

Paper 2 Assessment Outline

Take your time and read the question carefully. The first time you read the question you should be underlining/highlighting all of the economic key terms and determine what the economic concept the question prompt is addressing. In order to achieve full marks, you must always make reference to the text. Do this by using quotation marks, or making reference to the paragraphs or texts.

Paper 2 part (ai) and (aii) 2 marks each, 4 marks total:

Definition: Learn and use precise definitions. Each definition is out of 2 marks, which generally means that the definition is broken up into 2 parts. Try to write no more than two sentences for each part of this question. When the question asks you to list, do exactly that, just list. Keep your answers in this part of the question short and concise.

Paper 2 part (b) and (c) 4 marks each, 8 marks total: each box is representing a section of your answer and should be in a separate paragraph.

Graph [2 marks]: Draw the diagram which will help you answer the question. Draw it accurately, fully labeled and with a title. The question will always stipulate which diagram is to be used. Carefully identify what the question is asking for. Make sure the diagrams address the specific question that is asked.

Explain [2 marks]: Explain the diagram by making reference to it in the response. If the question asks for a diagram and an explanation, your explanation should be concise and to the point. You will only be given 2 marks for the explanation, as such keep your explanation to no more than 2 sentences.

Paper 2 part (d) 8 marks: each box is representing a section of your answer and should be in a separate paragraph.

- In order to achieve top marks for this question, you must always make reference to the text. Do this by using quotation marks, or making reference to the paragraphs or texts.
- These questions always require you to apply and develop the economic theory that is relevant to the text/data. It is not enough to simply mention the relevant theory; you must clearly illustrate that you can use/apply that theory.
- Theory provided must be clearly linked to the text/data to avoid delivering a pre-learned mini-essay.
- Clearly check the different command terms in the question.
- Think critically about the information in the text and challenge the viewpoints held by the authors

Definition: Define all of the economic terms in the question prompt, there might be more than one.

Graph: Draw the diagram which will help you answer the question. Draw it accurately, fully labeled and with a title. Give a general description of what the diagram shows and be sure to associate your diagram with your explanation.

Explain: Relate the defined economic key term to the economic concept that is addressed in the question and explain how and why they are related. Use a graph/diagram to help explain the economic concept. Sometimes due to the question and what it asks of you, you will need to provide an analysis, e.g. advantages vs. disadvantages, pro's vs. con's, etc.

Long-term and short-term effects

- Is the change good in the short-term, but over in a few years it will have undesirable consequences?
- Will the policy be really hard on people in the short-run, but it fixes the long-term problem?
- Will this policy fix one problem, but create another?

Assumptions

- Are there some assumptions being made, that the theory depends on that may not hold true? This is the same as "ceteris paribus" –the assumption that all other things are being held equal, when in fact they might not stay constant. Explain what might change and how that would effect your analysis.
- Tell us the weaknesses in the theory?
- What is unrealistic about the theory?

Stakeholders

- What effects would this policy (i.e. an indirect tax) have on the government, consumers, producers and the rest of society?
- Policies (i.e. price ceilings) are often made with particular stakeholders in mind, so are there undesirable effects on other parties (i.e. price increases for consumers)?
- Is the policy great for some groups, but bad for others?

Priorities

- Discussing the priorities of a society, or the government is also a good way to keep things in perspective. A policy like subsidizing schools is good for families, good for the long-term macro economy, but bad for tax payers who don't have children, what are the priorities as a society?
- Is there an important normative (i.e. values aspect) that the theory doesn't consider?

Pros and Cons

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of this policy?
- What are the costs and the benefits of this policy?
- What are the arguments for and the arguments against this policy?
- This one is to double-check that you haven't left anything out in the preceding ones.

Example: Briefly explain the economic key term and concept being used in the context of a real-life example.

Conclusion/judgement: In part B you will ALWAYS be asked to evaluate, even if the command term does not specifically ask you to. You will base your evaluation/conclusion/judgement from your analysis in the **explain** section of your answer. What do you conclude from the theory that you have explained in your analysis? Is it good, bad, why?