Write your name here

Surname	Other names

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Centre Number | Candidate Number

Economics A

Advanced Subsidiary
Paper 2: The UK Economy – Performance and Policies

Monday 22 May 2017 – Morning
Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper Reference
8EC0/02

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 two sections in this question paper.
- Answer **all** questions in Section A.
- In Section B, answer **all** of questions 6(a) to 6(e) and **one** question from 6(f) or 6(g).
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
  – *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- 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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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 25 minutes on this section.

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

1 UK Consumer Prices Index (the base year 2005=100)

September 2013	126.8
September 2014	128.4
September 2015	128.2

(Source: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-323657)

(a) Calculate the percentage change in the UK Consumer Prices Index from September 2014 to September 2015. You are advised to show your working.

(2)

(b) Define the term 'deflation'.

(1)

(c) Which **one** of the following is most likely to be a cause of deflation? A fall in:

(1)

☒ **A** oil prices

☒ **B** unemployment

☒ **C** income tax rates

☒ **D** interest rates

(Total for Question 1 = 4 marks)

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2 Between 2008 and 2014 the number of people in the UK looking to work longer hours and therefore receive more total pay increased from 76 482 to 142 788. Over the same period the unemployment rate fell to 5.7%.

(Sources: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/numbers-of-part-timers-seeking-full-time-employment and http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Unemployment+Rates#tab-data-tables)

(a) With reference to the statement above, explain the term 'under-employment'.

(3)

(b) Which **one** of the following is the most likely reason for a fall in the unemployment rate?

(1)

☒ **A** Increasing unemployment benefit payments

☒ **B** Decreasing real GDP

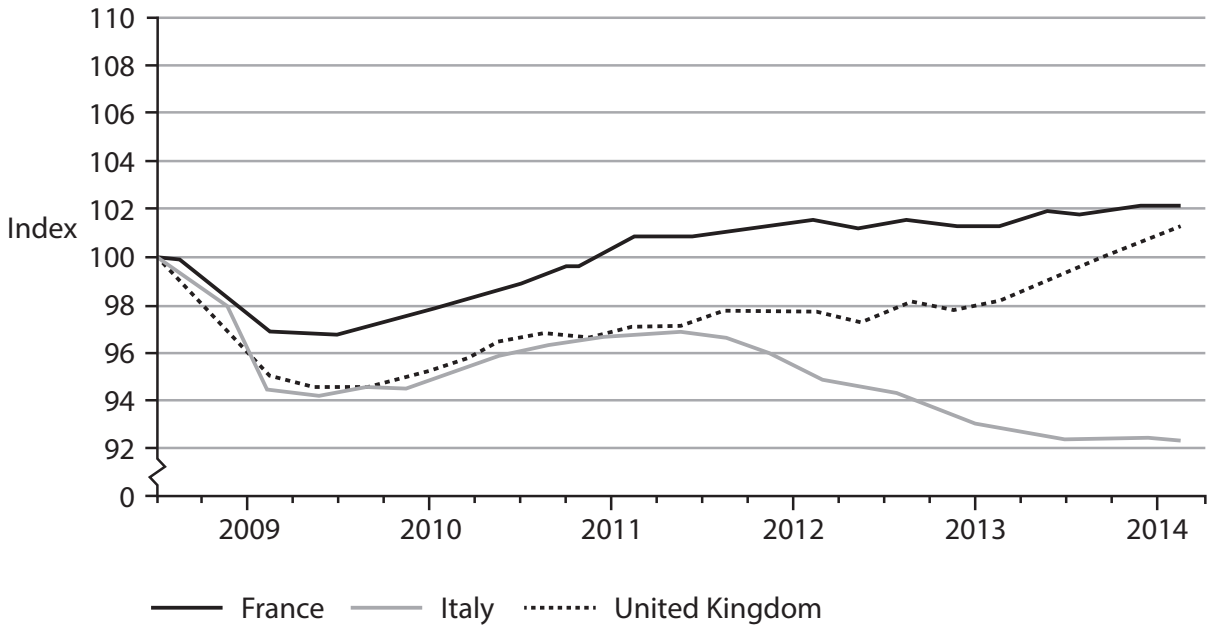
☒ **C** Decreasing funding for apprenticeships

☒ **D** Increasing consumer spending

(Total for Question 2 = 4 marks)

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3 Real GDP in selected economies (the base year 2008=100)



(Source: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/elmr/gdp-and-the-labour-market/q1-2014--may-gdp-update/sty-gdp-g7-economies.html?format=print)

(a) Which **one** of the following can be inferred from the chart?

(1)

- ☒ **A** The UK's real GDP is smaller in 2014 than it was in 2008
- ☒ **B** Between 2008 and 2014 France's real GDP growth rate was higher than Italy's
- ☒ **C** Between 2008 and 2014 inflation was lower in France than in the UK
- ☒ **D** France experienced a greater fall in real GDP than the UK in 2014

(b) Define the term 'real GDP'.

(2)

.....

.....

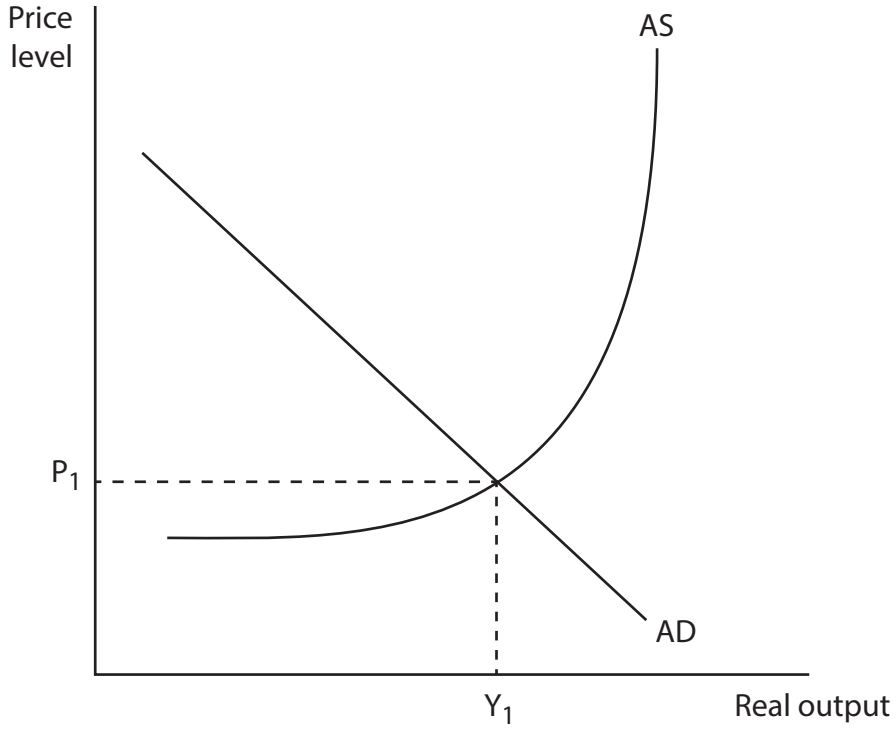
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(c) Illustrate a negative output gap on the diagram below.

(1)



(Total for Question 3 = 4 marks)

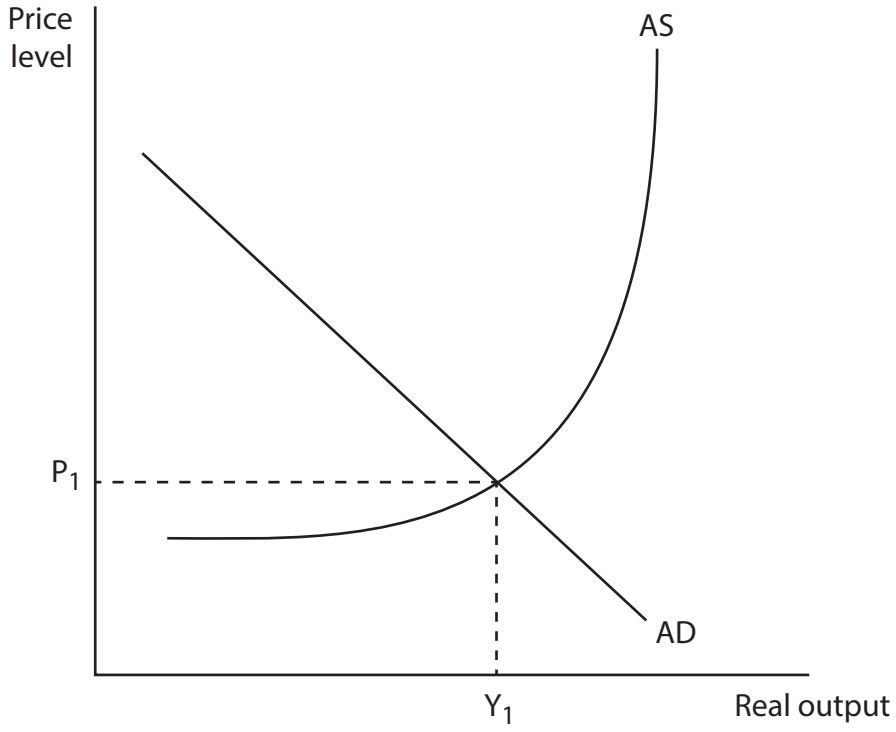
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4 The Chancellor announced in the 2015 Budget that the personal allowance (the annual income that can be earned before starting to pay income tax) would increase from £10 600 to £11 000 in April 2016. This means most consumers will pay less income tax.

(Source: adapted from http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/how-budget-affect-me/11721785/Budget-2015-what-to-expect-for-income-tax-and-the-personal-allowance.html)

(a) Annotate the aggregate demand and aggregate supply diagram below to show the likely impact of the increase in the personal allowance on the UK's price level and real output.

(2)



(b) Define the term 'direct tax'.

(1)

.....

.....

(c) Which **one** of the following is an example of a direct tax?

(1)

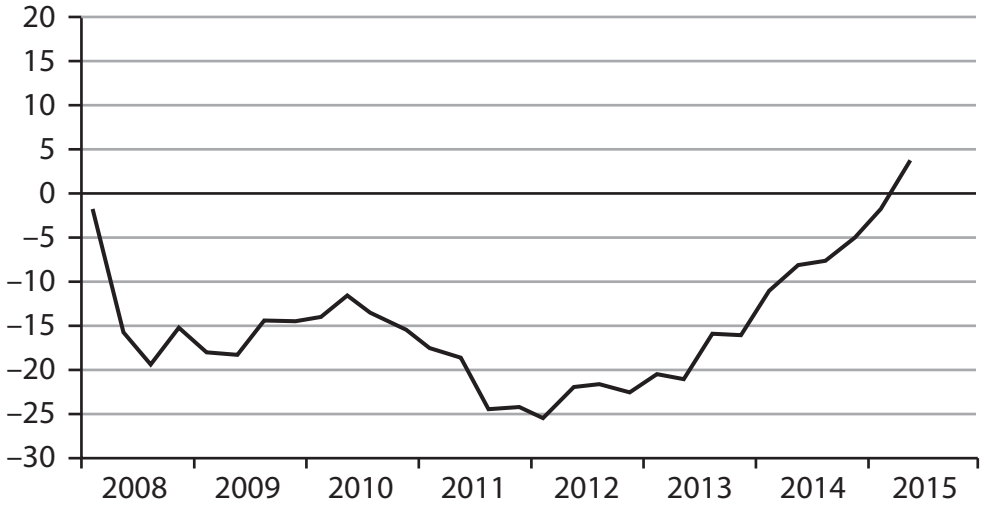
- ☒ **A** Value Added Tax
- ☒ **B** Vehicle Excise Duty
- ☒ **C** Corporation tax
- ☒ **D** Alcohol duty

(Total for Question 4 = 4 marks)

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5 The chart below shows the results from a survey of UK consumers' confidence in their financial situation. A negative balance means that, on average, consumers reported their financial situation got worse, a positive balance means they reported it improved and a zero balance indicates no change. This is recorded on a scale from –100 to +100.

UK consumer confidence



(Source: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_418064.pdf)

(a) Explain **one** likely reason for the change in consumer confidence between 2012 and 2015.

(3)

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(b) Which **one** of the following is most likely to result from an improvement in UK consumer confidence? A decrease in the marginal propensity to:

(1)

- ☒ **A** consume
- ☒ **B** tax
- ☒ **C** import
- ☒ **D** save

(Total for Question 5 = 4 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 20 MARKS

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QUESTION 6 BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

SECTION B

Read Figures 1 and 2 and extract A before answering Question 6.

Answer ALL Questions 6(a) to 6(e), and EITHER Question 6(f) OR Question 6(g).

You are advised to spend 1 hour and 5 minutes on this section.

Question 6

UK economic recovery

Figure 1: Components of aggregate demand in selected countries 2014

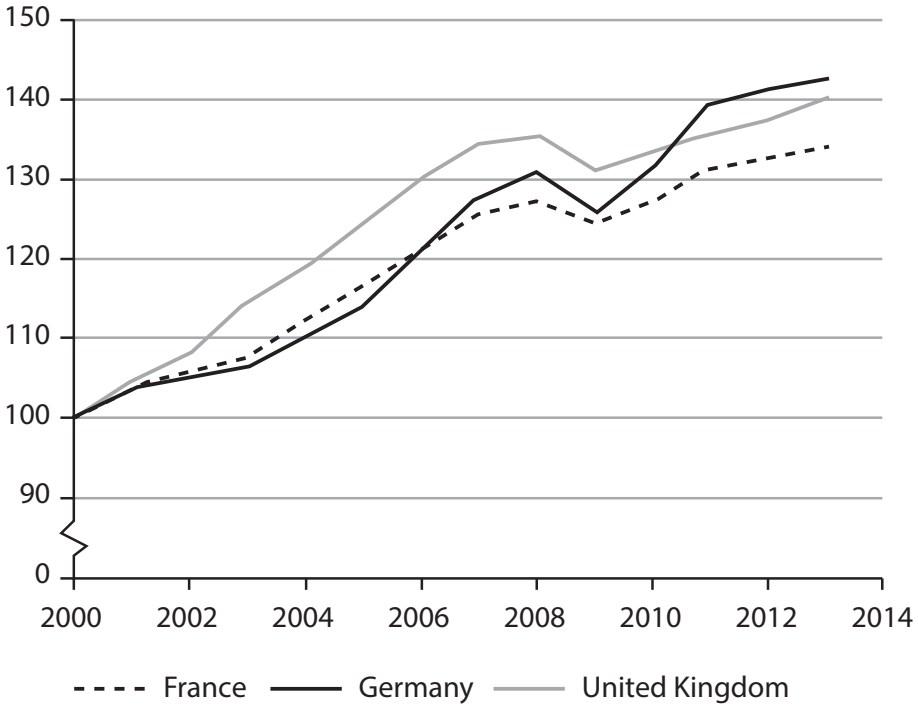
Country	Consumption	Investment	Government spending	Exports - Imports
UK	66%	14%	21%	–2%
Germany	57%	17%	19%	6%
France	57%	20%	25%	–2%
China	34%	49%	14%	3%

NB: Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding calculations.

(Source: World Bank 2014)

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Figure 2: Nominal GDP per capita at Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) (the base year 2000=100)



(Source: https://www.imf.org)

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Extract A

The UK economy – a strange recovery

At the Autumn Statement in November 2015, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had good reason to cheer his economic record. The UK economy appeared to have returned towards its long-term trend in the rate of economic growth.

GDP growth has remained strong, with output rising at the highest rate in the G7 group of seven major industrialised countries. Unemployment continued to drop and business investment grew by 5%.

However, a number of concerns remain, particularly in relation to the UK's current account deficit, which reached a record high of 6% of GDP in the third quarter of 2014. This was primarily a result of a sharp decline in the rate of return on UK investments overseas. Low export growth meant that the UK's trade deficit persisted.

In 2012, the Chancellor had announced a target for the UK to export £1 trillion of goods and services by 2020, which would require an annual growth rate of 8%. However, the annual growth in UK exports had reached just 2.7%. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast that UK exports will only reach £630 billion by 2020 – a third lower than the government's target.

Exports in services continued to grow in 2015, but the UK's goods industries were struggling. It was particularly concerning that data showed output in the UK's construction and manufacturing industries falling. Indeed, the output of the manufacturing sector remained 6.3% below its pre-recession peak.

Households, meanwhile, are set to become even more indebted over the coming years. It is projected that the household gross debt to income ratio will rise by 26 percentage points between 2015 to 2020, returning to levels last seen before the Global Financial Crisis. The economy did not appear to be rebalancing away from consumer driven growth towards export-led growth, making another recession almost inevitable.

Fundamental to this problem is the UK's low productivity, which in 2015 remains around 20 percentage points below the average for the rest of the G7. It is vital that the government tackles this problem, particularly in the sectors that are currently facing difficulties. This will require relaxing the planning system to promote more house-building, the removal of burdens on UK manufacturers such as carbon taxes, finally getting shale gas exploration going, and reforming apprenticeships to rapidly improve skills in construction, manufacturing and technology.

(Source: adapted from http://www.cityam.com/229481/chancellor-beware-uk-not-out-woods-yet, 25 November 2015 by Daniel Mahoney)

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6 (a) With reference to Figure 1, explain the term 'net trade'.

(4)

(b) With reference to the information provided and your own knowledge, assess the likely causes of the UK's trade deficit.

(10)

(c) With reference to Extract A, paragraph 2, explain **one** likely influence on UK investment.

(5)

(d) With reference to Figure 2 and Extract A, explain **two** likely reasons why the growth of the UK's nominal GDP per capita at PPPs was slower than that of Germany after 2010.

(6)

(e) Evaluate policies the government could use to increase the UK's productivity.

(15)

EITHER

(f) Evaluate the benefits of economic growth to the UK given that 'a number of concerns remain' in the UK economy (Extract A, line 7).

(20)

OR

(g) Evaluate the view that another recession is 'inevitable' in the UK (Extract A, line 24).

(20)

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(20)

OR

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(20)

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 6(f)** ☐ **Question 6(g)** ☐

Write your answer here:

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(Total for Question 6 = 60 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 60 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS

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