Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

ECONOMICS **9708/41**

Paper 4 Data Response and Essays **October/November 2022**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 70

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2022 series for most Cambridge IGCSE™, Cambridge International A and AS Level components and some Cambridge O Level components.

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Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently, e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

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Social Science-Specific Marking Principles (for point-based marking)

1 Components using point-based marking:

- Point marking is often used to reward knowledge, understanding and application of skills. We give credit where the candidate's answer shows relevant knowledge, understanding and application of skills in answering the question. We do not give credit where the answer shows confusion.

From this it follows that we:

a DO credit answers which are worded differently from the mark scheme if they clearly convey the same meaning (unless the mark scheme requires a specific term)

b DO credit alternative answers/examples which are not written in the mark scheme if they are correct

c DO credit answers where candidates give more than one correct answer in one prompt/numbered/scaffolded space where extended writing is required rather than list-type answers. For example, questions that require *n* reasons (e.g. State two reasons …).

d DO NOT credit answers simply for using a 'key term' unless that is all that is required. (Check for evidence it is understood and not used wrongly.)

e DO NOT credit answers which are obviously self-contradicting or trying to cover all possibilities

f DO NOT give further credit for what is effectively repetition of a correct point already credited unless the language itself is being tested. This applies equally to 'mirror statements' (i.e. polluted/not polluted).

g DO NOT require spellings to be correct, unless this is part of the test. However spellings of syllabus terms must allow for clear and unambiguous separation from other syllabus terms with which they may be confused (e.g. Corrasion/Corrosion)

2 Presentation of mark scheme:

- Slashes (/) or the word 'or' separate alternative ways of making the same point.
- Semi colons (;) bullet points (•) or figures in brackets (1) separate different points.
- Content in the answer column in brackets is for examiner information/context to clarify the marking but is not required to earn the mark (except Accounting syllabuses where they indicate negative numbers).

3 Calculation questions:

- The mark scheme will show the steps in the most likely correct method(s), the mark for each step, the correct answer(s) and the mark for each answer
- If working/explanation is considered essential for full credit, this will be indicated in the question paper and in the mark scheme. In all other instances, the correct answer to a calculation should be given full credit, even if no supporting working is shown.
- Where the candidate uses a valid method which is not covered by the mark scheme, award equivalent marks for reaching equivalent stages.
- Where an answer makes use of a candidate's own incorrect figure from previous working, the 'own figure rule' applies: full marks will be given if a correct and complete method is used. Further guidance will be included in the mark scheme where necessary and any exceptions to this general principle will be noted.

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4 Annotation:

- For point marking, ticks can be used to indicate correct answers and crosses can be used to indicate wrong answers. There is no direct relationship between ticks and marks. Ticks have no defined meaning for levels of response marking.
- For levels of response marking, the level awarded should be annotated on the script.
- Other annotations will be used by examiners as agreed during standardisation, and the meaning will be understood by all examiners who marked that paper.

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Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	**Use the information to indicate how Romania's economy performed in 2017 compared with the European Union as a whole.** Faster growth rate: GDP grew at more than twice the rate of the EU as a whole according to diagram 1. (1) Lower unemployment: 5.9% compared with 8.6% average for the EU, (1) but poor infrastructure, low ranking (1) Double NMW-increasing consumer spending and boosting the economy (1m)	**3**
1(b)	**Use the information to explain the reasons for Romania's rapid economic growth.** Increased earnings from high-tech sector; low labour costs an attraction for foreign companies (2) Multiplier effect due to increase in foreign investment (1) Tax concessions – reduction in VAT from 24% to 19% has stimulated private consumption(1)	**4**
1(c)	**Describe the changes in Romanian's workforce mentioned and consider whether they have been a benefit to Romania.** *In 2008, 600 000 left to seek work in higher income countries in the EU. Trend continues to deplete labour force creating shortages in Romania as the economy expands. Total population still lower today than 2008 as migrants fail to return due to lower wage levels. (2)* Benefit: Government has doubled minimum national wage to reward labour's share of increased economic growth. (1) Benefit: Cost to Romania may be offset partly by greater productivity in high tech and manufacturing. (1) Benefit: Also possible repatriation of funds from economic migrants.(1) Benefit: Lower welfare payments/greater tax revenue. (1m) Cost: Economic migrants have failed to return to overcome labour shortages. (1) Cost: Wage rates still relatively low (1)	**6**

Question	Answer	Marks
1(d)	**The information states that Romania had a budget deficit. Explain what is meant by a budget deficit and discuss whether the measures taken by the government in 2015 were likely to reduce this deficit.** Explanation of the term (2) Reduced taxes would be no help initially but extra spending may increase revenue in longer term. Depends on elasticity of demand for products. Likely to reduce deficit. (3) Minimum wage may increase spending; government doesn't have to pay for the increased wage in private industry. But they do have to pay for minimum wage in public sector. Increased income/consumer spending raises tax revenue. In the short run this would be likely to increase the deficit. In the long run the change in deficit is more uncertain. (2)	**7**

Question	Answer	Marks
2	**Explain what is meant by cost benefit analysis and consider how it might be used by a government to decide whether a new hospital should be built.** *The use of cost benefit analysis enables a government to consider all the costs and all the benefits and then make a rational decision based on maximising net benefit. Identification of all costs would be more accurate because it would attempt to consider negative externalities i.e. the negative impact on third parties. The same approach would identify positive externalities. In both cases an attempt would be made to put a monetary value on these additional costs/benefits. In many cases the provision of certain types of good will take a long time, therefore an attempt has to be made to decide the present value of benefits that might be gained from a project that will not be completed for many years. Thus although it is important to use cost benefit analysis, it is also extremely important to recognise the difficulties involved when putting this analysis into practice.* *The type of analysis outlined above would be particularly useful when considering whether to build a new hospital. Hospitals are huge capital projects; they are extremely costly and the associated benefits are only likely to be gained over a long time period. As well as private costs there are likely to be negative externalities, for example, effect on the local wildlife, increased traffic congestion around the hospital. Also there will be positive externalities, for example easier access to health care for local residents, more jobs for doctors and nurses, local multiplier effects associated with building and maintaining the hospital. When all the costs and benefits have been considered, a government has to decide whether the net benefit justifies the decision by comparing this with the opportunity cost. It should be recognised that it is very difficult to put a monetary value on externalities and to estimate the future benefits in real terms i.e. allowing for inflation.* **L4 (18–25 marks)** For a reasoned and clear discussion which analyses and explains the key characteristics of cost benefit analysis. This analysis should then be applied to explain government decision making, in this case whether to build a new hospital. Evaluative comment should refer to at least two problems associated with using this type of decision making. **L3 (14–17 marks)** For a competent analysis which clearly explains how cost benefit can be used to aid a government when deciding whether to build a new hospital. At least one evaluative comment should be provided which illustrates a difficulty associated with the use of such analysis. **L2 (10–13 marks)** For a descriptive explanation of cost benefit analysis but there will be little attempt to link this analysis to consider the government's decision whether to build a new hospital. No specific problems associated with the use of this analysis will be identified. **L1 (1–9 marks)** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**25**

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	**Monopoly firms will always aim to maximise profits and limit pricing is the only way to ensure that these profits are maintained in the long run.** **Discuss the extent to which you agree with this statement.** *Monopoly producers might control all the market supply or sometimes the State might provide a legal definition of a monopoly, for example, a firm which controls at least 25% of the market share. Profit maximisation is generally considered to be one of the key aims of a monopoly firm. This would be achieved by producing a level of output where marginal costs (MC) = marginal revenue (MR). Limit pricing is a policy introduced to lower Monopoly prices to deter the entrance of new competitors into the market. Monopolies can do this because they can keep their average total costs lower than their competitors due to dynamic efficiency and economies of scale. In the short run however this means monopolies will not operate where MC = MR and therefore will not be able to maximise profits. Limit pricing recognises this but the main aim is to maintain/increase market share in the long run by preventing the entry of new firms. Once this has been achieved maximum profits can be attained. So it is possible to partially support the statement in the question.* *Limit pricing will not always support the view of monopoly profit maximisation. It will only do so in the long run. It should also be recognised that some monopolies will not necessarily wish to ensure maximum profits are maintained even in the long run. The Principal Agent theory suggests monopolies might prefer to aim for other long run goals such as, sales maximisation, revenue maximisation or growth of market share. In this case the statement in question would not always apply.* **L4 (9–12 marks)** For a clear, explanation of monopoly profit maximisation pricing and an analysis of why limit pricing could be used and the extent to which its use would support the statement in question. Evaluative comment should also be provided to question how far the statement in question can be supported. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For a clear analysis of how a profit maximising monopolist would choose its output and how limit pricing works and the extent to which its use supports the statement in question. No evaluative comment will be provided to question the extent to which the statement in question is correct. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For a more descriptive explanation that indicates knowledge of the profit maximising pricing strategy of a monopoly and also how limit pricing might work. However, the distinction between the short run and long run impact of limit pricing will not discussed and no analysis further analysis of the statement in question will be provided. **L1 (1–4 marks)** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**12**

Question	Answer	Marks
3(b)	**Explain what economists mean by collusion and consider the view that collusion will occur only in a certain type of market structure.** *Collusion takes place when firms find that it is in their interest to co-operate with their rivals to maximise profits. Usually this will mean that firms agree together to fix output or prices or both output and price. This is known as forming a cartel. It is also known as formal collusion and is usually illegal. Sometimes an informal agreement takes place (tacit collusion). In this a dominant firm will set the price/output and other firms will then do the same. It is possible to identify specific factors which would favour collusion. These might include firms are likely to produce similar products using similar production methods; firms will be large, often with a dominant firm; there are significant barriers to entry; the market they operate in is usually stable; governments do not interfere.* *Not all market structures are likely to fulfil these conditions. Firms operating in perfectly competitive markets are price takers and there are no barriers to entry. Firms operating in monopolistic competition are very small, they sell differentiated products and there are no barriers to entry. Monopoly firms, are large but by definition, do not face competition because they control all the market, so collusion would not be relevant. Oligopoly markets consist of a few large firms, which often produce similar types of goods and use barriers to entry. These factors would produce the ideal conditions to promote collusive behaviour. Therefore it is reasonable to agree with the view that collusion will only take place in an Oligopoly market.* *It should be noted that although collusion can take place it does not automatically ensure that it will. Also, Oligopoly firms will still compete with each other through alternative means such as advertising and/or product differentiation. It should also be recognised that many cartel agreements break down because of cheating or one or more firms not fully sticking to the agreed rules.* **L4 (9–13 marks)** For a clear explanation what is meant by collusion. The key characteristics of a market which are necessary to enable firms to collude successfully should be identified. Each of the market structures should be discussed in relation to the possibility of collusion taking place. A conclusion which addresses the specific question should then be provided. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For an accurate explanation of collusion and a more limited explanation with regard to the conditions necessary for it to take place. At least two types of market structures should be discussed in relation to the specific question and a brief conclusion should be provided. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For a briefer descriptive explanation of collusion and a reference to at least one condition necessary for it to take place. Reference to one type of market structure should be made but no conclusion will be provided in relation to the specific question. **L1 (1–4 marks)** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**13**

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	**Explain what is meant by the marginal revenue product theory and consider the relationship between this theory and a trades union's ability to gain higher wages for its members.** *Marginal revenue product theory is a theory which explains what determines the demand for labour. The value of an individual worker's marginal revenue product is made up of two parts. The marginal physical product of a worker multiplied by the marginal revenue gained by the firm when the product is sold will determine the worker's marginal revenue product. It is assumed that each firm in all labour markets are profit maximisers and will therefore employ workers up to the point where the worker's marginal product is equal to the marginal cost of employing this extra unit of labour. In this case, either an increase in worker productivity (increase in worker MPP) or an increase in the marginal revenue gained (MR) will increase MRP. This will shift the demand curve (MRP curve) to the right and indicate an increase in the demand for labour.* *The extent to which this increase in demand will enable Trades Unions to negotiate higher wages will be determined to some extent by the nature of the labour market in which they operate. In a perfectly competitive labour market analysis will focus on a situation where wage rates are determined by the supply of and the demand for labour. In this case trade unions can raise the demand for labour by increasing training and ultimately MRP.* *However wages will only rise if the MRP of all labour in all firms increase. If the increase is confined to one firm, wages will not rise. In a monopsony labour market unions might be able to achieve higher wages in a bilateral bargaining situation where unions negotiate with a monopsony buyer. The extent to which higher wages can be achieved in this situation without job losses will depend upon the relative strength of the union in relation to the employer*. **L4 (9–12 marks)** For a sound discussion that provides a clear explanation of the marginal revenue product theory and analyses the potential impact of a Trades Union's ability to change MRP in both a perfectly competitive labour market and an imperfect labour market. A conclusion should summarize the differences between the two markets. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For a competent comment with analysis that recognises the determinants of MRP, and how this relates to the demand for labour. Further analysis will establish the links between MRP, Trades Unions and higher wage rates. However the analysis will only be confined to one type of labour market. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For an attempt describes what is meant by the marginal revenue product and links this to the demand for labour. A limited attempt will be made to show how Trades Unions can bargain for higher wages but the analysis will not be fully developed. **L1 (1–4 marks)** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**12**

Question	Answer	Marks
4(b)	**Distinguish between economic rent and transfer earnings and with the help of diagrams discuss why famous sports people receive much higher pay than street cleaners.** *Transfer earning is the minimum payment to a worker to remain in their job. Economic rent is that payment beyond that necessary to keep a factor of production in its current use. A diagram can be used to identify this difference in the labour market. Links between the elasticity of supply of labour and transfer earnings and economic rent can be further established with the help of diagrams. Famous sports people have special talents which mean that the supply of such players is limited and very inelastic. Provided there is a strong demand to watch tennis, then it is likely that famous sports people will receive very high pay. Moreover, because their particular skill is not transferable, most of a sports person's high pay will in the form of economic rent.* *The supply of street cleaners is likely to be highly elastic because of the low skill levels required and the short training period necessary. Therefore, even if demand for street cleaners rose significantly, it is still unlikely that they would be able to gain a high pay rise. Also the combination of a high and elastic supply should lead to most of their pay consisting of transfer payments. It is possible for pay levels to fall for famous sports people if they fail to provide sufficient entertainment and the demand to watch an individual player falls or if there is a general decline in the demand to watch professional sports. It is also possible for pay levels of street cleaners to rise if they form part of a Trades Union or benefit from changes in government policy regarding the pay of workers in the public sector.* **L4 (9–13 marks)** For a response which uses diagrams to distinguish clearly between transfer earnings and economic rent. The links between these two concepts, the elasticity of supply of labour and the two types of labour will be then analysed. Some evaluative comment should be provided to discuss other factors than the elasticity of supply might influence the relative pay of each type of labour. A conclusion should be provided. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For competent analysis which links transfer earnings and economic rent to the elasticity of supply of labour. This analysis will then be extended to analyse why famous sports people are paid much higher than street cleaners. Alternative explanations relating to this pay difference will not be discussed and no conclusion will be provided. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For a brief and description of economic rent and transfer earnings. The links between elasticity of supply and different pay for tennis players and street cleaners will not be fully established. Supporting diagrams will not be clearly labelled and will not be used effectively to address the specific question. **L1 (1–4 marks)** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**13**

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	**Explain, with the help of a diagram, explain the Keynesian theory of the liquidity trap and consider the importance of the liquidity trap to government policy makers when an economy is in a recession.** *The Keynesian theory of the liquidity trap relies heavily upon the Keynesian theory of interest rate determination. This theory assumes that the interest rate is determined by the supply of and demand for money. It is also assumed that the demand for money becomes perfectly elastic when the rate of interest on securities becomes very low and that the supply of money is perfectly inelastic because it is determined solely by the Central Bank. This can be illustrated by a supply and demand diagram. When an economy is in a recession, GDP will be falling, incomes will be low and unemployment will be relatively high.* *Monetary policy such as lowering interest rates might be used to stimulate aggregate demand and move the economy out of a recession. However, according to Keynesian theory, when interest rates reach a very low level, an increase in the money supply to stimulate the economy will have no effect because this policy will have no further effect on interest rates. This form of monetary will no longer work. A diagram can support this conclusion by clearly identifying the liquidity trap. If policy makers recognise the existence of a liquidity trap, they might then choose to rely on alternative policies to move an economy out of a recession. Alternative measures might include: a devaluation of the domestic currency if is based on a fixed exchange rate; the use of expansionary fiscal policies such as increased government spending and/or tax reduction; or various supply side measures to increase productivity.* **L4 (9–12 marks)** For a sound analysis of the Keynesian theory of interest rate determination, supported by accurate, clearly labelled diagrams. A recession should be explained and the link between a recession and policies used to move out of a recession should be considered. A least one alternative policy approach should be explained and discussed and a conclusion provided. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For an analysis of the Keynesian theory of interest determination and an identification of the liquidity trap. Links between policies to move out of a recession and the liquidity trap will be established. No alternative policies which might be used because of the liquidity trap will be discussed and no conclusion will be provided. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For a response which is descriptive rather than analytical. Answers will explain Keynesian theory of interest rate determination but will not use this to analyse the link between the liquidity trap and the effectiveness of the use of monetary policy to move an economy out of a recession. **L1 (1–4 marks)** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**12**

Question	Answer	Marks
5(b)	**The most important aim of a central bank is to control the money supply while the most important aim of a commercial (retail) bank is to maximise profits.** **Discuss the extent to which these two aims can be achieved together.** *Central banks have a number of important roles. One of the most important roles is the use of monetary policy to try and ensure financial stability and help a government to meet its target rate of inflation. Monetary policy would include the use of interest rate changes, exchange rate changes and controlling the money supply. The need to control the money supply is strongly linked to the relationship between the amount of money in an economy can have an important impact on the rate of inflation. Different policy instruments are available to a central bank to enable control of the money supply, these might include changes in interest rates and/or the use of open market operations.* *Commercial banks are responsible for creating the largest proportion of the money supply, because banks grant loans which produce new bank deposits which automatically add to the money supply. Therefore, if a central bank increases interest rates, less borrowing from the commercial banks will take place, when bank lending falls bank deposits will fall. When this takes place, the central bank will have achieved its aim of decreasing the money supply. However, commercial bank lending is one of the main sources of commercial bank profits. On this basis one could argue that central bank policy is likely to lead to a fall in commercial bank profits. If this is true then it would seem that the two aims referred to in the statement in question are not compatible. But it could also be argued that the demand for bank loans might be interest inelastic. In this case higher interest rates are likely to lead to an increase in commercial bank profits and therefore the two aims might be compatible.* **L4 (9–13 marks)** For a response which explains why central banks would want to control the money supply and how commercial banks might maximise profits. Analysis of the impact of changes in the rate of interest on the money supply and also on commercial banks' profits should be provided. A discussion of the extent to which the two aims are compatible should then follow, supported by a conclusion. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For an explanation of both aims and the mechanisms through which each aim might be achieve. Accurate developed analysis based on both aims stated in the question will be provided but there will be a very limited attempt to establish the extent to which both aims might be compatible. A conclusion will not be provided. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For a mainly descriptive comment which demonstrates understanding of why control of the money supply is an important aim of a central bank and also explains what the main influence on commercial bank profitability is. Analysis of how these two aims might be achieved will not be provided. **L1 (1–4 marks)** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**13**

Question	Answer	Marks
6	**Explain what economists mean by an increase in real GDP per capita and discuss the extent to which an increase in real GDP per capita will have a positive impact on economic development.** *GDP is measured by the monetary value of all the goods and services produced in an economy in a particular time period, usually one year. To ensure that an accurate measure of the real output is attained with we have to take account of the price element of the change in value of goods. By taking inflation into account we can calculate the real value of GDP. It is also helpful to calculate the relationship between this increase in real value of GDP and any change in population. Economists will divide the real GDP by the total population to calculate the amount of GDP that is available per person. This would now allow economists to calculate real GDP per capita. An increase in real GDP per capita is consistent with the achievement of economic growth. This potentially allows the population access to more goods and services and this is often associated with an increase in living standards.* *However, economic development considers a much wider range of variables than economic growth and many of these variables are more difficult to measure accurately. Economic development attempts to measure the improvement in the overall quality of life enjoyed by the population. Key measures of development include access to education; access to health care; life expectancy; lower levels of poverty. An increase in real GDP per capita might have a positive impact on economic development because more resources will be available to provide better education, better access to health care and a subsequent increase in life expectancy. However, an increase in GDP per capita might a have a negative impact on economic development for reasons which might include negative effects on the environment; loss of leisure time; further inequalities in the distribution of wealth; unsustainable growth due to overuse of scare resources.* **L4 (18–25 marks)** For a clear explanation of real GDP per capita. Economic development will be clearly defined and at least two positive links between an increase in real GDP per capita and economic development established and analysed. At least two potential negative impacts on development will be identified and discussed and a conclusion will be provided. **L3 (14–17 marks)** For a limited explanation of real GDP per capita and analysis of at least one positive link between an increase in real GDP per capita and development plus a recognition of one potential negative impact on development. There will be no attempt to compare relative impacts to determine the overall extent of growth on economic development. **L2 (10–13 marks)** For a competent comment with the emphasis on describing real GDP per capita and what is meant by economic development. A limited attempt to identify links between growth and development will be made but responses will lack sufficient detail to address the specific question. **L1 (1–9 marks)** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**25**

Question	Answer	Marks
7	**A government's decision to increase its budget deficit as a proportion of the economy's GDP will depend significantly upon whether the economy's output gap is positive or negative.** **With the help of a diagram explain and evaluate this statement.** *Answers should explain that a budget deficit will occur when government total expenditure is greater than its total income. It should also be recognised that a decision to increase a budget deficit as a proportion of a country's GDP, is likely to inject additional expenditure into an economy. On this basis this policy would be expansionary, in that it has been introduced to increase expenditure, income, output and employment.* *An output gap will be positive can be explained in different ways. One approach states that a positive output gap will occur when actual output is above the level of the trend output. Alternative approaches might use production possibility curves or aggregate demand and aggregate supply analysis. Each of these approaches can be explained using a diagram. Each approach should recognise that a positive output gap is associated with an economy that is overheating or undergoing inflationary pressure. A negative output gap can be explained using the same three approaches outlined above. In each of these cases an economy will not be using all its resources and is likely to be in recession. Based on the above it is clear that a government is highly unlikely to increase its budget deficit if the economy is experiencing a positive output gap. Diagrams could be used to show that such a policy in such circumstances is highly likely to lead to high levels of inflation.* *However, an increase in a budget deficit is likely to stimulate the output and employment when the output gap is negative. A diagram could be used to show the potential impact of such a policy. Evaluative comment might note that the extent of positive effect of an increase budget deficit will depend upon the cause of the output gap. It will be less effective if the gap is caused by structural unemployment rather than cyclical unemployment. Also, the use of large budget deficits to close a negative income gap might create additional problems such as high interest rates (crowding out), high inflation in the long run, or negative effects on the balance of payments.* **L4 (18–25 marks)** For an answer which explains what is meant by a budget deficit and how an increase in this deficit might impact on key macroeconomic variables. A clear explanation of positive and negative output gaps with supporting diagrams should be provided. The impact of a deficit with respect to each gap should be analysed. The potential beneficial effects of an increase in the deficit on a negative output gap should then be evaluated.	**25**

Question	Answer	Marks
7	**L3 (14–17 marks)** For clear analysis which uses a diagram to explain each type of output gap. The focus will show how an increase in a budget deficit as a proportion of GDP might affect a negative output gap. There will be no attempt to evaluate the extent to which the negative output gap might be closed. **L2 (10–13 marks)** For a less well-developed comment which describes the meaning of a budget deficit and both types of output gap. Diagrams provided might not be clearly labelled and the link between a negative output gap and a budget deficit will not be analysed in detail. **L1 (1–9 marks)** For an answer that shows some knowledge but does not indicate that the question has been fully grasped or where the answer is mostly irrelevant.	

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Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

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Social Science-Specific Marking Principles (for point-based marking)

1 Components using point-based marking:

- Point marking is often used to reward knowledge, understanding and application of skills. We give credit where the candidate's answer shows relevant knowledge, understanding and application of skills in answering the question. We do not give credit where the answer shows confusion.

  From this it follows that we:

a DO credit answers which are worded differently from the mark scheme if they clearly convey the same meaning (unless the mark scheme requires a specific term)
b DO credit alternative answers/examples which are not written in the mark scheme if they are correct
c DO credit answers where candidates give more than one correct answer in one prompt/numbered/scaffolded space where extended writing is required rather than list-type answers. For example, questions that require *n* reasons (e.g. State two reasons …).
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- Slashes (/) or the word 'or' separate alternative ways of making the same point.
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- The mark scheme will show the steps in the most likely correct method(s), the mark for each step, the correct answer(s) and the mark for each answer
- If working/explanation is considered essential for full credit, this will be indicated in the question paper and in the mark scheme. In all other instances, the correct answer to a calculation should be given full credit, even if no supporting working is shown.
- Where the candidate uses a valid method which is not covered by the mark scheme, award equivalent marks for reaching equivalent stages.
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- For point marking, ticks can be used to indicate correct answers and crosses can be used to indicate wrong answers. There is no direct relationship between ticks and marks. Ticks have no defined meaning for levels of response marking.
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MARKING SPECIFICS

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   - Where a candidate crosses out an answer and provides an alternative response to that same question, then mark the work which is not crossed out.
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ANNOTATIONS

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ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The skills listed below are what we expect candidates to be able to do. The marks in the mark scheme reward candidates who demonstrate these skills, so they are helpful to keep in mind if you have any doubts as to whether or not something is worthy of credit.

AO1 Knowledge and understanding	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding.
AO2 Application	Interpret and apply knowledge and understanding to information presented in written, numerical or graphical form.
AO3 Analysis	Analyse economic issues and arguments, using relevant economic concepts, theories and information, and communicate conclusions in a clear, reasoned manner.
AO4 Evaluation	Critically evaluate economic information, arguments, proposals and policies, taking into consideration relevant information and economic principles and distinguishing facts from hypothetical statements and value judgements.

LEVELS OF RESPONSE MARKING APPROACH

The essay questions in Section B are marked using Levels of Response. They carry a maximum mark of 25 each. Most of them are split into two parts, where part (a) is worth 12 marks and part (b) is worth 13 marks. However, some essays are set as a single question worth 25 marks.
Try not to 'bunch' marks, but use the whole mark range. Do not reserve (e.g.) high Level 4 marks ‘just in case’ something turns up of a quality you have not yet seen. If an answer gives clear evidence of the qualities described in the band descriptors, then it must be rewarded appropriately. If there is any doubt in your mind, give the benefit of doubt to the candidate.
The difference in grades should be assessed on the ability of the candidate to demonstrate the skills described in the assessment objectives and not purely on the ability to itemise further facts from the content of the syllabus. All of the essays test the four assessment objectives above.

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LEVELS OF RESPONSE MARKING PROCESS

There are two steps that need to be taken in awarding the mark for the essay questions:
Step 1: Determine the level – start at the highest level and work down until you reach the level that best describes the answer. Use a 'best-fit' approach: which level does it most closely resemble overall, considering all of the assessment objectives on balance?

Step 2: Determine the mark within the level by considering the following:

- Consistently meets the criteria; clear evidence of the qualities of the level = at the top of the level
- Meets the level's criteria but with some slight inconsistency or some parts of the criteria not addressed = at the middle or above the middle of the level (depending on number of marks available)
- Just enough achievement for this level on balance = either below the middle or at the middle of the level (depending on number of marks available)
- Answer is on the borderline of this level and the one below, i.e. it there is only limited evidence it meets the criteria for this level = at the bottom of level

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LEVELS OF RESPONSE MARKING DESCRIPTIONS

Please also see the mark scheme for each part of each essay, detailing the ranges of marks to be awarded for each Level, and some illustrative content.

Level	**AO1**	**AO2**	**AO3**	**AO4**
L4	detailed knowledge of relevant facts and theory perceptive understanding of the specific requirements of the question throughout the answer	relevant, apposite illustrations and specific examples are introduced to add depth and fullness to the answer recognises the underlying economic concepts and principles and applies these in relevant situations to develop the answer	detailed, precise and purposeful description, explanation and analysis using appropriate economic terms and concepts correctly and fluently. draws clear, reasoned conclusions a sound, well-structured answer	critical evaluation of the issues, considering relevant information and economic principles distinguishes between facts, hypotheses and/or value judgements challenges assumptions of the question or model
L3	adequate knowledge of relevant facts and theory a reasoned understanding of the question's requirements shown in the answer	some appropriate relevant illustration or examples seen but they may be quite general or not very full applies theory and facts with accurate reference to the question to develop the answer	straightforward, satisfactory analysis: generally clear statements, supported by reasoned arguments including some specific economic terms and concepts draws some conclusions a functionally organised answer	partly complete evaluation of the issues in terms of either relevant information or economic principles attempt to distinguish between facts, hypotheses and/or value judgements attempt to comment on assumptions
L2	identifies some relevant facts and/or theory the answer overall has a general relevance to the question, showing some understanding	illustration may not be fully relevant and is superficial or overgeneralised an accurate application of some related theory or fact(s), with little or no development	some analysis present but limited by omissions, error(s), irrelevant details or unclear communication conclusions may not be drawn from i a disorganised answer	some evidence of an ability to evaluate, discriminate, or to make basic judgements, considering some relevant information
L1	shows some relevant knowledge the answer indicates that the question has not been correctly understood	barely relevant, minimal or tangential illustration basic errors of theory or of fact with inadequate development	any analysis present is likely to have major errors, omissions or be mostly irrelevant	minimal or no evidence of the evaluation skills of criticism, judgement or discrimination in the answer

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Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	**Explain how the discovery and extraction of oil affects the productive capacity of Guyana.** An expansion of productive capacity (1)/Potential growth (1)/Aggregate Supply increases (1) Comments on effect on the production possibility curve (PPC)/aggregate supply (AS) (+1) **or** Any link between oil extraction and productive capacity (+1)	**2**
1(b)	**Using the information in the article:** **(i) Explain the type of unemployment arising from the closure of sugar plantations in Guyana.** Type of unemployment is structural (1) Explanation: Cannot compete with foreign sugar producers/change in pattern of demand (+1)	**2**
	(ii) Explain how this type of unemployment might be reduced Solution: Supply side policies (1) Example eg Skills/Training (+1). Up to 2 marks for any developed example Allow subsidies	**4**
1(c)	**Explain how an over-valuation of the exchange rate may affect Guyana's economy.** Import prices fall & export prices increase. (1) Imports increase and exports decrease (1) Import prices fall and imports increase (1) Export prices rise and exports decrease (1) **Max 2 marks** **Development** referring to any one of Balance of payments/ Inflation/Unemployment/Economic Growth/FDI (**up to 2 marks**	**4**
1(d)	**Discuss with reference to the article, how the establishment of the new fund may benefit the population of Guyana.** Identification of policies of the fund 3 x 1 mark Development of the impact of 3 policies, up to 2 additional marks for each policy **Max 4 marks** Conclusion (1)	**8**

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	**Using diagrams, explain with examples the meaning of a positive externality for a consumer and a negative externality for a producer.** *Externalities are spillover costs or benefits which do not apply to the originator of the actions. Positive externalities for a consumer bring a benefit and social marginal benefit is greater than private marginal benefits. Negative externalities for a producer bring a cost not paid for by the producer, Marginal social costs are greater than marginal private costs. Examples.* **L4 (9–12 marks)** For an answer which defines positive and negative externalities and analyses their relationship to social/private costs and social/private benefits. Appropriate diagrams are shown with reference to them in the text. Examples are linked to both types of externality. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For an answer which defines positive **or** negative externalities and analyses their relationship to social/private costs **or** social/private benefits. Appropriate diagrams are shown with some limited reference to them in the text. Examples are provided. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For an answer which explains positive and negative externalities an example of either positive **or** negative externality is given. **L1 (1–4 marks)** For an answer which has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies. Errors of theory or omissions of analysis will be substantial.	**12**
2(b)	**Discuss the extent to which positive externalities and negative externalities explain all forms of market failure.** *Alternative forms of market failure, e.g. public goods, forms of non-perfect competition defined in terms of productive and allocative efficiency, forms of under employment of resources and, equality.* **L4 (9–13 marks)** For an answer which develops an analysis of two alternative forms of market failure. A conclusion is reached for 12/13 marks. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For an answer which develops an analysis of one alternative form of market failure and comments on a second form. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For an answer which defines and explains alternative form(s) of market failure. **L1 (1–4 marks)** For an answer which has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies. Errors of theory or omissions of analysis will be substantial.	**13**

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Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	**Explain the law of diminishing returns and its relevance to the shapes of the marginal cost curve and the average variable cost curve of a firm.** *A statement of the law of diminishing returns (LDR) in terms of increased use of a variable factor of production with a fixed factor of production. Comment that LDR is a short run phenomenon. The effect of increasing/decreasing returns on average and marginal output. The relevance of these to the average variable cost curve.* **L4 (9–12 marks)** For an answer which refers to the short run, explains and analyses the implications of the LDR for the shape of the average and marginal output curves **and** the marginal cost curve and average variable cost curve. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For an answer which refers to the short run, explains the LDR and attempts to analyse the shape of the average and marginal output curves **or** the marginal cost curve and average variable cost curve. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For an answer which explains LDR and average and marginal costs. **L1 (1–4 marks)** For an answer which has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies. Errors of theory or omissions of analysis will be substantial.	**12**
3(b)	**Discuss the extent to which a firm's ability to operate a policy of price discrimination is determined by the market structure in which that firm operates.** *Definition and explanation of price discrimination (PD). Necessary conditions for PD: able to set price, separate markets and differing PED. PD and perfect/imperfect market structures* **L4 (9–13 marks)** For an answer which develops an analysis of the consequences of the necessary conditions for PD on the price and output of a firm. Consideration is given to a form of market structure which enables the conditions of PD to be practiced. A conclusion is reached for 12/13 marks. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For an answer which develops an analysis of the consequences of the necessary conditions for PD on the price and output of a firm. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For an answer which defines and explains PD. Answer may be largely descriptive with limited if any link market structure. **L1 (1–4 marks)** For an answer which has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies. Errors of theory or omissions of analysis will be substantial.	**13**

Question	Answer	Marks
4	**Discuss the extent to which marginal revenue product theory can be used to explain the determination of wages.** using MRP theory. *Demand for labour (MRP theory MPP x MR (price) of labour, elasticity of demand and supply of labour and effect on wages. Effects of monopsony and minimum wage legislation. Questioning of the assumptions of the theory knowledge of MPP/MR/perfect labour market.* **L4 (18–25 marks)** For an answer which analyses the theory of wages using MRP theory. Comments are made regarding the elasticity of demand and supply of labour. Imperfections in the labour market are identified and linked to wage levels. The assumptions of the theory of wages are questioned. A conclusion is reached for 22–25 marks. **L3 (14–17 marks)** For an answer which analyses the theory of wages using MRP theory. Comments are made regarding the elasticity of demand and supply of labour **or** imperfections in the labour market are identified and linked to wage levels. **L2 (10–13 marks)** For a limited explanation which uses supply and demand analysis to determine wages and refers to differing wage levels. **L1 (1–9 marks)** For an answer which has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies. Errors of theory or omissions of analysis will be substantial.	**25**

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Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	**Using Keynesian theory of interest rate determination, explain why interest rates are sometimes very low.** *Transaction, precautionary and speculative demands for money, the link between these and the rate of interest. Significance of speculative demand and the rate of interest/price of bonds, active/Idle balances, the liquidity trap. The level of the money supply.* **L4 (9–12 marks)** For an answer which explains the three demands for money and analyses their relationship with the money supply, rate of interest and the liquidity trap. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For an answer which explains the three demand for money with limited reference to the low interest rates. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For an answer which explains the transaction and precautionary demand for money, there may be limited reference to the speculative demand. **L1 (1 – marks)** For an answer which has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies. Errors of theory or omissions of analysis will be substantial.	**12**
5(b)	**Discuss whether in a period of low interest rates, monetary policy alone can resolve the problem of cyclical unemployment.** *Monetary policy transmission mechanism and effect on demand in the economy. Limitations of low interest rates on ability to reduce rate of interest and provoke expansion. Fiscal policy as an alternative, multiplier effect, problems of size/timing of interventions.* **L4 (9–13 marks)** For an answer which develops an analysis of monetary and fiscal policy and applies them to the problem of cyclical unemployment. Some limitations of the policy(ies) are explained. A conclusion is reached for 12/13 marks. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For an answer which develops an analysis of monetary **or** fiscal policy and comments on the other policy, some application to the problem of cyclical unemployment is made. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For an answer which explains monetary or fiscal policy in a relevant context. **L1 (1–4).** For an answer which has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies. Errors of theory or omissions of analysis will be substantial.	**13**

Question	Answer	Marks
6(a)	**Explain how changes in the internal value of a country's currency can affect the external value of that currency.** *Definitions of the two terms internal and external value of a currency: inflation and the exchange rate. The link between changes in the internal value of the currency and the exchange rate and the exchange rate and the rate of inflation. Comment on the effect of a fixed/floating exchange rate.* **L4 (9–12 marks)** For an answer which defines the internal and external values of a currency: inflation and the exchange rate. It explains the two terms internal and external value of a currency and analyses the relationship between a change in one and the effect on the other. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For an answer which defines the two terms internal and external value of a currency, and which explains the relationship between a change in one and the effect on the other. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For an answer which defines and explains the two terms. **L1 (1–4)** For an answer which has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies. Errors of theory or omissions of analysis will be substantial.	**12**
6(b)	**Discuss whether a government can achieve all its key macroeconomic aims simultaneously.** *Statement of a government's macroeconomic aims: low unemployment, low inflation, (The Phillips curve relationship), economic growth and balance of payments equilibrium. The use of aggregate demand (AD) and aggregate supply (AS) analysis to demonstrate the effect of under-employed and fully employed resources in the short run and long run.* **L4 (9–13 marks)** For an answer which analyses 2 conflicts in simultaneously achieving the macroeconomic aims of government. AD/AS analysis or an alternative form of analysis is used to show the effect on the achievement of these aims. A conclusion is reached for 12/13 marks. **L3 (7–8 marks)** For an answer which analyses 1 conflict in simultaneously achieving the macroeconomic aims of government. AD/AS or an alternative form of analysis is used to show the effect on the achievement of these aims. **L2 (5–6 marks)** For an answer which describes 2 macroeconomic aims of a government. **L1 (1–4)** For an answer which has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies. Errors of theory or omissions of analysis will be substantial.	**13**

Question	Answer	Marks
7	**Discuss the ability of multinational corporations to increase living standards in their home country and the other countries in which they operate.** *Definition of multinational corporation (MNC) and definition of standard of living (SoL). Analysis of impact of MNC on its host and home countries and the effects of these on SoL e.g. employment, investment exports/imports, remittances, transfer of externalities, urbanization, tax yield and expenditure.,* **L4 (18–25 marks)** For an answer which defines MNC and SoL and discusses the impact of a MNC on the SoL of the home **and** host countries. A conclusion is reached for 22–25 marks. **L3 (14–17 marks)** For an answer which defines MNC and SoL and discusses the impact of a MNC on the SoL of **either** the home **or** host countries. **L2 (10–13 marks)** For a limited explanation of MNC and its impact on the SoL of a country. **L1 (1–9 marks)** For an answer which has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies. Errors of theory or omissions of analysis will be substantial.	**25**

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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

ECONOMICS **9708/43**

Paper 4 Data Response and Essays **October/November 2022**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 70

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2022 series for most Cambridge IGCSE™, Cambridge International A and AS Level components and some Cambridge O Level components.

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Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently, e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

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?	The point being made is unclear or confused.
NAQ	Not answering the question.

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SEEN	This work has been noted by the examiner, but there is nothing of any credit here.
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AO2 Application	Interpret and apply knowledge and understanding to information presented in written, numerical or graphical form.
AO3 Analysis	Analyse economic issues and arguments, using relevant economic concepts, theories and information, and communicate conclusions in a clear, reasoned manner.
AO4 Evaluation	Critically evaluate economic information, arguments, proposals and policies, taking into consideration relevant information and economic principles and distinguishing facts from hypothetical statements and value judgements.

LEVELS OF RESPONSE MARKING APPROACH

The essay questions in Section B are marked using Levels of Response. They carry a maximum mark of 25 each. Most of them are split into two parts, where part (a) is worth 12 marks and part (b) is worth 13 marks. However, some essays are set as a single question worth 25 marks.
Try not to 'bunch' marks, but use the whole mark range. Do not reserve (e.g.) high Level 4 marks ‘just in case’ something turns up of a quality you have not yet seen. If an answer gives clear evidence of the qualities described in the band descriptors, then it must be rewarded appropriately. If there is any doubt in your mind, give the benefit of doubt to the candidate.
The difference in grades should be assessed on the ability of the candidate to demonstrate the skills described in the assessment objectives and not purely on the ability to itemise further facts from the content of the syllabus. All of the essays test the four assessment objectives above.

LEVELS OF RESPONSE MARKING PROCESS

There are two steps that need to be taken in awarding the mark for the essay questions:
Step 1: Determine the level – start at the highest level and work down until you reach the level that best describes the answer. Use a ‘best-fit’ approach: which level does it most closely resemble overall, considering all of the assessment objectives on balance?
Step 2: Determine the mark within the level by considering the following:

- Consistently meets the criteria; clear evidence of the qualities of the level = at the top of the level
- Meets the level’s criteria but with some slight inconsistency or some parts of the criteria not addressed = at the middle or above the middle of the level (depending on number of marks available)
- Just enough achievement for this level on balance = either below the middle or at the middle of the level (depending on number of marks available)
- Answer is on the borderline of this level and the one below, i.e. it there is only limited evidence it meets the criteria for this level = at the bottom of level

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LEVELS OF RESPONSE MARKING DESCRIPTIONS

Please also see the mark scheme for each part of each essay, detailing the ranges of marks to be awarded for each Level, and some illustrative content.

Level	**AO1**	**AO2**	**AO3**	**AO4**
L4	detailed knowledge of relevant facts and theory perceptive understanding of the specific requirements of the question throughout the answer	relevant, apposite illustrations and specific examples are introduced to add depth and fullness to the answer recognises the underlying economic concepts and principles and applies these in relevant situations to develop the answer	detailed, precise and purposeful description, explanation and analysis using appropriate economic terms and concepts correctly and fluently draws clear, reasoned conclusions a sound, well-structured answer	critical evaluation of the issues, considering relevant information and economic principles distinguishes between facts, hypotheses and/or value judgements challenges assumptions of the question or model
L3	adequate knowledge of relevant facts and theory a reasoned understanding of the question's requirements shown in the answer	some appropriate relevant illustration or examples seen but they may be quite general or not very full applies theory and facts with accurate reference to the question to develop the answer	straightforward, satisfactory analysis: generally clear statements, supported by reasoned arguments including some specific economic terms and concepts draws some conclusions a functionally organised answer	partly complete evaluation of the issues in terms of either relevant information or economic principles attempt to distinguish between facts, hypotheses and/or value judgements attempt to comment on assumptions
L2	identifies some relevant facts and/or theory the answer overall has a general relevance to the question, showing some understanding	illustration may not be fully relevant and is superficial or overgeneralised an accurate application of some related theory or fact(s), with little or no development	some analysis present but limited by omissions, error(s), irrelevant details or unclear communication conclusions may not be drawn from it a disorganised answer	some evidence of an ability to evaluate, discriminate, or to make basic judgements, considering some relevant information

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Level	**AO1**	**AO2**	**AO3**	**AO4**
L1	shows some relevant knowledge the answer indicates that the question has not been correctly understood	barely relevant, minimal or tangential illustration basic errors of theory or of fact with inadequate development	any analysis present is likely to have major errors, omissions or be mostly irrelevant	minimal or no evidence of the evaluation skills of criticism, judgement or discrimination in the answer

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	**Identify the trends in demand for different uses of palm oil as shown in Fig. 1.1.** Increase in demand for biodiesel throughout the years shown (1) Heating and electricity use rises then stabilises after 2011 (1) Uses in foodstuffs and animal feed falls over the period (1)	**3**
1(b)	**Analyse why developing countries that produce palm oil view it as a means of poverty reduction.** Agriculture is linked to rural economies which traditionally suffer from underemployment and low seasonal incomes.**[1]** Promotes economic growth (1) High world demand for palm oil means that it has become an income generator and an earner of forex (1) – rural areas benefit from higher incomes (1) and rising living standards (1)which removes many people from poverty. Increases employment (1) Multinationals provide direct investment to increase palm oil production which sustains rural economies. **[1]** **(4 Max)**	**4**
1(c)	**Explain how a change in fiscal policy proposed by the European parliament in 2021 regarding biodiesel could affect the economies of palm oil producing countries in Malaysia and Indonesia.** Threat to remove subsidy will raise prices for consumers of biodiesel in Europe which could lead to lower demand and less imports leader to a lower demand for palm oil [2] Adverse effects on balance of payments of palm oil producing countries would have negative effects on their economies. (1) Incomes (1) and employment (1) will be affected. **(2 max)** Multinationals may reduce direct investments if their profits are affected [1] **(5 Max)**	**5**

Question	Answer	Marks
1(d)	**To what extent do you agree with the advice of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to encourage Indonesia to expand its production of palm oil?** In support of the advice: Indonesia was suffering from external debt problems and the IMF advocated expansion of a big earner of forex to eliminate this debt with positive outcomes for growth of incomes in-country. Plus any relevant positive effects identified. **(4 max)** The disadvantage was the devastation of rain forests to increase land area for oil palms. Fires increase greenhouse gas emissions (global warming) and destroy habitats. External costs will exceed private costs of plantation owners. Danger of monoculture – prices influenced by foreign buyers – could result in job losses eventually if foreign trade is reduced. **(4 max)** Conclusion: Although Europe may reduce its demand, increasing demands in India, China and Indonesia will be critical. Palm oil can be seen as both a positive benefit and a negative impact with a high social cost. Environmentally production is unsustainable at present rate of expansion**.** **[1]** **(8 max total)**	**8**

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	**Consider why it is important for a government to use cost benefit analysis when deciding how much of a public good to provide.** *Public goods are non-excludable, non-rival, and usually non-divisible. As a result of these characteristics, these goods will not be provided by profit making firms in the private sector. This non-provision is considered to be a type of market failure and this is generally described as the 'free rider problem'. Nevertheless, many public goods are seen as an essential part of a modern economy. Examples of such goods would include street lighting, national defence and road signs. Also because of the nature of these goods and the need for their wide scale provision, the cost of providing such goods is likely to be very high.* *Governments do not have unlimited access to funds therefore the extent of the provision of such goods needs to very carefully estimated so that maximum benefit can be attained at minimum cost. The use of cost benefit analysis enables a government to consider all the costs and all the benefits and then make a rational decision based on maximising net benefit. Identification of all costs would be more accurate because it would attempt to take into account negative externalities i.e. the negative impact on third parties. The same approach would identify positive externalities. In both cases an attempt would be made to put a monetary value on these additional costs/benefits.* *In many cases the provision of public goods will take a long time, therefore an attempt has to be made to decide the present value/cost of a project that will not be completed for many years. Thus although it is important to use cost benefit analysis, it is also extremely important to recognise the difficulties involved when putting this analysis into practice.* **L4 (9–12 marks):** For a clear, explanation of what economists mean by a public good and its relationship to market failure. The key elements of cost benefit analysis should then be set out. The link between the nature of public goods and the use of cost benefit analysis should be established and a discussion of the effectiveness of the use of cost benefit analysis in this situation should be provided. **L3 (7–8 marks):** For an explanation of what is meant by public goods. Cost benefit analysis will be explained but not fully developed. There will be a limited attempt to link the provision of public goods to cost benefit analysis. The effectiveness of the use of cost benefit analysis in these circumstances will not be considered. **L2 (5-6 marks):** For a more descriptive explanation that indicates knowledge of public goods and some of the key aspects of cost benefit analysis. There will only be a very limited attempt to link a government's decision to provide a public good and the use of cost benefit analysis. No evaluation of the effectiveness of cost benefit will be provided. **L1 (1-4 marks):** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**12**

Question	Answer	Marks
2(b)	**Pareto optimality can only be achieved when an economy is both productively and allocatively efficient. This will create a more equitable society.** **Discuss the extent to which you agree with this statement.** *Answers should provide a clear explanation that productive efficiency is achieved when a firm achieves minimum average total cost for a given level of output or alternatively when an economy is operating on its production possibility boundary. Allocative efficiency will be achieved when resources are allocated to ensure that the price of a unit charged to the consumer is equal to the marginal cost of producing that unit. In this case the firm will produce at an output where price (AR) = marginal cost (MC).* *At a macroeconomic level, allocative efficiency will be attained when all resources are allocated to maximise consumer satisfaction in society. This will be attained when an economy is operating at one specific point on its production possibility curve. Pareto optimality will be achieved when it is not possible to make someone better off without making someone worse off. Any point below the production possibility curve would not be optimal because it would not fulfil this condition. Similarly an economy which is not operating at the unique allocatively efficient point on the production possibility curve would also not fulfil this condition, therefore the first part of the statement in the question is correct.* *However, equity relates to an outcome where the distribution of income and/or wealth is considered to be fair. Governments can intervene, for example, through the use of re-distributive fiscal policies to produce a more equitable outcome but Pareto optimality which produces efficient outcomes will not automatically lead to a more equitable outcome. Thus the statement in the question is only partially correct.* **L4 (9–13 marks):** For a reasoned and clear discussion which explains productive and allocative efficiency. Each type of efficiency should by analysed from a macroeconomic perspective. The concept of Pareto optimality should be explained and clearly linked to both types of efficiency. The second part of the statement should be discussed by explaining what is meant by equity and discussing whether there is a link between Pareto optimality and equity. A conclusion should be provided.	**13**

Question	Answer	Marks
2(b)	**L3 (7–8 marks):** For a competent comment which clearly defines productive and allocative efficiency. Pareto optimality might be explained and partially linked to different types of efficiency. Equity would be briefly described but not clearly discussed in relation to Pareto optimality and no conclusion will be provided. **L2 (5–6 marks):** For a descriptive explanation of both types of efficiency and a definition of Pareto optimality. The link between efficiency and Pareto optimality will not be clearly established and there will be no attempt to distinguish between efficiency and equity and no attempt made to address the specific question. **L1 (1–4 marks):** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	**High market concentration ratios are closely linked to Oligopoly market structures.** **Explain what this means and consider its importance in relation to the pricing policy of an oligopoly firm.** *Some industries are dominated by a few large firms. A concentration ratio indicates the extent to which large firms might dominate an industry. For example, 4 large firms might control more than 80% of a market while a large number of small firms account for the remaining 20% of the market. In this case the four firm concentration ratio would be 80%.* *Oligopolies are market structures which can be specifically identified by noting that there are only a few large firms which dominate the market i.e. they have high market concentration ratios and they also have high barriers to entry which maintains their dominant position. However, because of the nature of this type of market structure, firms have to take into account the reaction of their main rivals before adopting their pricing strategy i.e. they are interdependent. If a firm chooses to ignore the reactions of its main rivals, this could result in a price war where each firm loses potential revenue and consumers gain. As a result Oligopolies will often adopt alternative strategies to maintain/increase market share and maximise profits. Sometimes firms will collude and agree to fix a price. This is illegal but it is still used.* *Alternatively, the dominant firm within the group might become the price leader and set the market price which other large firms choose to follow. Game theory and the theory of the kinked demand curve can be used to assess which strategy might be the most effective. Most of these alternative pricing strategies will lead to price rigidity. It should be noted that many Oligopoly firms will adopt non price competition such as advertising or increasing product differentiation to avoid the negative impact of price competition.* **L4 (9–12 marks):** For a clear explanation of what is meant by a high market concentration ratio and an attempt to link this to an Oligopoly market structure. Analysis of alternative pricing policies which might subsequently be adopted will be provided and an assessment of their likely impact on a firm's profits/market share. Some reference to alternative non pricing market strategies might form part of a conclusion. **L3 (7–8 marks):** For an accurate reference to the question and clear understanding of the term high market concentration ratio and its link to an Oligopoly market structure. One link to a pricing policy should be analysed in detail, other strategies might be referred to but not fully developed. **L2 (5–6 marks):** For a briefer descriptive comment that explains the terms in the question and provides some evidence of the main characteristics of an Oligopoly. Reference to pricing policies might be made but not clearly linked to the nature of the market structure. **L1 (1–4 marks):** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**12**

Question	Answer	Marks
3(b)	**Limit pricing may sometimes be used by a monopoly. It creates a barrier to entry which benefits consumers in the short run but increases costs to the consumer in the long run.** **Discuss this statement.** *Monopoly firms will control the entire market or in some legal definitions, control at least 25% of the market. Barriers to entry will be used to prevent new firms entering the market and any subsequent loss of market share. It is also assumed that Monopoly firms will attempt to maximise profits and this will be achieved by letting the level of output be determined by the point where marginal costs (MC) = marginal revenue (MR). In some circumstances, when the market price falls to a relatively low level, it becomes possible for a new firm to enter the market and profit by charging a price which covers its costs. To prevent this, Monopoly firms might choose to lower their profit maximising but still cover costs and still maintain a satisfactory level of profits.* *Monopolies can benefit from dynamic efficiency which is likely to lower average total costs compared to a new smaller firm attempting to enter the market. The new price is known as a Limit price and this can be shown with the help of a diagram which identifies a monopoly's cost curve and a chosen limit price which is lower than the costs of the new firm. This is why limit pricing can act as a barrier to entry. On this basis it is likely that consumers will benefit in the short run due to a Monopoly firm's decision to lower prices. However, in the long run, if the threat of entry has been removed and with it the threat to maintaining its market share, it is possible that a monopoly will then revert to its profit maximising policy. This will lead to higher prices which will have a negative impact on consumers and higher prices might now be maintained for a longer time period because the threat of competition has been removed.* *Alternatively, the monopoly might invest the additional profits in research and development and achieve dynamic efficiency which will enable costs to be further reduced and low prices maintained.* **L4 (9–13 marks):** For an explanation of monopoly and why limit pricing might be used as a barrier to entry. The links between dynamic efficiency, low costs and the use of limit pricing as a barrier to entry should by analysed. The benefits to the consumer in the short run and potential costs in the long run should be evaluated and a conclusion provided. **L3 (7–8 marks):** For a competent analysis of the relationship between a monopoly, dynamic efficiency, limit pricing and barriers to entry. Some limited comment will be made in relation to the potential difference to costs/benefits to the consumer in the short run and the long run. **L2 (5–6 marks):** For a brief, descriptive approach which refers to monopoly and the use of limit pricing. Detailed analysis will not be provided to illustrate why limit pricing can act as a barrier to entry. No attempt to consider the difference between short and long run implications of pricing policy. **L1 (1–4 marks):** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**13**

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	**Discuss the effectiveness of government policies which increase the net advantage of labour on the long term supply of labour in an economy.** *Government policies which increase the net advantage of labour will increase the supply of labour in the long run and this can be shown by a shift downwards to the right of the supply curve of labour. This means more workers will be supplied at every wage rate. The net advantage of labour can be divided into pecuniary and non-pecuniary elements. The former might include: wages, salary and bonus payments. Non-pecuniary advantages might include: hours of work, job security, promotion prospects and nature of the work. Reductions in income tax, increasing the minimum wage and the provision of skill training could be used to increase the pecuniary element of the net advantage.* *However tax reductions might lead to a fall in supply because some workers will substitute work for leisure. The provision of skill training is expensive therefore has a high opportunity cost. Minimum wage might increase the supply of labour but firm's might lower their demand for labour and therefore create excess supply. Alternatively, a government can introduce new regulations to ensure worker's rights such as flexible working hours, working conditions, safety at work etc. Although this extra support will benefit workers new regulations are often costly to implement. In some cases it is the firm which is expected to finance improvement in working conditions and this might lead to a fall in profitability and ultimately a fall in demand for labour.* **L4 (9–12 marks)**: For a sound discussion that provides a clear explanation of the meaning of net advantage of labour and links this to a labour supply curve. At least one policy to increase the pecuniary element of labour supply and one policy to increase the non-pecuniary element should be analysed. In both cases some evaluative comment should enable comment on the effectiveness of the policy. **L3 (7–8 marks):** For a competent comment with limited analysis that recognises that net advantage is composed of pecuniary and non-pecuniary elements but does not establish a clear link with the labour supply curve. One policy in relation to both elements will be identified but not analysed in depth. No evaluative comment will be provided. **L2 (5–6 marks):** For an attempt that describes net advantage of labour but only examines one policy in relation to one element of the net advantage. Analysis of this policy will not be fully developed. **L1 (1–4 marks):** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**12**

Question	Answer	Marks
4(b)	**Compare the impact of an increase in labour productivity on a firm in a monopsony labour market with an increase in labour productivity on a firm operating in a perfectly competitive labour market.** *Answers should clearly identify and explain the key assumptions which explain the difference between these two labour markets. A monopsony market will consist of a single employer of labour; as a result the supply of labour to the firm will be upward sloping to the right. A profit maximising monopsonist employer will employ labour up to the point where the marginal cost of employing labour is equal to the marginal productivity of labour. A firm operating in a perfectly competitive labour market will pay a wage determined by the market as a whole. The firm will be a wage taker and the supply of labour to each firm will be perfectly elastic at the given wage.* *Supporting diagrams in each case should clarify this difference. An increase in labour productivity would be reflected by an increase in the marginal physical product and therefore an increase in the marginal product of labour. In both market situations this would lead to a shift to the right of the firms MRP curve which is equivalent to an increase in the demand for labour. The impact in the case of monopsony will depend upon the extent of the increase in productivity. In a monopsony market, a significant increase in productivity will lead to a relatively higher increase in wages and employment but the extent of these changes will also be determined to some extent by the marginal cost of employing additional labour. In a perfectly competitive market, an increase in productivity will increase the demand for labour but the wage rate will remain the same.* **L4 (9–13 marks):** For an explanation of the difference between monopsony and a perfectly competitive labour market and a detailed analysis of the relationship between an increase in productivity, change in MRP and change in demand for labour. This analysis will then be applied to both markets and the respective impact of these changes on wages and employment in both markets will be compared. **L3 (7–8 marks):** For competent analysis which clearly distinguishes between the two types of market and understands the relationship between changes in productivity, MRP and the demand for labour. An attempt should be made to compare the impact on wages and employment in both markets but the analysis will not be fully developed. **L2 (5–6 marks):** For a brief and less clearly established link between labour productivity, MRP and the demand for labour. Some knowledge of the differences between the two types of labour market but only a very limited attempt to analyse the impact on one of the markets. **L1 (1–4 marks):** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**13**

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Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	**Consider with the help of a circular flow diagram, why an export led growth policy is likely to be successful when a developed economy is in a recession.** *Export led growth is dependent on an outward growth strategy which relies heavily on openness and increased international trade. Successful growth should lead to an increase in national income, output, and employment. Concentration on the expansion of exports should be a key factor determining an increase in aggregate demand, output, and employment. This can be clearly illustrated, using a circular flow diagram which shows all withdrawals, all injections, and the change in national income equilibrium achievable via export led economic growth. This diagram should be clearly labelled and accurate showing an increase in injections (exports) producing a bigger increase in output/income/employment via the multiplier. An economy is in a recession when its GDP falls for two successive quarterly time periods. Recession will generally be accompanied by rising levels of unemployment due to a fall in aggregate monetary demand.* *Government can use different economic policies to stimulate aggregate demand to move an economy out of a recession. Lower interest rates might be used to encourage investment, but this might have a limited effect due to low confidence. Government expenditure might be increased but this will depend upon the state of the public finances. When national debt is high this policy option might not be adopted. However, a policy which stimulates the growth of exports might avoid these problems and simultaneously protect the value of the domestic currency while maintaining a positive balance of payments. The effectiveness of this approach will depend upon the existing exchange rate regime used and the type of policy used, for example, lowering interest rates to depreciate a floating currency which should lead to a higher level of export growth.* **L4 (9–12 marks)**: For a sound analysis of export led growth using an accurately labelled circular flow diagram. An explanation of the meaning of a recession should be provided. Export led policies should be compared to alternative policies that might be used to lead an economy out of a recession. **L3 (9–13 marks):** For a limited analysis of the impact of export led growth on a developed economy, using a circular flow diagram. An explanation of a recession will be provided. No evaluative comment will be provided to assess the effectiveness of an export led growth policy. **L2 (5–6 marks):** For a response which is descriptive rather than analytical. Answers might focus on the link between the circular flow of income and an export led growth policy. A recession will be referred to but alternative policies to move an economy out of recession will not be considered. **L1 (1–4 marks):** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**12**

Question	Answer	Marks
5(b)	**The introduction of new technology will increase efficiency but will also cause an increase in unemployment.** **Discuss the extent to which you agree with this statement?** *An increase in productivity will produce a more efficient outcome in an economy. An increase in productivity will be attained when there is an increase in output per unit of resource used in a given time period. This is usually measured by an increase in output per unit of labour employed in a given time period. The introduction of new technology in form of more advanced, more efficient machinery, should enable labour to increase productivity. However, this increase in productivity is often achieved by substituting capital for labour. As a result the level of unemployment will rise.* *It should be noted that this is usually linked to a specific type of unemployment known as structural unemployment. There are a number of causes of unemployment for example, cyclical unemployment which are not linked to the introduction of new technology. Therefore, to some extent the statement might be correct in that structural unemployment might rise due to the substitution of capital for labour.* *It is also necessary to distinguish between the short run immediate impact of the introduction of new technology. In the long run, it is possible that an increase in productivity will lead to falling prices, more consumer demand and ultimately more demand for labour. Also it is possible that the introduction of new technology will further reduce the cost of producing capital which will also lead to further increases in productivity. Further increases in productivity might then lead to a fall in the price of exported goods and a further increase in aggregate demand. In this case employment might rise in the long run.* **L4 (9–13 marks):** For an explanation of productivity and discussion of the link between an increase in productivity and an increase in structural unemployment. Analysis of the potential short run impact should be provided. Evaluative comment might discuss possible positive long run effects on the level of employment and the importance of the type of unemployment under consideration. **L4 (9–13 marks):** For accurate but only partially developed analysis which explains what is meant by productivity and recognises that it will cause structural unemployment. The focus will be on the short run outcome. No discussion regarding long run outcomes and no conclusion will be provided **L2 (5–6 marks):** For a mainly descriptive comment which explains productivity and structural unemployment. A limited attempt to link these concepts will be made but no attempt to address the question based on the specific statement will be provided **L1 (1–4 marks):** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**13**

Question	Answer	Marks
6	**Developing economies have a high proportion of economically inactive people relative to the size of the labour force (a high dependency ratio). This is the main reason why the standard of living is low in developing economies.** **Evaluate this statement.** *A dependency ratio indicates the extent to which the working population has to produce not only enough goods and services to sustain itself but also for the rest of the population who do not work and depend upon those who do. Dependency ratios might be high for different reasons. Some economies have a disproportionately large number of young people under the age of 15 who are economically dependent. Some economies have high dependency ratios due to a disproportionately large number of people who are too old to work. Developing economies have high dependency ratios primarily due to very high birth rates. This will have a negative impact on living standards due to the insufficient wealth creation to enable everyone in the population to have access to food, shelter, education, health care etc. A smaller working population will also pay insufficient tax to allow governments to invest in necessary public and merit goods.* *However, there are many additional factors which also contribute to low living standards in developing economies, for example, reliance on primary products, low levels of capital investment, insufficient access to training and education, limited natural resources. Also it should be recognised that it is extremely difficult to measure living standards. GDP per capita is commonly used but this omits many important factors which might impact on living standards. Based on the above, it is difficult to accept with any degree of certainty that high dependency ratios are the main reason why the standard of living is low in developing economies.* **L4 (18–25 marks):** For a response which explains what is meant by dependency ratio and why this ratio might be high in developing countries. Discussion will focus upon the link between a high dependency ratio and low living standards. Problems associated with defining standard of living should then be linked back to the specific question. A conclusion which addresses the specific question should then be provided. **L3 (14–17 marks):** For explanation of dependency ratio and its importance in relation to a developing country. Analysis of the links between a high dependency ration and living standards in an developing economy will be limited. There will be no attempt to question how we define living standards in the context of the specific question. **L2 (10–13 marks):** For a competent comment with the emphasis on describing what is meant by a dependency ratio. Some reference to the link between a high dependency ratio and a developing economy will be made. A brief reference to the impact on living standards may also be made but the response will lack any in-depth analysis or evaluative comment. **L1 (1–9 marks):** For an answer that has some basic correct facts but includes irrelevancies and errors of theory.	**25**

Question	Answer	Marks
7	**A government's decision to move from a fixed exchange rate system to allow free market floating exchange rates will solve the problem of unemployment in the short run but will cause higher rates of inflation in the long run.** **Evaluate this statement.** *Governments in conjunction with central banks can fix exchange rates by buying and selling the domestic currency. Floating exchange rates are determined by the market forces of supply and demand. If unemployment is rising, there are different policy options available to governments. For example, lowering interest rates might stimulate aggregate demand which will increase output and employment. Lower interest rates however will put a downward pressure on a fixed exchange rate. In response, the central bank will either have to sell pounds or increase interest rates.* *Both options will undermine policies to increase employment. If a government allows exchange rates to float freely based on market forces, a reduction in interest rates will lead to a depreciation of the domestic currency. In this case lower rates will stimulate domestic demand such as consumption/investment expenditure plus a lower value of the domestic currency will further increase demand for exports. Therefore, low interest rate policies are more likely to be successful under a floating rate system. However, it should be noted that this policy is likely to be more successful when addressing the problem of cyclical unemployment rather than other types such as structural or frictional unemployment.* *Also, a freely floating currency which is allowed to depreciate will have some potential inflationary effects in the long run. For example, a depreciating currency will lead to a higher cost of imports and possible cost push inflation. In addition, a switch from fixed to floating exchange rates will mean that the central bank exchange rate policy will no longer have complete control over the money supply. This might be inflationary in the long run. The extent to which inflation might rise in the long run will also be determined by other factors, for example global expansion, rising commodity prices etc.* **L4 (18–25 marks):** For an answer which explains the difference between fixed and floating exchange rates and analyses the links between both types of exchange rate and policies to reduce unemployment. Discussion of the potential impact of floating exchange rates on inflation in the long run. At least one evaluative comment plus a conclusion.	**25**

Question	Answer	Marks
7	**L3 (14–17 marks):** For a clear analysis of the relationships between policies adopted to solve the problem of unemployment and different exchange rate regimes. The potential problem of inflation, relating to the switch to a floating exchange will not be fully discussed and no evaluative comment will be provided or used to provide a conclusion. **L2 (10–13 marks):** For a less well-developed comment which describes different exchange rate regimes and policies used to reduce unemployment. Links between different exchange rates and the potential impact on inflation in the long run will not be fully analysed. **L1 (1–9 marks):** For an answer that shows some knowledge but does not indicate that the question has been fully grasped or where the answer is mostly irrelevant.	

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