt crisis in the eurozone has inevitably had repercussions for the euro. Stronger members found themselves being called upon to offer financial support to those economies in trouble. Media reports began to suggest that the ultimate outcome of the debt crisis would be the break-up of the eurozone, with some of the weaker members such as Spain, Italy and Greece re-adopting their former national currencies. 10

The UK Government has adopted a policy of fiscal restraint in order to reduce annual borrowing and to try to limit the growth of the National Debt (the total outstanding debt of the government). It urged the weaker members of the eurozone in particular to adopt a similar policy if they were to retain membership. 15

However, the potential benefits of leaving the eurozone are not lost on some politicians and economists within the weaker economies. One such benefit is the absence of the same 'one-size-fits-all' interest rate. For example, some countries still in recession in the eurozone saw their interest rates, as set by the European Central Bank, rise to 1.25% in July 2011. This was at a time when the Bank of England kept the UK Bank Rate at 0.5%. Countries could also restore an exchange rate for their own currencies which would give them a competitive edge, rather than being forced to cut wages and jobs. They would also not be obliged to follow such a strict policy of fiscal restraint which remaining members would have to follow. 20 25

There are others, however, both within these countries and beyond, who warn against departure from the eurozone. It is difficult to predict what the economic impact on the UK might be should there be a break-up of the eurozone. The impact would depend on a number of factors, including how many countries left and which countries these were. It might also depend on the degree of economic instability which departure from the eurozone might cause in those countries as they restored their national currencies, and the impact on the stability of the remaining members of the eurozone. It has to be borne in mind, however, that the EU would still exist. 30

The UK might expect disruption to trade, at least in the short term, with consequences for the balance of payments. Another banking crisis could also emerge. International money, seeking a safe haven, might favour the pound sterling and thus strengthen its external value. These potential developments have implications for UK growth and employment and pose yet another threat to the current recovery. The UK might be relieved to be outside the eurozone. However, the UK is certainly not immune from the possible consequences of its break-up. 35 40

Source: European Central Bank, 2012

Extract B: Worrying times across the world for unemployment

In August 2011, it was reported that unemployment in the US economy had fallen in July from 9.2% to 9.1% of the labour force. This was seen by some as a turning point, a time when stronger real GDP growth would signal an economic recovery despite the effects of economic shocks persisting. Oil price increases, banking crises and interest rate rises are examples of such shocks. At a time when global unemployment was around 6%, many saw the US unemployment statistic as just a tiny bright spot in an otherwise depressing picture, both in America and globally.

Data from the *International Labour Organisation* (ILO) show a picture of increasing unemployment in developed economies for the period 2007 to 2009, with some levelling out in 2010 and 2011. UK unemployment in mid-2011 was around 8%. Some had anticipated that this figure would be far higher given a significant tightening of fiscal policy in the UK, severe debt problems in parts of the eurozone and a US economy stubbornly refusing to recover. Both the eurozone and the US economies are important trading areas for the UK. Further increases in UK unemployment were seen as inevitable despite job creation taking place. The number of people in work in the UK rose by 184 000 between April and June 2011, taking the total in work to over 29 million.

The UK Government has argued that its policy of fiscal restraint is the correct one in order to reduce the budget deficit, although the Managing Director of the *International Monetary Fund* (IMF) has argued that recovery in aggregate demand is 'the single best cure for unemployment'.

However, the Managing Director of the IMF has also argued that targeted programmes in the labour market are vital, even to the extent of wage subsidies paid to employers for vulnerable groups such as the young unemployed. The more people in work, he argued, the greater the spending power available to help recovery by raising demand for goods and services. The teaching of new skills and the encouragement of occupational and geographical mobility are a vital part of such programmes. For example, in the UK, the Government's Work Based Learning Programme includes apprenticeship programmes aimed at unemployed young people. Another targeted UK scheme is the Work Programme. This is designed to help the long-term unemployed of whatever age to find a job.

Such supply-side measures are regarded by some as an irrelevance in the short term when stimuli to aggregate demand are seen to be so urgently needed. However, all economies need to look at their long-term performance, and supply-side measures can create a stronger labour market. Economic recovery is then more likely to occur.

Source: official statistics, 2011

In 2014, George Osborne revived the idea of 'full employment' as a macroeconomic goal but what is actually meant by full employment is often debated by economists, with some arguing that a natural rate of unemployment exists.

Evaluate the view that reducing unemployment inevitably has trade-offs with other macroeconomic objectives.

[25 marks]

9.

'Economic shocks can bring with them significant consequences for macroeconomic performance, as the UK knows only too well.'

Using at least **one example of each**, explain how demand-side and supply-side shocks might harm a country's economic growth.

[15 marks]

10.

In July 2012, the Office for Budget Responsibility concluded that UK Government measures to cut the budget deficit have improved the UK's long-term economic prospects.

To what extent do you agree, if at all, that the implementation of a budget deficit reduction programme will improve the UK's long-term economic prospects? Justify your answer.

[25 marks]

11.

The European Union Context Extract E (lines 1–2) states: 'In recent years, growing disenchantment with the EU has led to calls for the UK to leave the organisation.'

Do you agree with the view that the UK economy would benefit if the UK left the EU? Justify your answer using the data and your economic knowledge.

[25 marks]

12.

The European Union Context Extract E (lines 12–14) points out that UK trade with the EU has created 3.5m jobs in the UK 'either within the export sector or, more widely, through the operation of an export-led multiplier'.

Explain the term 'export-led multiplier' **and** analyse **two** possible economic reasons for an increase in UK exports to the EU.

[9 marks]

13.**THE EUROPEAN UNION CONTEXT****Extract E: Would the UK be left out in the cold by saying goodbye to the EU?**

In recent years, growing disenchantment with the EU has led to calls for the UK to leave the organisation. Supporters and opponents of UK membership have presented coherent arguments. 1

A study by the so-called Bruges Group, which opposes the EU, estimated the annual cost of UK membership to be £65bn. This included an estimated cost to businesses of £28bn to comply with EU regulations and an annual net contribution to the EU Budget of £14.6bn. A member of the EU Commission in 2011 estimated that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) causes the UK consumer to pay up to three times as much for food than if the CAP did not exist. The common external tariff raises prices of imports into the EU, including the prices of consumer goods and resources used by businesses. It also protects inefficient, high-cost EU producers. 5 10

Those supporting UK membership point, for example, to the 3.5 million UK jobs created from trade with the EU, either within the export sector or, more widely, through the operation of an export-led multiplier. The Single European Market has helped trade creation and has allowed EU labour to move to the UK, to the benefit of UK businesses. Despite not being in the eurozone, the UK has continued to attract a large share of the world's investment funds so that it is now the third largest recipient internationally. It is claimed that a large part of this is due to EU membership. The EU as a whole has also exerted much greater influence than could any individual EU country in negotiations to further global free trade. One business organisation has argued that non-membership would be like 'sitting outside in the corridors rather than at the decision table'. 15 20

Sources: various, 2012

14.

The Global Context Extract B (lines 15–16) argues: 'An increasing global inflation problem could have serious consequences for all aspects of UK macroeconomic performance, including the balance of payments and employment.'

Using the data and your economic knowledge, discuss the possible impact on the UK balance of payments of an increasing rate of inflation throughout the global economy.

[25 marks]

15.**THE GLOBAL CONTEXT****Extract B: Inflation never quite goes away**

Governments around the world seeking a cure for inflation accept that such a cure may never be achieved. They recognise, therefore, that the next best thing is effective control in order to secure economic stability and sustained economic growth. Even then, past experience suggests that inflation will never be fully under control. Governments recognise that there may be both national and international forces at work which have a bearing on prices. International causes of inflation are inevitably going to be more difficult, or impossible, for a country to control than those whose origins are from within that country. 1

Some economists might argue that a weak global economy can help to suppress inflation but this weakness, if it persists, will have costs in terms of jobs and living standards. In any case, there may still be pessimism about inflation in the long term. As growth strengthens both in emerging and advanced economies, consumer demand, energy costs, primary commodity prices and wage costs are certain to rise. Agricultural commodity prices, for example, have fallen in recent decades but a significant upward trend could occur. 5

Such a trend will be reinforced by the growth of a global population, now over 7 billion. An increasing global inflation problem could have serious consequences for all aspects of UK macroeconomic performance, including the balance of payments and employment. 10

It breeds uncertainty for government, consumers and businesses and raises expectations of future inflation. Because it affects competitiveness and can disrupt trade and investment flows, the impact on both the current and the capital accounts of the balance of payments needs to be assessed. It is also likely that worsening inflation can halt any hesitant recovery. Overall, economic instability can be expected. 20

Source: news reports, 2012

16.

Savings often provide the funds for investment. In 1997, the UK saving ratio stood at 13%, at the beginning of the financial crisis in 2007 it was only 5% and by 2014 it had risen slightly to 7%.

Evaluate the likely impact of a fall in the saving ratio on the performance of the UK economy.

[25 marks]**17.**

Savings often provide the funds for investment. In 1997, the UK saving ratio stood at 13%, at the beginning of the financial crisis in 2007 it was only 5% and by 2014 it had risen slightly to 7%.

Explain why the saving ratio may fall.

[15 marks]**18.**

The European Union Context Extract F (lines 14–18) states: ‘The EU introduced the Stability and Growth Pact ...in order to prevent individual economies from creating instability across the EU. However, EU member countries have struggled to keep to the pact, with only four member countries not breaking the rules.’

Using the data and your knowledge of economics, evaluate the likely impact on the UK economy of other EU countries attempting to reduce their public sector debt at the same time.

[25 marks]

19.

The European Union Context Extract F (line 1) states: 'Deflation is the new economic menace threatening European economies including the UK.'

Using the data and your knowledge of economics, evaluate the view that deflation in the EU's economies would inevitably be damaging to the UK's macroeconomic performance.

[25 marks]

20.

In 2014, George Osborne revived the idea of 'full employment' as a macroeconomic goal but what is actually meant by full employment is often debated by economists, with some arguing that a natural rate of unemployment exists.

Explain the factors which might determine the natural rate of unemployment.

[15 marks]

21.

THE EUROPEAN UNION CONTEXT

Extract F: Is deflation a bad thing?

Deflation is the new economic menace threatening European economies including the UK.	1
In the Eurozone in particular, the European Central Bank is considering the use of quantitative easing to help avoid deflation; but why is it such a problem? Firstly, there is the argument that deflation delays spending. However, this does not relate to all forms of consumption. Another reason is the effect on debtors. Prices and perhaps incomes may fall, but the real value of debt increases. For firms experiencing falling revenues, and households with declining incomes, debt repayments become more of a burden. Governments can be caught in the same trap, because if prices and incomes fall, so does tax revenue.	5
There is an alternative view that moderate deflation is not a bad thing, especially if it is the result of innovation that reduces production costs. Also, some comfort is to be had from falling or barely rising prices as this goes some way to improve competitiveness. Some of the Eurozone's economies desperately need to become more competitive and they need to either reduce costs or increase productivity. However, falling prices deter investment, which makes productivity improvements far more difficult.	10
	15

Source: news reports, 2014

22.

The Global Context Extract C (lines 9–11) states: 'However, the tax summaries have been heavily criticised in that they may make individuals more inclined to support political parties which favour lower taxes, without considering the wider picture of what state spending provides.'

Using the data and your knowledge of economics, to what extent do you agree that cuts to direct taxation would benefit growth **and** living standards in the UK?
Justify your answer.

[25 marks]

23. THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

Extract C: Where does tax go in the UK?

In the UK, from November 2014, HM Revenue & Customs will begin sending 24 million working people the first Annual Tax Summary, showing how their money is being spent by the state, in order to make taxation more transparent. For example, someone on a salary of £30 000 will see that £1663 of their money is spent on welfare, with £1280 going to health, £892 going to education, £822 going to the state pension and £475 going on national debt interest. Ministers believed that showing exactly where taxpayers' money goes could make voters more receptive to controversial Government changes to the benefits system.

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However, the tax summaries have been heavily criticised in that they may make individuals more inclined to support political parties which favour lower taxes, without considering the wider picture of what state spending provides. The breakdown does not make clear that most of the welfare budget goes to pensioners, the sick and disabled people. The Treasury originally planned to show just 3% went towards unemployment benefits while much larger amounts went to children and families, elderly people and those unable to work, but this has been left off the tax summaries.

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A Labour Party spokesperson said: 'This government's record on tax is giving millionaires a huge tax cut while everyone else pays more.' She added: 'Families and pensioners are paying more in higher VAT, but that tax isn't included in these tax summaries and independent figures from the Institute of Fiscal Studies show that, by next year, families will be £974 a year worse off because of tax and benefit changes since 2010.'

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Source: news reports, 2014

24. The economies of Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey (MINT) have all been identified as the next main emerging market economies with high rates of growth. However, there are warnings that what goes up will eventually come down.

Evaluate the view that living standards must be rising in economies which are experiencing economic growth.

[25 marks]

25. The economies of Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey (MINT) have all been identified as the next main emerging market economies with high rates of growth. However, there are warnings that what goes up will eventually come down.

Explain why economies may go from periods of economic growth to recession.

[15 marks]

26. Since the start of the financial crisis of 2007–2008, the UK, the Eurozone and the USA have adopted quantitative easing (QE) in an attempt to stimulate their economies.

To what extent do you agree that maintaining inflation at the target rate of 2% should be the top priority of UK macroeconomic policy? Justify your answer.

[25 marks]

27.

There are several countries, such as Iceland, Serbia and Turkey, which may join the European Union in the future and so become members of the single market.

Evaluate the view that further enlargement of the European Union would be beneficial for the UK economy.

[25 marks]

28.

THE EUROPEAN UNION CONTEXT

Extract E: The French economy faces problems

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned the French government that, unless it makes major economic reforms to lower its labour costs and avoid tax rises, the economy is likely to experience reduced growth. This view was echoed in a recent survey of bankers, in which France was identified as the most serious threat to Europe's recovery from the debt crisis which has crippled growth and driven unemployment to record highs.	1
The outlook for France, the Eurozone's second largest economy, is more worrying than that for Italy, Spain or Germany.	5
The Chief Executive officer of the Institute of International Finance said: 'There's a lack of concern about international competitiveness in France.' French President, François Hollande, is failing to revive business investment in the face of one of the world's highest tax burdens. Such investment could generate greater efficiency and higher productivity, especially important if the euro's exchange rate does not always work in France's favour.	10
An IMF spokesperson, Edward Gardner, also said that French unemployment, which currently stands at 11%, would continue to rise, despite President Hollande's vow to reduce it by the end of the year. 'It reflects in large part a general phenomenon in Europe that the recovery is slower in coming than we had expected.' The euro area's recovery almost came to a halt as the French economy unexpectedly shrank and German growth slowed.	15
The failure of the French economy to improve is in contrast to the overall success of the German economy and the stronger signs of recovery in the UK. President Hollande now faces difficult choices in reducing government spending to reach European budget deficit commitments. Furthermore, a recent announcement that VAT will rise, despite previous claims that there would be no significant tax rises, may cause further problems for the economy.	20
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Source: News reports, 2013

29.**THE EUROPEAN UNION CONTEXT****Extract F: Ireland emerges from bailout**

Whilst many of the Eurozone members still face instability in their own economies, Ireland became the first economy to emerge from its bailout since the Eurozone crisis began. In its final report on Ireland's progress under the rescue scheme, the European Commission said: 'With public sector debt at 122% of GDP in 2013, Ireland needs to continue with its fiscal reduction programmes, reduce private-sector debt and improve bank profitability to revive lending.'

Of the UK's top ten European trading partners, Ireland is the only one with which the UK has a current account surplus. The importance of trade with Ireland is therefore of great significance. The Irish and UK economies are highly integrated and it is not yet clear how further cuts in Ireland might impact on the UK's macroeconomic performance.

Public sector debt across many European nations is still at very dangerous levels and Ireland's debt to GDP ratio is the second highest in the EU. Higher national debts may lead to problems such as crowding out, where private sector investment is reduced due to increased public sector borrowing. The EU introduced the Stability and Growth Pact (limiting total debt as a percentage of GDP to 60% and annual deficits to 3% of GDP) in order to prevent individual economies from creating instability across the EU. However, EU member countries have struggled to keep to the pact, with only four member countries not breaking the rules. Both Ireland and the UK have breached the pact since 2008. No doubt more problems lie ahead for the Eurozone.

Source: News reports, 2013

30.

The European Union Context Extract E (lines 8–9) states: 'There's a lack of concern about international competitiveness in France.'

Explain what is meant by 'international competitiveness' **and** analyse how the international competitiveness of France might be improved.

[9 marks]

Introduction	• Globalisation • UK economy • Stakeholders in the economy, households, firms, government and whole economy.
Developing the response to the question: Application / Analysis	Arguments that the UK benefits from globalisation • Comparative advantage arguments – job creation in financial services • Endowment of factors of production – access to goods and services difficult to produce domestically • Increased choice • Lower costs of consumer goods/cost of semi-finished goods and commodities • Benefits from transfer of technology • Welfare gains in terms of trade • Economies of scale arguments • Benefits of international co-operation • Increased FDI. Arguments that the UK loses out due to globalisation • Outsourcing has led to structural unemployment in regions of the UK • Issues surrounding labour migration • Multinational corporations exploiting tax loopholes • Multinational corporations influence over political decisions • More open to economic shocks elsewhere in the world • Potential for imported inflation • Over-dependence on certain markets/possible strategic markets arguments • Lack of control over markets and goods and services • Environmental issues.
Evaluation	• Benefits and costs depend on viewpoint, eg a firm lowering costs may do so at the expense of an individual's job • Globalisation as a source of competition creating more resilience in UK firms • Short-term benefits in comparison to longer term, for example short-term prices may fall but over-reliance could lead to long term losses • Loss of manufacturing could lead to long-run over-dependence on certain economies

	Comparative advantage is dynamic – eg although the UK may benefit in terms of specialising in financial services now, this may not be forever. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for	- Reference to the UK/other economies - Diagrams - An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

2.

Issues and areas for discussion include:

Introduction	- UK fiscal policy and budgetary positions - general tax principles, eg fairness, ability to pay, incentives - examples of UK taxes and tax rates - the distinction between direct and indirect taxation - different categories of spending, eg capital v current - the nature of UK Government spending cuts.
Developing the response to the question (application and analysis)	- direct taxation and the issue of incentives (income and substitution effects) - corporate taxes v taxation of household income - Laffer Curve analysis (not mentioned in the specification) - indirect taxes and the issue of their regressive nature - equity and equality - supply and demand analysis to show the possible incidence of taxation - the possible effects of increasing tax rates on total tax revenue per tax - public spending and multiplier/reverse-multiplier - government spending cuts and the impact on private sector business - cuts to capital spending and macroeconomic implications - cuts to current spending and transfer spending - use of diagrams - references to the real world.

Evaluation	• the need for a balanced approach to the use of tax and spending policies • relative distributional effects • relative impact on economic recovery • assessment of the use of a particular tax; any increase in its tax rate(s) may be influenced by the degree of change in the rate(s) being imposed • judgments made on the actual effect on living standards by individual taxes or particular aspects of government spending, whatever the ultimate aim is of a budget surplus • the national and international macroeconomic climate in which changes are being made • how tax/government spending changes relate to the supply-side ethos of recent governments • surveys which point to a limited or zero impact on incentives to work resulting from changes in income tax • welfare-spending cuts and the unemployment trap • tax changes and the poverty trap • the need for coordination of spending and tax policies, eg needing to avoid conflict between welfare benefits and harshly regressive indirect taxes, or assessing if one compensates for the other • the impact of individual taxes on macroeconomic indicators, eg indirect taxes on the rate of inflation • the assessment of both might be affected by the speed with which spending cuts/tax increases are implemented • a final judgment regarding the best policy for the macroeconomy, individuals, for living standards in general, for the achievement of other macroeconomic objectives. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
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It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

Introduction	• Economic growth • The standard of living • The recent global experience.
Developing the response to the question (application and analysis)	• How world economic growth is likely to be achieved • The importance of ensuring that growth is sustainable • Recognition that the impact could be positive or negative in net terms The UK economy: • Aggregate demand • Changes to the incentive to invest and the possible impact on such things as productive capacity • Aggregate supply • Inflation • The environment • The ability to sell overseas and hence the impact on exports • Imports • The balance of payments on current account • The prospects for inward/outward FDI • World growth causing changes to wealth creation in the UK • Employment/unemployment • The impact of world commodity prices. The individual in the UK: • Trend in average income (income per head) • Distribution of income • A possible sharpening of the “haves and have-nots” distinction • Consumption patterns • The wealth effect associated with rising asset prices in a period of growth • Choice of jobs • Quality of life • Quality of life measures such as the HDI and the “happiness index”.

Evaluation	• The extent of world economic growth • World economic growth from what starting point, eg years of stagnation? • The importance of considering where in the world growth is taking place and the bearing this may have on the UK economy • The UK's capability to participate in the growth process and in its rewards • The possibility of the UK economy importing the downside of world growth, eg inflation and a deteriorating environment, without enjoying the benefits, eg more jobs and more spending power • It is easier to measure the economic impact on the individual, ie income per head, than it is to measure changes to the quality of life • What of the individual who has the wrong skills or qualifications to allow occupational mobility or cannot become geographically mobile? • Short term v long term impact for both the individual and the economy • Does the UK economy enjoy higher demand without giving due attention to its supply-side? • Is sufficient attention given to the environment both from the individual's point of view and that of the UK economy? • Whether growth elsewhere is likely to cause net economic benefit or net economic damage to the UK. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for:	• Reference to the UK/other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

Issues and areas for discussion include:

Introduction	- the Eurozone and the EU - UK status - economic criteria for measuring impact - the likely nature of Eurozone break-up.
Developing the response to the question (Application)	- the degree of stability that had existed before the global financial crisis especially for the weaker members (lines 3–4) - the significance of the debt crisis (lines 8–13) - the importance of eurozone stability for the UK (lines 35–39) - the inability of the UK to be immune from the eurozone problems even though it lies outside the eurozone (lines 39–41) - GDP - injections/withdrawals from the circular flow - cyclical/structural unemployment.
Analysis	- economic instability in the eurozone or more widely in the EU - the impact on the £ - the impact on the euro - the status and stability of the restored national currencies of those economies leaving the eurozone - UK economic growth - UK employment. - UK balance of payments, current and capital accounts, especially the impact on the world economy UK exports - the impact on the UK banking/financial sector - the scale of any UK commitment to 'bail-outs' - diagrams to help the analysis - reference to the real world.
Evaluation	- the significance of which countries actually leave the eurozone - how many countries decide to leave - the policies those countries decide to pursue following their exit - whether or not the exit of some countries leaves the eurozone as a much stronger economic entity with which the UK establishes even stronger economic ties - the relative value of the £ in relation to the newly restored national currencies - if there is a continuing crisis whether or not the UK can compensate by developing stronger economic ties elsewhere in the world - whether the UK and the remaining members of the eurozone pursue policies intended to support the economies exiting from the eurozone - the exit of countries in the context of the state of the world economy at that point and the EU economy in particular - the potential significance of the EU still remaining as an economic entity with, for example, the SEM still intact - reference to what actually happens when this paper is sat by candidates and what is suggested in the data - a final judgment on the issue of countries leaving the eurozone. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a</i>

	<i>genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
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It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

5.**Issues and areas for discussion include:**

Introduction	• unemployment defined • types of unemployment • the meaning of 'targeted programmes' • developed economies.
Developing the response to the question (Application)	• reference to global unemployment of 6% (line 5) • the value of the programmes in light of possible fiscal restraint in the UK, for example (lines 11–12) • the IMF assertion that stimuli to AD is the single best cure (lines 19–20) • reference to wage subsidies to lower the cost to employers of hiring labour (line 22–23) • the importance of skills and mobility (lines 25–26) • the multiplier • the accelerator • aggregate demand.
Analysis	• examples of supply-side targeted programmes • the objectives of such programmes • the possible limitations of such programmes • the alternative demand-side approach to curing unemployment • analysis of such policies • a comparison of both approaches • references to the real world • diagrams
Evaluation	• the importance of identifying the main type of unemployment • the possibility of different types of unemployment existing at one time, eg structural and cyclical, so that a combination of demand-side and supply-side policies is needed • the importance of the programmes to productivity improvements and hence competitiveness in world markets as economies recover • the extent of the resources going into such programmes • the duration of such programmes • long term v short term considerations • the need for individual developed economies to get the balance right between demand-side and supply-side approaches to unemployment to suit particular circumstances • a final judgment on the role of the programmes. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

Introduction	• Unemployment • Macroeconomic objectives • Trade-offs.
Developing the response to the question: Application / Analysis	• The nature of the cause of unemployment • Short-run trade-offs • Different policies which can be used to reduce unemployment • Some objectives are compatible objectives, eg reduced unemployment and growth • Objectives of different policies, i.e. monetary focusing on inflation targets and more recently, growth • Supply-side policy achieving goals simultaneously in theory • Long-run compatibility of objectives • The UK's experiences in recent times (low inflation with growing employment) • External shocks affecting objectives beyond the control of the economy.
Evaluation	• Short-run vs long run considerations • The idea that it may be impossible to avoid conflicts in reality but possible in theory • The acceptability of compromise between objectives – control rather than complete avoidance • The intensity of any problems arising from conflict • Time lags in the effects of supply-side policy working • Limitations of the effects of policy instruments • Targets of governments may change, and focus may shift between governments depending on ideology • Consideration of the term 'inevitable'. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for	• Reference to the UK/other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

Relevant issues/logical chains of analysis include:

- defining economic shock, eg what maybe an unexpected event or one that at least some had predicted which affects an economy either positively or negatively (it is anticipated that the majority of candidates will see shock in negative terms because of the reference to 'harm' and this should not be penalised. Please make sure that credit is not given where the preamble to the question is simply copied out, ie an economic shock is something which can have significant consequences)
- distinguishing a demand-side shock from a supply-side shock, perhaps with examples, such as the euro crisis, the 'credit crunch'; oil price increase or a natural disaster.
- defining economic growth, eg an increase in real GDP or an increase in productive capacity.
- distinguishing between actual and potential growth
- Supply: A significant increase in global oil prices will impact on an economy having to import most or all of its oil from the international market, causing the SRAS curve to shift to the left. Higher oil prices will lead to higher unit costs and hence higher prices and hence cost-push inflation. The impact of inflation on real incomes will affect AD (1mark). Demands from labour for higher wages will worsen the inflation problem. Inflation will cause an increase in unemployment and eventually cause economic growth to falter so that stagflation becomes a real possibility.
- Supply: A significant increase in prices of primary commodities generally and/or food prices.
- Supply: A major war/significant natural disaster/a series of devastating terrorist attacks around the world in major economies.
- Demand: The severity of the Eurozone crisis
- Demand: An unanticipated and sudden downturn in emerging economies such as India and China.
- Demand: credit crunch/crisis in major financial markets
- any other economic shock explained which potentially harms growth
- diagrams to help support explanations, eg AD/AS showing shifts of AD and/or AS, micro supply and demand diagrams, PPF

[15]

Introduction	• The budget and budget deficit • The recent UK experience • Short term long-term • The notion of improvement in economic prospects.
Developing the response to the question (application and analysis)	• Short-term gain versus long-term gain • International credit-agency ratings for the UK and their possible significance • Interest rates and quantitative easing – short term benefit, long-term inflation? • The importance of stabilising the economy • Recession in the short term but the possible long-term weakening of the economy • The contrast with the 'Keynesian solution' • Economic growth • Inflation/deflation • Cost-push inflation at a time of 'austerity' creating problems in the long-term • Competitiveness and the balance of payments on current account • Long-term prospects for employment/unemployment • Cyclical and structural unemployment.
Evaluation	• The severity of reductions in the deficit • The period of time over which so-called fiscal austerity lasts • What is reasonable to consider as 'long-term' when referring to 'long-term economic prospects'? • How the budget deficit is achieved • Whether the improvement in long-term prospects fully compensates for short-term problems arising from the reductions in the deficit • Does the alternative 'Keynesian solution' really hold water under scrutiny? • Are international credit ratings really that significant? • Long-term prospects may improve on one measure, eg inflation, but suffer on another measure, eg growth • The possible self-defeating nature of deficit reduction, ie efforts to reduce a deficit can bring about an increase as the economy worsens <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for:	• Reference to the UK/other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

Introduction	• Reference to the history of the EU • The history of UK membership of the EU • Changing views about membership over time • The nature of the EU, for example, as a customs union/single market • The possible criteria for making a decision.
Developing the response to the question (Application)	• The estimated total cost to UK of membership Extract E(lines 4 & 5) • UK Budget contributions Extract E (line 6) • The Single European Market Extract E (lines 14 & 15) • Foreign direct investment Extract E lines (15 & 16) • The EEA Extract F (lines 3–5) • The example of Norway as a non-member of the EU Extract F • Trade theory • AD • Economic growth
Analysis	• The notion of economic benefit • Economic growth • Employment • Balance of Payments • Exchange rate • Prices • CAP • SEM • CET • The euro • The EEA.
Evaluation	• The uncertainty surrounding the future outside the EU • Whether a comparison with just one other economy (Norway) is helpful • To what extent, if at all, would trade be affected? • Could the UK re-establish former economic links, for example, with the Commonwealth or is this a myth from non-existent halcyon days? • The difficulty of assessing in a truly objective and precise way the various costs and benefits • The possible UK support for membership to foster and maintain economic ties with the EU in contrast to strong opposition to political ties and loss of national sovereignty • The possible changing views about membership as enlargement of the EU continues • Support for membership increasingly tempered by a fear that the UK will become embroiled in the euro crisis financially when the UK is outside the Eurozone • ‘Sitting on the fence’ has limitations; should the UK fully embrace all aspects of the EU and become ‘full Europeans’ including adoption of the euro? • The possibility of the UK joining the EEA or even NAFTA instead. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>

Also give credit for:

- Reference to the UK/other economies
- Diagrams
- An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

12.

Relevant issues/logical chains of analysis include:

- defining exports and/or the multiplier
- explanation of the link between the multiplier and AD/use of an arithmetical example
- explaining export-led multiplier, eg the impact of a growing export sector on other sectors of the economy, for example, as those employed in the export sector spend their incomes on goods and services; those businesses in the export sector demanding machinery and technology from other businesses outside the export sector
- use of relevant diagrams, eg AD/AS
- An improvement in the macroeconomy of the EU to which over half of UK exports are sold. Fiscal policy may loosen in the EU, so that consumers' disposable incomes rise and hence their demand for UK goods and services. Equally, unemployment may fall in the EU allowing average incomes to rise and hence consumer demand for UK exports
- UK productivity increases lowering unit costs
- UK/EU relative inflation rates are favourable to the UK
- Quality of UK goods and services
- The exchange rate of the £ against other currencies
- Changing comparative advantage favouring the UK
- appropriate diagrams, eg AD/AS, comparative advantage

[9]

Introduction	• Definition of inflation • Global experiences of inflation • UK inflation and the scenario of 'worsening inflation' • The balance of payments and its various parts.
Developing the response to the question (application)	• Low inflation for achieving economic stability and sustained growth Extract B (lines 2–3) • Reference to energy costs and primary commodity prices Extract B (lines 12 & 13) • The brake on hesitant recovery Extract B (lines 21 & 22) • The dangers of loose monetary policy in the UK Extract C (lines 7–11) • The breeding of 'uncertainty' Extract C (line 11) • Disruption to trade and investment flows (Extract B lines 19 & 20) • Cost-push inflation • Demand-pull inflation • AD/AS analysis • Balance of payments • Competitiveness.
Analysis	• The notion of 'impact' • Measurement of impact in the context of the balance of payments • World commodity prices increases and the UK import bill • UK competitiveness given the authorities' success or failure in controlling inflation • The impact of imported inflation on future balance of payments' performance • Inflation, the UK exchange rate and the balance of payments • The impact of global inflation on the macroeconomy of other countries and how this will inevitably impact on the UK's balance of payments • Investment flows and the capital account.
Evaluation	• Is the problem in almost every part of the global economy and what, therefore, is the relevance of this to the UK balance of payments? • Is the problem one experienced by the UK's major trading partners? • 'Increasing inflation' but is the deterioration still from low initial levels of inflation? • UK inflation compared to inflation amongst our trading partners • A worsening, but still mild, inflation as a stimulant to the world of business, to investment, and the impact on the capital account • An inflation scenario which still compares favourably to the prospect of deflation for the balance of payment • The severity of any anti-inflation policies pursued by other governments which may impact on global demand for UK goods and services • The impact on the current account of success or failure in UK authorities' attempts to deal with any national problem of inflation. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>

Also give credit for:	• Reference to the UK/other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised.
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It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

16.

Introduction	• Saving ratio • Macroeconomic performance.
Developing the response to the question: Application / Analysis	• Increased consumption benefiting standards of living • Increased short-run economic growth • Positive multiplier arguments • Increased deficits on the balance of payments on current account • Increased problems of personal debt • Demand pull inflationary pressures caused by too much consumption • Over-reliance on credit • Lack of funds in financial institutions for lending and investment • Lack of funds for long-run growth • Effects on confidence • Paradox of thrift arguments (not in specification) • Effects on employment.
Evaluation	• Is the saving ratio important in an economy or is it a by-product of economic conditions? • Has increased economic integration and international finance diminished the importance of the savings ratio? • Savings creating the condition for investment in the long run • Low savings and the effects of future policy changes • Changes in the saving ratio as an effect of having a strong economy rather than the cause of a problem. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for	• Reference to the UK/other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

17.

For defining/explaining

- Saving ratio/saving
- Marginal/average propensity to save/consume
- Trade deficit
- Income/disposable income.

For example: During periods of economic prosperity, employment is likely to rise which leads to increased disposable incomes as individuals have more income, consumption increases this often causes a rise in house prices which creates the so called wealth effect and increases consumption even further as individuals now have increased equity in their homes this means that individuals can access more finance due to increased security which leads to an increased marginal propensity to consume as individuals become less risk averse and as a result a falling marginal propensity to save and as such the savings ratio falls.

Other examples could include: The rate of interest, the demographics of the population, time preference, government legislation or consideration of inflation and the real rates of return of saving.

Use of diagrams to help support explanations, eg AD/AS or the trade cycle.

Reference to the UK and/or other economies.

[15]

Introduction	• The nature of public sector debt • The relationship between deficits and debt • The EU and fiscal rules.
Developing the response to the question: Application	Drawing on the information in the extracts: • Eurozone recovery slowing (Extract B) • Taxation affecting investment (Extract B) • Ireland creating conditions to increase lending (Extract C) • Crowding out (Extract C) • High levels of public debt (Extract C) • Significant trade partners (Extract C)
Developing the response to the question: Analysis	Arguments as to how reduced public sector debt in other economies may effect UK: • methods of reducing public sector debt • equity and different income groups • impact on UK exports/FDI • impact on UK growth (short-run and long-run) • impact on the balance of payments on both current and capital accounts. • impact on employment/unemployment • impact on inflation. • impact on investment and confidence • impact on ratings agencies and bond yields • crowding in/crowding out arguments • standards of living • Keynesian multiplier Consideration of how reduced public sector debt domestically is also worthy of credit.
Evaluation	• How 'impact' is measured and the importance of various macroeconomic performance indicators • The differences between the relationships with each nation ie countries which provide us with net exports possibly having a bigger impact • Consideration of 'at the same time' as being with each other or with the UK • The rate at which debts are being reduced • Consideration of whether Government debt is in fact a problem • Consideration of FDI and how this might be affected

	• Will the private sector actually have more freedom to invest both domestically and abroad with reduced Government intervention • Whether debt reduction causes crowding in or crowding out and the effects on AD. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for	• Reference to the UK/other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

Introduction	• Deflation • The EU • Macroeconomic performance indicators.
Developing the response to the question: Application	Drawing on information in the extracts: • Central banks' ability to respond (Extract E) • Eurozone 'one size fits all' vs UK's and others ability to respond Extract E • Delaying spending (Extract F) • Effects on debtors (Extract F) • Effects on tax revenue (Extract F) • Reduced production costs/productivity (Extract F) • Improving competitiveness (Extract F) • Deterring investment (Extract F)
Developing the response to the question: Analysis	Arguments as to how deflation in the EU may benefit the UK economy: • Effects on competitiveness if UK also experiences deflation • Benign inflation due to improved productivity helping growth and maintaining low prices • Long run, sustainable economic growth achieving deflation • UK's low stable inflation causing stability in comparison to deflation • Deflation in other economies may make UK a relative safe haven for firms from abroad considering FDI Microeconomic effects such as benefits to first time buyers of possible falling house prices. Consideration of how deflation in the EU may damage the UK economy: • If EU experiences deflation and UK doesn't then UK may become less competitive in relative terms • EU deflation delaying spending and causing a fall in UK exports • Lack of FDI across the EU due to uncertainty • Damaging tax revenues in the UK which may reduce ability of UK Government to meet targets • Possibility that QE and other policy responses by the ECB and European economies as a result of deflation may give boosts to these economies. • Microeconomic effects such as falling house prices causing negative equity.
Evaluation	• The UK as part of the EU possibly suffering deflation • The duration of deflation having a major impact

	• The cause of deflation being vital to understanding the effects • Benign vs malign arguments • The UK's ability to avoid deflation in comparison to other economies • The relative difficulty of combatting inflation when the causes are external in a globalised economy. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for	• Reference to the UK/other economies • Relevant diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

20.

Explanation:

For defining/explaining

- Unemployment
- Voluntary unemployment, eg structural or frictional
- Linking the natural rate to the concept of equilibrium
- Linking to NAIRU (a different concept but closely linked).

For example: Due to individuals having trained in specific areas they are made redundant and jobs that are currently available do not match their skill set then they may choose to remain unemployed as the wages that they could gain from taking a different job are significantly lower than what their expectations of a wage are which may further be exacerbated by the tax and benefits system where individuals may fall into the unemployment trap as it would mean that gaining employment may be less financially viable than remaining unemployed as the effects of a loss in benefits such as housing benefit would lead to the individual being worse off than in employment.

Other examples could include: Issues such as the tax/benefit system, structural changes in the economy, geographical/occupational immobility or trade union power.

Use of diagrams to help support explanations, eg long-run Phillips curve or supply and demand of labour.

Reference to the UK and/or other economies.

[15]

Introduction	• The nature of EU single market • Origins of the EU • How 'beneficial' may be measured in terms of macroeconomic performance.
Developing the response to the question: Application	Drawing on the information in the extracts: • Electoral success (Extract B) • Lower taxes creating growth Extract B • Balancing budget helped by growth (Extract B) • Reduced size of the state (Extract B) • What goods and services the state provides (Extract C) • Health, education and welfare in terms of living standards (Extract C) • Benefiting certain income groups (Extract C) • The effect of shifting from direct to indirect taxation (Extract C)
Developing the response to the question: Analysis	Arguments why direct tax cuts may be beneficial for growth and living standards: • Increased consumption possibilities • Increased AD as a result of increased consumption and short-run economic growth • Possible increase in firms profits and its role in stimulating investment • Individuals are able to spend more on what they wish, improving welfare • Reduced tax rates leading to more tax revenue (Laffer curve arguments) • Links between economic growth and living standards • Reducing crowding out • Possible multiplier effects. Arguments why direct tax cuts may be damaging for growth and living standards: • Possibly leading to reduced state intervention • Reduction in provision of both public and merit goods • Possible increased inequality • Rich having a larger marginal propensity to save, therefore not spending as much, reducing the circular flow • Possible negative multiplier effects • Lack of crowding in • Costs of economic growth in terms of living standards (eg pollution).

Evaluation	• Short-run vs long run considerations • Are growth and living standards always necessarily directly linked? • How can living standards be judged and what factors need to be considered in their measurement? (This could include HDI or other suitable measurements). • The role of the state and the effects of merit and public goods on living standards • Differences between New Zealand's and UK's experiences, eg New Zealand linked to fast growing Asia-Pacific region. • The idea that living standards and growth encompass a wide range of factors beyond that which domestic governments have control. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for	• Reference to the UK/other economies • Relevant diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not discussed above

[25]

Introduction	• Economic growth • Living standards/the quality of life • Measurements of living standards.
Developing the response to the question: Application / Analysis	• Measuring economic growth • Correlations between growing real GDP per capita and living standards • The change in real GDP per capita as a monetary indicator and the suitability of this for use in judging living standards • Long-run and short-run growth considerations • Inaccuracy and variability in growth rates • HDI/Legatum prosperity index/Misery index/Happy planet index or any other measurement of living standards • Regional differences within countries • Possibilities of increased consumption possibilities • Provision of merit goods/public goods • Pollution and the environment • Inequality issues within countries.
Evaluation	• The sustainability of the growth and consideration of how fast economies are growing • Discussion of the prioritisation of the various factors which make up living standards • Consideration of trade-offs involved in growth • The ability of individuals to move between countries in pursuit of better living standards • Consideration of different economies experiences • Differences between different economic perspectives on welfare provision between different countries and over time • Considering that the judgement of standards of living is highly subjective and different individuals have different opinions on living standards • Exogenous factors beyond the control of the country may impact on living standards for example global warming. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>
Also give credit for	• Reference to the UK/other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

25.

For defining/explaining:

- Economic growth (short-run or long-run)
- Recession
- The trade cycle

For Example: An external shock such as the banking crisis which began in 2007 reduced the ability of the financial sector to lend which caused individuals difficulty in gaining credit and therefore causing consumption to fall as consumption is a large component of aggregate demand as AD falls the real national output of the economy falls which could cause a negative multiplier effect and, if real national output falls for 2 successive quarters this is a recession.

Use of diagrams to help support explanations, eg AD/AS or the trade cycle.

Relevant real world examples and/or relevant reference to the UK and/or other economies.

[15]

Introduction	• Inflation and the types of inflation • The role of the Bank of England • Explanation of the target rate of inflation.
Developing the response to the question: Application / Analysis	• Why the UK has inflation targets • The importance of the other macroeconomic goals • How the independent Bank of England has control of the tools to control inflation • The importance of low inflation greasing the wheels of the economy. • Limitations to the use of policy tools • The importance of inflationary expectations • The effects of deflation • Trade-offs in macroeconomic goals • How inflation can affect growth • How inflation can affect the Balance of payments • How inflation can affect unemployment or vice versa • How focusing on other goals may impact on inflation • How the prioritisation may change • How other policies affect inflation • The role of supply side policy in controlling inflation • Short-run vs long-run considerations.
Evaluation	• Whether control of inflation depends on where the economy is operating in the trade cycle • Whether the UK has the ability to control cost push inflation to the same extent as demand pull • How 'independent' is the Bank of England in setting policy • Historical perspectives compared to current economic policies. • The prospects of inflation as opposed to deflation • The effects on the UK when the UK went outside of the target in the past • The relative importance of inflation compared to other goals • Is there an inevitable trade off with unemployment? • Short-run vs long-run considerations. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>

Also give credit for	• Reference to the UK/other economies • Diagrams • An overall judgement on the issues raised.
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It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

Introduction	• The nature of EU single market • Origins of the EU • How 'beneficial' may be measured in terms of macroeconomic performance.
Developing the response to the question: Application / Analysis	• Current EU policies regarding freedom of movement of labour/capital/trade etc. • How more EU members may affect growth • How more EU members may affect inflation • How more EU members may affect the balance of payments • How more EU members may affect unemployment • Trade diversion/Trade creation. • Comparative advantage • Extended overseas markets and economies of scale • The impact on inward and outward FDI • The relative size of the economies of the possible entrants. • The effects on other EU members • The implications of immigration • The possibility that these countries may enter the Eurozone. • Short-run and long-run considerations • The UK's current macro-economic performance in context.
Evaluation	• The importance of which countries join and when? • The relative size of say the agricultural sector of the new markets may affect the UK's proportion of CAP • The 'net contributor' argument in terms of EU funding. • Scope for FDI (both inward and outward) • The relative importance of EU institutions to the UK. • The relative effects on each macroeconomic goal being dependant on the UK's position on the trade cycle • The importance of stability • Important current political considerations • Immigration depending on the net migration size • Economic and social impact of further integration. <i>Examiners should note that, for some of the weaker or average candidates, parts of the above represent quite sophisticated evaluation and so it is important to ensure that more basic evaluation is adequately rewarded where a genuine effort has been made to display that skill.</i>

Also give credit for

- Reference to the UK/other economies
- Diagrams
- An overall judgement on the issues raised.

It will only be possible for candidates to consider a few of the above. They may also discuss other issues not mentioned above.

[25]

30.

Explanation:

Definition: As there is no single definition for this, any suitable definitions can be credited: eg The ability of an economy to sell goods and services in or to other countries and linking to the theory comparative advantage or in terms of lower costs of production or price/non price competitiveness

Analysis:

For Example: A fall in corporation tax may reduce a firms costs therefore the firms expected profits may rise and improve confidence which may be a catalyst for investment which may increase spending on both human capital and physical capital which may lead to productivity advancements allowing firms to sell goods for cheaper on international markets.

Use of appropriate diagrams, eg AD/AS

Reference to the UK or other economies.

[9]