



Examiners' Report

June 2025

Int GCSE Economics 4EC1 02

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Introduction

Overall, in this paper candidates displayed a strong and consistent grasp of core economic principles, indicating thorough preparation for the assessment. Across all sections of the paper, responses featured accurate and appropriately selected economic terminology, demonstrating confident use of subject-specific language. High-performing candidates did more than recall concepts – they applied their understanding directly to the demands of each question, constructing clear, well-organised arguments. In contrast, those with a weaker command of the material often relied on general intuition rather than explicitly connecting their answers to established economic frameworks. Given the assessment's emphasis on the practical application of theory, the most capable candidates distinguished themselves by developing their points logically and supporting them with relevant examples. Additionally, time management was a notable strength across the cohort, with most candidates distributing their efforts effectively to ensure even the more challenging, high-mark questions were addressed in sufficient depth. This combination of precise terminology, focused application and sound exam technique contributed to some strong performances on the paper.

Question 1(c)

Questions beginning with 'What is meant by...' are worth two marks and require a two-part explanation of the economic term. Examples are not credited in these responses. In the marks scheme one mark was awarded for a trading bloc is a group of countries that join together and the other mark was awarded for to reduce/eliminate trade barriers between themselves. Any other relevant answers were also accepted.

(c) What is meant by the term trading bloc?

(2)

it is a group of countries that cooperate in trade together in trade, without any protectionist policies between members.



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Examiner Comments

This answer gained 2 marks. Group of countries that cooperate together (1), without protectionist policies (1).



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Do not put examples in a 'what is meant by' question as you will not be awarded any marks for it.

Question 1(d)

Candidates were awarded 1 mark for reference to the impact and 1 mark for the development of the impact. Most candidates recognised that consumer spending was going to fall because either the cost of borrowing had increased or that they could gain more interest through saving.

(d) Describe **one** impact on consumers of an increase in interest rates.

(2)

An increase in interest rates reduces consumer spending as consumers are more likely to save their money in banks where they would receive higher rewards



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This candidate gained 2 marks. 1 mark for more likely to save money which is the development and the impact is reduction in consumer spending which got the other mark.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Only once a candidate has given a valid impact can the development mark be awarded.

Question 1(e)

This calculation required candidates to calculate the visible trade balance, which was relatively straightforward, providing they had paid enough attention to the word visible. Candidates could only be awarded 2 marks if the units (€bn) were present. Many candidates accurately calculated the visible trade balance but omitted the €bn, resulting in only 1 mark being awarded for any workings shown. Marks were not awarded for providing a formula or definition. It is essential that candidates show their workings to gain 1 mark if an incorrect answer is given or if units are missing. If an incorrect answer is given and there are no workings shown, then examiners can only award 0 marks.

Figure 1 shows imports and exports for a country in €bn.

	€bn
Exports of goods	150
Exports of services	40
Imports of goods	120
Imports of services	30

Figure 1

(e) Calculate the **visible trade balance** in €bn for the country. You are advised to show your working. *goods only*

(2)

$$150 - 120 = 30$$

30 € bn



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This candidate was awarded 2 marks as they had €30 bn, which was the correct answer and the correct units.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Ensure that the correct units are included in your final answer to achieve all the marks.

Question 1(f)

Many candidates scored all three marks for a correctly labelled diagram. However, some candidates did not label either the shift in supply or the new equilibrium price/quantity and so did not achieve full marks. Examiners were looking for a rightward shift in supply, correctly labelled.

In 2024, France announced a €4bn subsidy package to support the production of hydrogen.

(f) Using the diagram below, draw the effects of the introduction of the subsidy on the equilibrium price and quantity of hydrogen in France. Label the new curve, the new equilibrium price and the new equilibrium quantity.

(3)

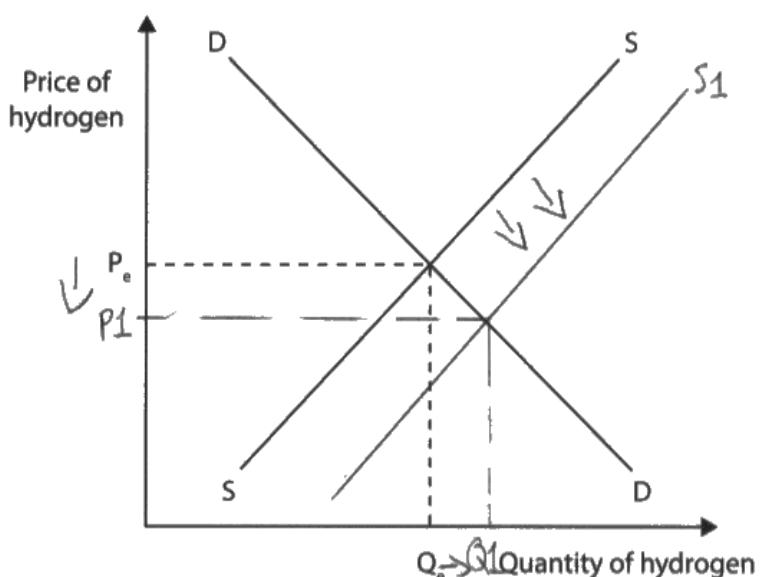


Figure 2



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This candidate was awarded all 3 marks: 1 mark for a labelled rightward shift of the supply curve, 1 mark for a labelled lower equilibrium price, 1 mark for a labelled higher equilibrium quantity.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

You must label the new curve and the new equilibrium price/quantity to gain all 3 marks.

Question 1(g)

This was the first 'explain' question on the paper asking candidates to explain a possible benefit of a fiscal surplus for a country such as Portugal. No marks were awarded for a definition of a fiscal surplus, yet many candidates started their answer with this. The response needed to identify a valid benefit of a fiscal surplus to gain the first mark and then the other two marks were awarded for developing the benefit to explain why it is a benefit to a country.

In December 2023, Portugal reported a fiscal surplus of €6.2bn, which was €3.4bn higher than 12 months before.

(g) Explain **one** possible benefit of a fiscal surplus for a country such as Portugal.

(3)

If Portugal has a fiscal surplus of €6.2bn, they are able to invest more ~~of~~ into the education of its citizens. This will allow people to gain the skills required for work in the modern world. This also allows Portugal to reduce its unemployment rate.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This response was awarded 3 marks. It has a benefit to the country and development of the benefit to gain the other marks. The benefit can occur anywhere in the answer but it has to be present to gain all the marks. Invest more in education (1), gain skills for the modern world (1), reduce unemployment (1).



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Do not spend time defining the key word in the question as you will not be awarded a mark for it.

Question 1(h)

This is the first levels-based question on the paper. 'Analyse' questions require a one-sided argument. There are no marks for evaluation.

In February 2024, the Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said that the Greek economy was entering the recovery phase of the economic cycle.

~~firms = Mylona~~

(h) With reference to the data above and your knowledge of economics, analyse the impact of a recovery on unemployment for a country such as Greece.

~~Recovery~~ Recovery is the stage when economic growth starts to grow again after a recession. (6)

Unemployment is when those actively seeking work are unable to ~~not~~ find a job.

As the economy recovers, firms start doing well and they produce goods and services more efficiently. This means that they ~~will~~ ^{the} ~~will~~ ~~they~~ ~~the~~ consumers also spend their money more because they will have more disposable income. This means that demand ~~and supply~~ for goods and services in Greece increases so firms need to increase supply.

This means that they will hire more workers to meet the demand which will lead to a decrease in unemployment in Greece.

As the economy recovers, firms start generating more revenue and many people ~~have~~ ~~disposable income~~ get employed for which they have more disposable income. Thus, the ^{Greek} government can generate more corporation tax and income tax. This means that they will have more funds. ~~so they~~ They can use these funds to provide education and training. If people are more educated and skilled, they can work hard and get a job more easily, which will reduce unemployment in the Greek economy.



This candidate was awarded 6 marks. The answer securely met all the level descriptors in Level 3. It has clear knowledge and understanding, develops relevant points, applies economic terms, demonstrates excellent selectivity and thoroughly analyses the issues.



Levels-based answers do not require an introductory definition as marks are not awarded for it. Use your time wisely to produce a quality analysis.

Question 2(c)

There is only one mark available for 'state' questions. Examiners do not expect candidates to write a lot for this type of question. There were a lot of different advantages given and all valid ones were credited such as access to new technology/innovation, economic growth and increased government revenue.

(c) State **one** possible advantage of foreign direct investment (FDI) for an economy.

(1)

Increased ~~economic~~ economic growth



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This candidate was awarded 1 mark for a valid answer of increased economic growth.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

One-mark questions do not require a detailed answer and often two words were sufficient.

Question 2(d)

Questions introduced with "What is meant by ..." carry two marks and must be answered with a definition split into two clear parts. Including examples will not earn any marks.

(d) What is meant by the term indirect tax?

(2)

Tax which isn't applied on firms and consumers that doesn't come directly from their pocket but rather from the buying of goods and services which have taxes added to them.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This candidate scored a total of 2 marks. Tax applied to consumers and firms buying (1), good and services (1).



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Only 2 clear points are needed to gain all the marks. Ensure that your answer is precise and doesn't include examples as they cannot be rewarded.

Question 2(e)

In this question candidates were awarded 1 mark for identifying a relevant way, 1 mark for developing the way and 1 mark for the response being in context. A definition is unnecessary for a 3-mark question as it will not be rewarded by examiners but many candidates started their response with one.

Many candidates did not manage to fully develop their response to explain how their identified way would reduce poverty.

The World Health Organization estimates that 4.5 billion people are classed as being in poverty because they do not have access to essential healthcare.

(e) Explain **one** way government provision of healthcare can help to reduce poverty.

(3)

Absolute poverty are wages that are below average wages necessary to maintain minimum living standards. Healthcare firms such as the World Health Organization estimates that 4.5 billion people are classed as being in poverty. Meaning that if these people were provided with proper healthcare/medical services they would be more productive / have a longer life expectancy hence they would be able to go to work and receive wages, reducing poverty.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

A total of 3 marks was awarded to this candidate's response: go to work (1), higher wages (1), more productive (1).



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

No marks are available for definitions on the 'explain' questions so spend your time ensuring you are explaining why.

Question 2(f)

To achieve all marks in this question candidates needed to label a rightward shift of the demand curve, label the higher equilibrium exchange rate and label the higher equilibrium quantity. Many candidates achieved all 3 marks on this question.

Figure 3 shows the supply of and demand for UK pounds (£) against the US dollar (\$). Currency speculators think the value of the UK pound (£) is going to rise in the future.

(f) Using the diagram below, draw the likely effect of currency speculators on the equilibrium exchange rate of the UK pound (£) against the US dollar (\$). Label the new curve, the new equilibrium exchange rate and the new equilibrium quantity.

(3)

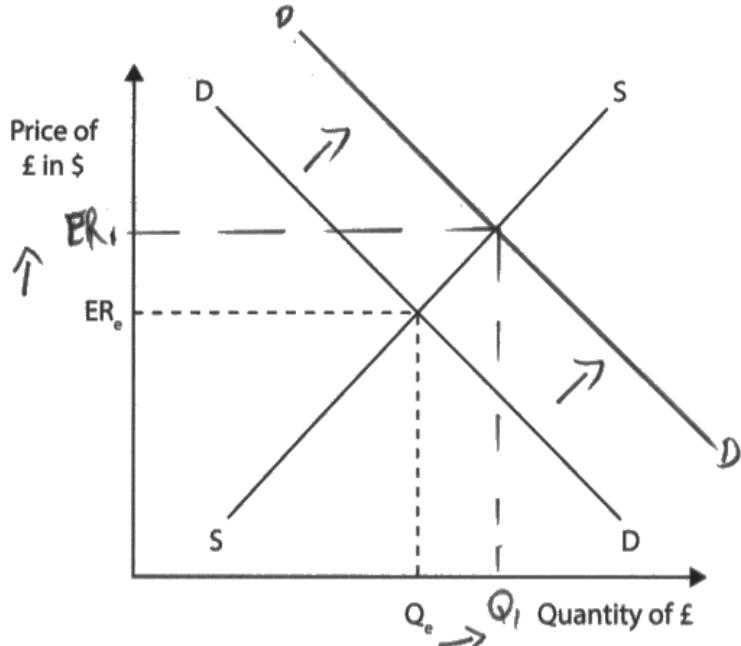


Figure 3



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This candidate scored a total of 3 marks because it has the correct shift with a label (it gets the mark even though it is the same label) and the other 2 marks are from the new equilibrium price and quantity.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Label your diagram in order to achieve full marks.

Question 2(g)

This is the first of the 9-mark questions on the examination paper and like the 6-mark questions, it is marked holistically by applying the levels in the mark scheme. A two-sided argument with developed chains of reasoning and use of the evidence was presented by more able candidates. However, some responses did not read the question properly and gave the benefits for South Korea rather than the car industry.

In September 2023, South Korea signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with the Philippines. This removed a 5% import tariff on South Korean cars and a 30% import tariff on South Korean car parts.

The Philippines has the 12th largest population in the world and is one of the biggest car and car parts importers. In 2023, the total number of car sales in the Philippines was 366,000.

South Korean-made cars account for 2.5% of the Philippine car market. It is dominated by Japanese-made cars, which have an 82.5% market share.

(g) With reference to the data above and your knowledge of economics, assess the possible benefits for the South Korean car industry from the removal of tariffs by the Philippines.

(9)

Tariffs is the taxes imposed on goods and services from outside the country.

As tariffs are removed by Philippines, the import export for South Korea might be more competitive, as they're at a lower price than before. Also Philippines is 12th largest population in the world and one of the biggest car and car parts importers, so the demand of Philippines Korean car and car parts will increase, and as it increases the car industry of Korea will be more motivated and competitive. So increase in productivity of the industry and also as they're facing other competitor such as Japan. So the investments and innovation will increase as well. And this will shift the supply curve in order to make a better balance.

might increase the market share of Korean cars against Japan cars, and will lead to more revenue from abroad.

However, as the tariffs are removed, the Korean car might not be benefitted, this is because the main income for industry is from selling cars. as the Philippines only removed 5% of the tariffs on cars, so the price in Philippines might still be high. As then, the demand might not increase of Korean car from Philippines. Also as Japan was the main supplier to Philippines, the car holds a 82.5% market share which is a monopoly, so even the price of Korean's cars are lower, it is very hard to compete with Japan's car industry. And as well as the demand of the cars also depend on the quality and price of the cars from Korea, so if the quality is worse than Japan, no one will buy Korean car, so the demand won't rise either.

(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)



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Examiner Comments

This candidate was awarded 9 marks for their response. It has clear knowledge with developed points, appropriate application and thorough analysis, it is well balanced and the evaluation demonstrates full understanding and awareness.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

9-mark questions do not require a conclusion, so it's important not to use valuable time writing one. Instead, concentrate on presenting well-structured arguments with both benefits and drawbacks.

Question 3(c)

Again, many candidates started this 3-mark answer with a definition of structural unemployment and definitions cannot be rewarded. The more able candidates used the information provided and identified a skills mismatch, that they had the wrong skills for the structure of the economy (high skills for a low skill economy) and therefore can't find an appropriate job to achieve 3 marks. There were a number of candidates who could not answer this correctly as they did not have an understanding of structural unemployment.

Data from China revealed that the unemployment rate for young people aged 16 to 24 was 14.9% in December 2023. The number of new graduates significantly exceeded the available jobs, most of which were in lower-skilled sectors.

(c) Explain **one** reason why some people might suffer from structural unemployment in a country such as China. *change in sectors*

(3)

Due to the jobs having only being in lower-skilled sectors it means the new newly educated Chinese people of 14.9%, ~~as~~ have never skills and are more inclined to having a higher skill set, which may require more pay than the lower lower-skilled sector jobs available leading to less people being able to adapt to traditional forms of jobs, due to the technological shift, leading to more structural unemployment as new students lack the traditional and vocational skills to be employed for that type of employment.



Total marks 3. The candidate is talking about the technological shift in the skills of the workforce not the industry. They have skills mismatch, with the context and a developed reason.



'Explain' questions require a way/advantage/reason which is in context and developed in order to score all 3 marks.

Question 3(d)

Candidates who achieved Level 3 on this question used the evidence appropriately; they showed a good awareness of understanding in their developed points. There were some candidates who ignored the term menu costs and just discussed the impact of rising inflation on small firms which was not what the question asked and therefore their answers could not be rewarded.

Owners of small firms in the UK are very unhappy with another rise in inflation. The consumer price index (CPI) increased from 3.9% in November to 4% in December 2023. in 1 month

(d) With reference to the data above and your knowledge of economics, analyse the possible impact of rising inflation on menu costs for small firms in the UK.

costs of changing prices (6)

Inflation refers to an increase in the average price level of goods and services within an economy. Menu costs are the ^{costs} of changing firms' prices. As inflation within the UK increases, firms have to charge higher prices to consumers because their own costs of production increase due to more expensive factors of production. ~~If~~ If inflation rises every short period of time, such as by 0.1% in a month, firms have to change their price 'menus' more often. This angers owners of small businesses because having to constantly change prices means they have to spend more hours working even though it won't affect their business's productivity. ~~A decrease~~ If they change menus during working hours they experience a decrease in productivity because there is less output per hour. This means less profits for small businesses.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Clear knowledge, developed relevant points and appropriate application, as well as a thorough analysis are shown in this response. This response reached the top of Level 3 and was awarded 6 marks.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

For 'analyse' questions, only one-sided arguments are rewarded. The emphasis should be on developing well-applied points that explore the issue in depth. Avoid listing multiple undeveloped ideas, as this approach is unlikely to demonstrate the detailed analysis needed to reach the top of Level 3.

Question 3(e)

Good responses were able to provide a two-sided response which used economic theory and the information provided to analyse and evaluate. Many candidates used valuable time defining progressive tax systems or expansionary fiscal policy, which was unnecessary. It was pleasing to see a large number of candidates effectively using the information to build their analytical and evaluative argument.

In 2025, the Government of Italy is to reduce income tax rates for some income tax payers. The higher rate of income tax is to remain the same. The Italian Treasury said that the scheme is 'aimed at simplifying and reducing the tax burden, encouraging investment and recruitment'.

	2024	2025
Up to €8 500	0%	0%
€8 501–€28 000	25%	23%
€28 001–€50 000	35%	33%
€50 001+	43%	43%

Figure 4

Notice low income worker, inew
consume more, higher job participation.
opportunity cost, denting work
costs

(e) With reference to the data above and your knowledge of economics, assess whether lower income tax rates will encourage more people to work in a country such as Italy.

(9)

The progressive taxation is people with higher wages has a higher tax rate to pay. And lower taxes is to decrease tax rate.

In the case of Italy, the lower tax rate can bring lots of advantage. First, as tax rates are decreased, from 25% to 23% in the range between €8 501–28 000, this is where most of the people's wages range, so the reduce of tax rate in this range will increase the disposable income for the workers and as income increase, workers

can buy consume more goods and services in the country, as and this will also increase aggregate demand so then firms are going to increase aggregate supply, as then as the supply and productivity need to be increased. Workers are required so more employment in Italy. Also as income is higher this will motivate people who is voluntary unemployed to work again, so this will encourage them. As well as it may also attract foreign workers to immigrate as the wage paid by firms are the same and tax decreases so more income for them and this will increase labour force, as they wish to come and work in Italy.

However, this might not increase the employment, because the taxes rate changes are only by 2%, in case of range between $\text{€}8501 - \text{€}28000$ and $\text{€}28001 - \text{€}30000$, so the small amount of increase in disposable income might not motivate the workers at all. And the tax rate over $\text{€}30000$ hasn't decreased, as this will increase unfairness, as other workers did but high income workers didn't this.

might demotivate workers with high wages as causes move to other countries as they are high skilled everywhere.

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This response scored 8 marks, at the midpoint of Level 3. It has clear knowledge with developed points, appropriate application and thorough analysis.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Aim to present a balanced evaluation by offering well-developed reasoning for both supporting and opposing viewpoints in your response.

Question 4(a)

This answer required the correct calculation to 2 decimal places and the % sign to be awarded all the marks. Examiners were looking for a final answer of 32.49%. If the answer was missing the % or the correct 2 decimal places then examiners could award 1 mark for the correct working. If no working is shown, no marks can be awarded so it is essential candidates do show their working and this is stated in the question itself.

4 Figure 5 shows the number of single-use plastic bags sold by the main retailers in the UK in 2021 and 2023.

Year	Number sold
2021	197 million
2023	133 million

Figure 5

(a) Calculate, to two decimal places, the **percentage decrease** in the number of single-use plastic bags sold in the UK between 2021 and 2023. You are advised to show your working.

~~100%~~

$$\frac{197 - 133}{197} = \frac{64}{197} \times 100 = 32.5\%$$

$$\boxed{32.5\%}$$

~~old - new
old~~ (2)



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

The total marks for this response was 0. It has an incorrect final answer. Examiners will then check the working to see if a mark can be awarded for it, however this working is incorrect as they have $197-133$ which is the wrong working.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Ensure you know how to correctly work out a percentage change and always show the working.

Question 4(b)

Some candidates just repeated the information; however, many candidates showed some understanding of business activity making reference to shipping and factories and the environmental issues they can cause. The higher ability candidates analysed one or two points in detail, whereas the less able candidates had answers which were more like a list of impacts rather than an analysis of how business activity can damage the environment.

From food to clothes, supply chains have harmful impacts on the environment. In 2023, the supply of consumer goods and services was the largest single contributor to UK emissions at 26% of the annual total; the UK energy sector was second highest at 17%.

(b) With reference to the data above and your knowledge of economics, analyse how business activity can damage the environment in a country such as the UK.

(6)

Environmental welfare is a macro-economic objective ~~the~~ or aimed at protecting the environment. Supply chains in the UK, have harmful impacts on the environment. ~~Business~~ High industrialization and increased factory infrastructure affects the environment, as production in these facilities generate carbon dioxide, which causes greenhouse effect and causes climate change and global warming. They also affect air quality which reduces the standards of living in the UK and jeopardises citizens health.

Firms also cut off trees for infrastructure ~~or~~ of companies and offices. Deforestation causes loss of biodiversity and habitat habitats, and increases carbon emissions, as trees regulate carbon dioxide. This negatively affects the environment as it also causes climate change and threatens wildlife. The UK energy sector was second highest contributors to UK emissions. Firms that use non-renewable energy and fossil fuels emit CO₂ from their factories, further destroying the ~~environment~~ environment.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This candidate securely met all the Level 3 criteria to be awarded 6 marks. They analysed how business activity can damage the environment.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Focus on applying and developing each chain of reasoning rather than listing several separate points.

Question 4(c)

Candidates who reached Level 3 on this question made effective use of the evidence provided, integrating it meaningfully into their responses rather than simply quoting or repeating it. This strong evidence use was paired with a well-balanced argument. However, some candidates only produced weak answers by copying large sections of the source material without analysis. This limited their ability to demonstrate deeper understanding, analysis and evaluation and prevented them from achieving marks within Level 3. Many candidates displayed a clear understanding of regulation but there were some who confused them with taxes and pollution permits.

In October 2023, the UK Government introduced more regulations to tackle the problem of litter and to protect the environment from a range of single-use plastic items.

No firm in the food industry will now be able to sell single-use plastic cutlery, polystyrene cups, plastic plates and food containers in England.

Research shows people across England use 2.7 billion items of mostly plastic single-use cutlery and 721 million single-use plates every year, but only 10% of these are recycled.

Plastic pollution takes hundreds of years to break down and causes serious damage to oceans, rivers and land. It is a source of greenhouse gas emissions, from its production and manufacture to the way it is disposed of.

(c) With reference to the data above and your knowledge of economics, evaluate the possible advantages of using regulation to protect the environment for a country such as the UK.

→ Strong deterrent ~ cost of production ↑
→ target the firms, consumers ↓

Lack of environmental
monitoring and enforcement
can't

(12)

Regulation is the process of monitoring and enforcing laws that limit ~~harm~~ the damage caused to the environment.

The UK government banning firms from selling single-use plastic cutlery, polystyrene cups etc, will act as strong deterrent ~~preventing~~ firms from causing firms to comply with the regulation. This is because if government imposes fines to those who break the rule, this will therefore increase the cost of production for firms. As a result, firms will have lower profit margins. Therefore, firms will make sure to follow the regulation, thus therefore reducing the litter, thus reducing the pollution and. As a result, there will be a reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions, thus protecting the environment. Moreover, the UK government can target specific market such as the plastic

producing factories. This therefore, can ^{effectively} prevent them from selling single-use plastic items by closely monitoring the firms. As a result, consumers will have less access to single-use plastic that has a high demand of with 2.7 billion of it items being used every year. As a result, they may switch to more recyclable materials, thus, promoting reducing the pollution ~~on the~~, therefore protecting the oceans, rivers, and land.

However, such regulation to tackle tackle the problem of litter can have high monitoring and enforcement cost. As a result the UK government tax to ~~spc~~ will have lower revenue for other vital aspects such as the health, ^{other} healthcare, pollution reduction schemes. Therefore, there will be less investments in the other parts, thus, lowering the living standards of the British and therefore ~~be~~ unable to fully tackle the other environmental damages problems such as factory emissions. Moreover, the effectiveness of the regulation depends on the commitment of the public and the government. Therefore, lack of support and commitment, will discourage only fewer firms to stop ~~to~~ selling single use

plastic items. As a result, this will do little to reduce the usage of single-use plastic. Thus, increasing the pollution, therefore further damaging the ocean, land and rivers, thus damaging the environment.

Overall, the effectiveness of using regulation to protect the environment depends on the UK government's ability to effect effectively reduce the wage by imposing fines if they don't comply with the law while managing the monitoring costs and being committed to protect the environment. They could also impose taxes ~~and~~ for the pollution caused by factories and also ~~impose~~ to sell pollution permits. This will effectively reduce the pollution, thus protecting the environment.

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This candidate's response securely met the Level 3 criteria and was awarded 12 marks. The response provides a detailed two-sided argument and uses the context well, as well as providing a final conclusion.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

A supported judgement or conclusion is required for top Level 3 responses in 'evaluate' questions. This means you should not just repeat earlier points but you should come to a final judgement as to whether an economic concept is effective or what else it does depend on.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Candidates are advised to read questions carefully, particularly with regard to the command words used. It was evident that some candidates were unclear about what specific questions required or how best to structure their responses.
- For 'What is meant by...' questions, responses must include two clear components in the explanation. Importantly, examples are **not** credited in these questions.
- Quantitative skills are assessed throughout the paper. This may involve performing calculations, drawing or interpreting diagrams, or using data provided in the case material. For calculation questions, it is essential that answers include the correct units and/or are given to two decimal places where specified.
- In 'Explain' questions, a reason, impact, or effect must be clearly stated; otherwise, marks cannot be awarded beyond the initial point.
- For 'Analyse' questions worth 6 marks, a one-sided argument is sufficient – evaluation is not required.
- 'Assess' and 'Evaluate' questions require candidates to consider both sides of an economic argument. Balanced reasoning is essential for achieving full marks in these evaluative questions. A final judgement paragraph is only required in the 12-mark question.
- Relevant application must be integrated throughout responses. This may be drawn from the provided information or through appropriate examples introduced by the candidate. The source material is included for a purpose – candidates are expected to use it effectively.
- Candidates should aim to demonstrate understanding through the use of economic concepts and frameworks, rather than relying on general or 'common-sense' reasoning.
- Careful time management is crucial. Candidates must ensure they allocate sufficient time to fully address the 12-mark question at the end of the paper.

Grade boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

