Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname	Other names

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Centre Number | | | | | |

Candidate Number | | | | |

Thursday 23 May 2019

Morning (Time: 2 hours) | Paper Reference **9EC0/02**

Economics A

Advanced
Paper 2: The National and Global Economy

You do not need any other materials.

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- There are three sections in this question paper. Answer **all** questions from Section A and Section B. Answer **one** question from Section C.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided – *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 100.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets – *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- Calculators may be used.

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ▶

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Pearson

SECTION A

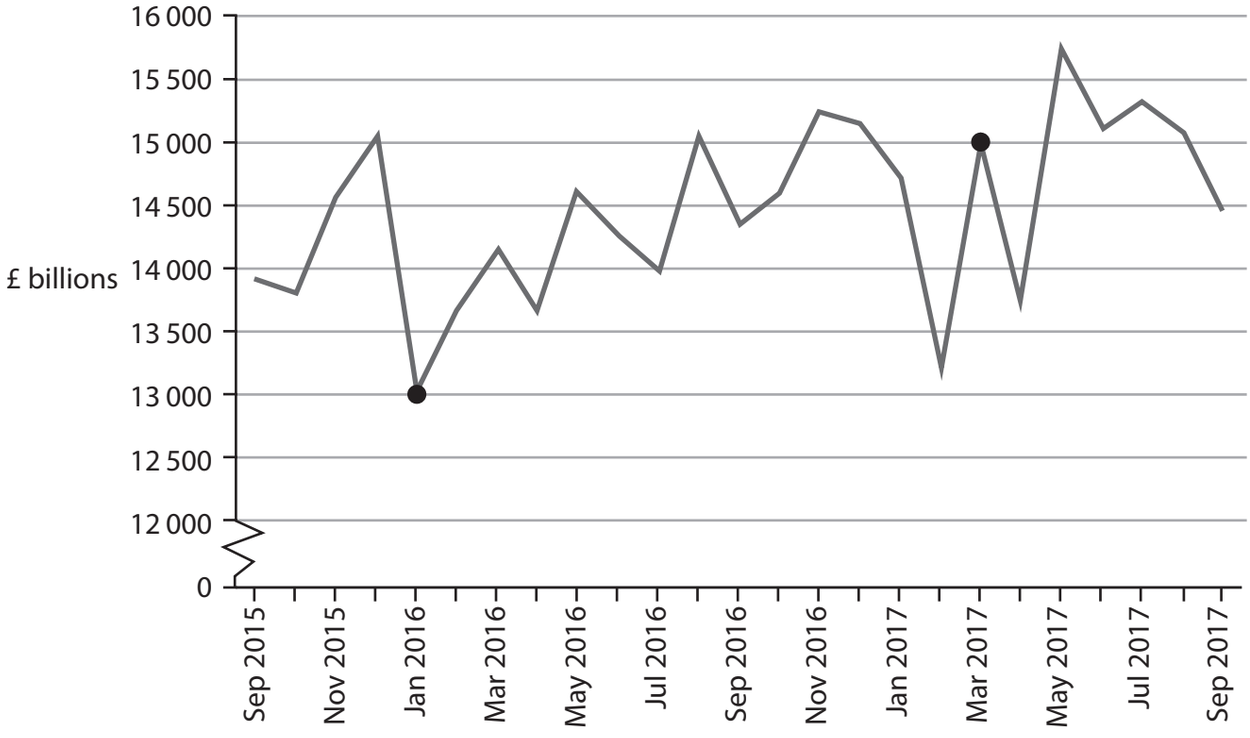
Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Some questions must be answered with a cross in a box ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.

You are advised to spend 30 minutes on this section.

Use the data to support your answers where relevant.
You may annotate and include diagrams in your answers.

1 Monthly additions to UK credit card lending, £ billions, 2015 – 2017



(Source: https://www.ukfinance.org.uk/statistics/cards/)

(a) Which **one** of the following would be **most** likely to cause an increase in credit card lending?

(1)

☒ **A** A fall in interest rates

☒ **B** A fall in investment

☒ **C** An increase in the deficit on the current account of the balance of payments

☒ **D** An increase in savings

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(b) Using the chart, calculate an index number for additions to credit card lending in March 2017, using January 2016 as the base. You are advised to show your working.

(2)

(c) Explain **one** possible link between an increase in credit card lending and the rate of inflation.

(2)

(Total for Question 1 = 5 marks)

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2 The International Monetary Fund has called on the G20 group of large industrialised countries to boost government spending on infrastructure.

(Source: https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/jul/23/imf-calls-for-more-government-spending-as-rate-cuts-lose-their-impact)

(a) Draw an aggregate demand and aggregate supply diagram to show the likely impact of an increase in government spending on infrastructure on a country's price level and real output.

(4)



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(b) Which **one** of the following would be an example of government spending on infrastructure?

(1)

An increase in:

☒ **A** construction work on new railway lines

☒ **B** interest payments on the national debt

☒ **C** salaries for teachers

☒ **D** unemployment benefit payments

(Total for Question 2 = 5 marks)

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3 Unit labour costs for selected European countries, 2017, base year 2010 = 100.

Country	Unit labour costs
Austria	113
Hungary	120
Estonia	129
France	107

(Source: http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/data/labour/unit-labour-cost-quarterly-indicators-early-estimates_data-00607-en)

(a) Explain **one** likely reason for Estonia's unit labour costs rising faster than in other European countries.

(2)

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(b) Explain how Estonia's competitiveness could be affected by rising unit labour costs.

(2)

(c) The increase in Austria's unit labour costs between 2010 and 2017 is:

(1)

- ☒ **A** 3%
- ☒ **B** 11.3%
- ☒ **C** 13%
- ☒ **D** 113%

(Total for Question 3 = 5 marks)

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4 The UK Government is planning to cut the rate of corporation tax on all pre-tax profits of companies to 17% by 2020.

(Source: adapted from https://www.ft.com/content/7579f124-5742-11e7-9fed-c19e2700005f)

(a) This would be an example of:

(1)

- ☒ **A** a contractionary monetary policy
- ☒ **B** an exchange rate policy
- ☒ **C** an expansionary monetary policy
- ☒ **D** a supply-side policy

(b) If a company makes £500 000 pre-tax profit in 2020, calculate how much corporation tax it will pay. Assume that the government cuts the rate of corporation tax as planned.

(2)

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(c) Explain **one** possible reason why the revenue from corporation tax could increase if the government cuts the rate of tax.

(2)

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(Total for Question 4 = 5 marks)

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5 According to the charity Oxfam, the combined wealth of the 62 richest people in the world is the same as the wealth of the poorest half of the world's population. The value of the combined wealth of the poorest half of the world's population has fallen by 38% between 2010 and 2016.

(Source: adapted from https://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases/2016-01-18/62-people-own-same-half-world-reveals-oxfam-davos-report)

(a) Explain the distinction between income and wealth.

(2)

(b) Explain **one** likely reason why global wealth inequality has increased.

(2)

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(c) Which **one** of the following would be most likely to reduce a country's Gini coefficient?

An increase in:

(1)

☒ **A** import tariffs

☒ **B** progressive taxes

☒ **C** regressive taxes

☒ **D** value added tax

(Total for Question 5 = 5 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 25 MARKS

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SECTION B

Read Figure 1 and the following extracts (A to C) before answering Question 6.

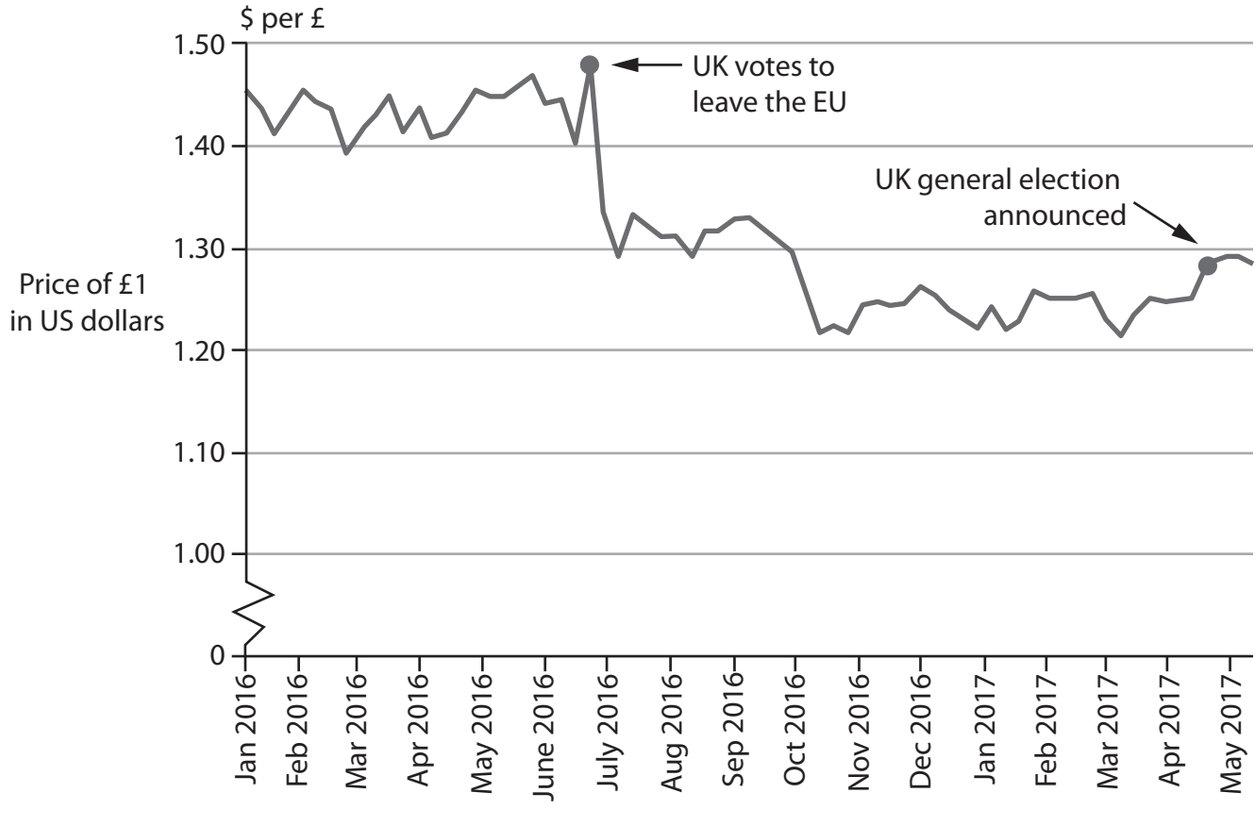
Write your answers in the spaces provided.

You are advised to spend 1 hour on this section.

Question 6

The UK economy since the financial crisis

Figure 1: Pound sterling to US$ exchange rate, 2016-17



(Source: adapted from https://www.ft.com/content/d50ce580-3968-11e7-ac89-b01cc67cfeec)

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Extract A

UK companies use forward currency market

The Norfolk-based picture frames maker Nielsen Bainbridge recently made forward contracts in the foreign exchange market to reduce the impact of currency fluctuations. The pound's post-Brexit referendum depreciation has been a test of nerve for Nielsen Bainbridge and many other importers. At present the company's suppliers are located in Europe or China. "Currency therefore has a big impact on our business and the margins we can obtain," says Ms Burdett, the Finance Director. Forward contracts enable institutions, businesses and individuals to lock in an exchange rate over a certain period of time regardless of how the rate moves during that time. Ms Burdett buys currency as soon as Nielsen Bainbridge confirms a large order as a way to fix costs. One third of UK business managers are considering shifting from EU to UK suppliers.

(Source: adapted from 'UK companies use pound strength to hedge forex risk' by Roger Blitz, Markets, © FT.com, 16 May 2017. https://www.ft.com/content/d50ce580-3968-11e7-ac89-b01cc67cfeec)

Extract B

Bank of England seeking to prevent future bank bailouts

The Bank of England has ordered big lenders in the UK to find £116 billion of funding to ensure that taxpayers will never again have to bail out the banking sector. The Bank intends to publish details of how each of the big lenders would cope in the event they find themselves in a situation similar to Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group, which needed £65 billion of taxpayer bailouts during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis. This had a significant negative impact on the UK government's national debt and, many would argue, increased the need for contractionary fiscal policy. Having said that, the UK government sold all its shares in Lloyds Banking Group in 2017 and, according to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "recovered every penny of its investment in Lloyds".

Sir Jon Cunliffe, the deputy governor at the Bank responsible for financial stability, said regulators needed to let banks fail in a similar way that traditional companies collapse. This has not been possible in the past because of the risk that savers lose their money and because a system did not exist to allow banks to be put into insolvency.

"Just like when other businesses fail, losses arising from bank failure would be imposed on shareholders and investors. This protects the public from loss and incentivises banks to operate more prudently," said Cunliffe.

(Source: adapted from 'Bank of England tells lenders to find £116bn to help prevent bailouts', by Jill Treanor, 02 October 2017, Copyright The Guardian News and Media Ltd https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/oct/02/bank-of-england-bailouts-rbs-lloyds and 'Lloyds bank bailout repaid in full, Philip Hammond claims', by Jill Treanor, Larry Elliott, 21 April 2017, Copyright Guardian News & Media Ltd 2017 https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/apr/21/lloyds-bank-bailout-repaid-in-full-philip-hammond-claims)

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Extract C

Bank of England tells lenders to increase capital reserves

The Bank of England has told lenders they will need to build a special reserve worth £11.4 billion by the end of 2018 as it tries to make banks more resilient to the risk posed by mounting consumer debt. This reserve of assets that can be readily turned into cash is a way of forcing banks to set aside capital reserves in good times in order to keep lending to the wider economy at a steady level, even during an economic downturn. In 2017 the Bank of England told UK banks it would raise the reserve ratio, relative to all assets, from zero to 0.5% and also forecast a further increase to 1% by the end of 2017.

The move is not intended to directly reduce consumer demand for credit, which in 2017 grew by 10.3% on an annual basis, but it may well lead to banks becoming less willing to lend to consumers. Since the Bank of England has recently become increasingly concerned about consumer borrowing, including rising car loans and credit card debt, this may be no bad thing as far as the Bank of England is concerned, even if it does have a negative impact on the wider economy.

Analysts are concerned about the impact on consumer confidence of rising inflation, partly caused by a falling pound. With falling real incomes consumers could become more vulnerable to falling behind with their credit card and personal loan repayments. Despite these concerns the UK economy recently recorded the lowest rate of unemployment since 1975.

(Source: adapted from 'Bank of England tells lenders to increase capital buffers by £11.4bn' by Caroline Binham, Gemma Tetlow and Martin Arnold © Financial Times 2017 https://www.ft.com/content/9bc99294-5b1b-11e7-9bc8-8055f264aa8b)

6 (a) With reference to Extract A, explain the role of forward markets in currencies.

(5)

(b) With reference to Extract A and Figure 1, examine the likely impact of the change in the sterling exchange rate on the UK economy.

(8)

(c) With reference to the last paragraph in Extract C, assess the impact of a fall in real incomes on subjective happiness.

(10)

(d) With reference to Extract C, discuss the potential conflicts between macroeconomic objectives when the central bank attempts to control inflation.

(12)

(e) Discuss whether providing substantial government financial support to banks is the best policy response during a financial crisis.

(15)

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(a) With reference to Extract A, explain the role of forward markets in currencies.

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(b) With reference to Extract A and Figure 1, examine the likely impact of the change in the sterling exchange rate on the UK economy.

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(c) With reference to the last paragraph in Extract C, assess the impact of a fall in real incomes on subjective happiness.

(10)

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(d) With reference to Extract C, discuss the potential conflicts between macroeconomic objectives when the central bank attempts to control inflation.

(12)

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(e) Discuss whether providing substantial government financial support to banks is the best policy response during a financial crisis.

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(Total for Question 6 = 50 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 50 MARKS

SECTION C

Answer ONE question from this section.

Write your answer in the space provided.

You are advised to spend 30 minutes on this section.

EITHER

7 Three of Africa's main trading blocs have agreed to form the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA). This will create one of the world's largest free trade areas, stretching across 26 countries with a combined GDP of around £1trillion.

(Source: https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-africa-trade/mega-african-trade-bloc-paves-way-for-continental-commerce-idUKKBN0OR28M20150611)

Evaluate the effects of the growth of trading blocs such as the TFTA on global trading patterns.

(Total for Question 7 = 25 marks)

OR

8 Japan's budget deficit for 2017/18 is expected to be 4.6% of GDP. Its national debt is forecast to increase to above 250% of GDP by 2019.

Evaluate the impact of a large fiscal deficit and national debt on a country's economy.

(Total for Question 8 = 25 marks)

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: **Question 7** ☐ **Question 8** ☐

Write your answer here:

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TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 25 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 100 MARKS

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