

Repeated topics in A2 econ essays

Selective topics

In exam: have to do 2/7

I went through data responses as well and found these topics most repeated: Macroeconomic policies ,govt macroeconomic intervention ,economic growth

Macroeconomic growth

17-20

Most repeated: measuring economic growth, developed v developing countries

ON2020

7 (a) Explain why gross domestic product (GDP) is widely used as a measure of economic growth and the standard of living. [12]

(b) Discuss why alternatives to GDP are increasingly used to measure the standard of living. [13]

M/J 2020

6 (a) Compare the characteristics of developed and developing countries. [12] (b) Discuss whether gross domestic product (GDP) is the best measure of a country's standard of living. [13]

W19

7 Discuss whether countries at different stages of development should use different methods of measuring living standards. [25]

S19

7 (a) Explain what is meant by actual economic growth and potential economic growth. [12]

(b) 'Health, education and savings are the most important factors in determining long-term development in developing countries.' Comment on this statement. [13]

ON18

7 (a) Explain how developing countries differ from developed countries. [12]

(b) Assess the extent to which a multinational company's investment in a developing country leads to economic growth. [13]

S18

5 (a) Explain the difference between actual growth and potential growth. [12]

(b) To what extent do you agree that the costs of economic growth are greater than the benefits?

[13]

March 18

7 Some developing countries pursue export-led growth and argue that the overall growth of the economy can be generated not only by increasing the amounts of labour and capital but also by expanding exports.

Other developing countries prefer to promote growth by encouraging investment by foreign multinational corporations.

Compare these approaches and assess which is likely to be the more effective. [25]

ON17

6 Whether a country can be classified as developed depends on the value of its GDP and the higher the GDP the better it is for the country.

Consider this opinion. [25]

MJ17

6 (a) Developed countries sometimes prevent investment in rural areas while developing countries

often encourage rural development. Consider why this might be so. [12]

(b) Why is it important to use qualitative data as well as quantitative GDP data when considering whether a country is developed or developing? [13]

March 17

5 (a) How might the employment composition and age structure of a developing country differ from those of a developed country? [12]

(b) Apart from the employment composition and age structure, discuss what changes are likely to occur in a developing country if it progresses towards developed status. Consider whether these changes are always beneficial. [13]

Selective topics past paper questions (17-20) variant 2

Consumer behavior /Ic curves

Most Asked topics Ic curves derivation of demand curve, inferior goods, normal goods effect of taxes

March 17 a) Explain what is meant in economic theory by consumer equilibrium. [12] (b) Discuss the conditions that would cause the demand for a good to (i) increase and (ii) fall as a result of a fall in the price of the good. Use indifference curve analysis to support your answer. [13]

October November 17 a) Analyse how indifference curve theory explains why a consumer will normally buy more of a good at a lower price than at a higher price. [12] (b) Discuss why there might be exceptions to this normal response, distinguishing the income effect from the substitution effect. Consider the relevance of these exceptions to firms and the government.

May June 17 Choice is an essential part of economics. Sometimes consumers change their choices either when shops have special offers on previously very expensive luxury products, or when advertising persuades them to change their preferences. Analyse how the economic theory of indifference curves can be used to construct a consumer's demand curve. Discuss whether this theory can explain the above changes in choice.

March 18 The UK Government has established a behavioural insight team known as the 'nudge unit,' which attempts to change consumer behaviour by persuasion. Explain how indifference curve theory predicts a consumer will react to changes in income and changes in the price of a product in order to maximise satisfaction. Consider whether the use of 'nudge' theory (persuasion) conflicts with this theory of maximising satisfaction. [25]

May June 18 2 (a) Explain, with the aid of a diagram, diminishing marginal utility and its link to indifference curves. [12] (b) Discuss, using indifference curve analysis, how the impact of an increase in indirect taxation on the quantity demanded of a good depends on whether it is a normal or inferior good. [13]

March 19 3 (a) Explain why indifference curves are usually drawn convex to the origin, are downward sloping and do not cross each other. [12] (b) Consider, for an inferior good, the relationship between indifference curves, budget lines, price changes and demand curves. [13]

May June 19 4 (a) Analyse how an individual consumer's demand curve for a product is derived and consider how this may be linked to its market demand. [12]
(b) Use indifference curve analysis to distinguish between the effect of an increase in income on a consumer's demand for a normal good and an inferior good. [13]

October November 19 3(a) Explain what is meant by a normal good and comment on the link between total utility, marginal utility and a consumer's demand curve for that good. [12]
(b) Discuss how a government's policies toward income and wealth distribution can affect a consumer's demand. [13]

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March 20 3 (a) Explain the link between a consumer's rational behaviour, marginal utility, prices of different goods and the demand for a good. [12] (b) To what extent may the demand theory based on indifference curves be considered superior to that derived from marginal utility? [1

May June 20

2 (a) Use indifference curve analysis to explain the derivation of an individual demand curve for a normal good. [12] (b) Discuss, using indifference curve analysis, whether the demand for a good always increases when its price falls. [13]

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Economic Efficiency

ON20

2 (a) Explain the relationship between the pollution created by industrial production and economic efficiency. [12]

(b) Using diagrams, discuss whether the policies employed by governments to reduce allocative inefficiency are always effective. [13]

MJ20

'Government intervention in the micro economy always improves efficiency.
'Discuss the validity of this claim. [25]

Mar20

2 'The existence of externalities implies market failure and therefore that the good should necessarily be provided by the government.'
Discuss this assertion. [25]

ON19

2 'Free markets make the most efficient use of resources and are the foundation of a successful economy.' To what extent do you agree with this? [25]

MJ19

2 Explain what is meant by 'market failure' and consider how far government intervention can reduce market failure. [25]

March19

2 'Governments should use whatever methods they can to regulate monopolies because they are inefficient.'
Consider whether monopolies are always inefficient and what methods might be used by governments to regulate them. [25]

ON18

2 Discuss whether economic efficiency is always achievable in a market economy. [25]

MJ18

7 A free market economy operates to the benefit of both consumer and producer to achieve the most efficient outcome, and therefore there is no role for a government to play in controlling the market.

Consider the extent to which this statement is correct. [25]

March18

3 (a) Explain what is meant by equity, allocative efficiency and Pareto optimality. Consider whether they are linked. [12]

(b) Discuss whether a better use of resources is always achieved if there is a market structure in which firms remain small. [13]

ON17

2 (a) A country moved from a point **within** its production possibility curve to a point **on** its production possibility curve.

Explain what is meant by economic efficiency. Analyse what happened to economic efficiency in that country as a result of this movement. [12]

(b) Discuss whether government intervention in the economy is a necessary and sufficient condition for overcoming inefficiency in resource allocation. [13]

Labor Market

Wage determination, trade unions intervention

ON20

4 The wages of the Chief Executive Officers (CEO) of the six largest banks in the United States (US) were reported to be between 250 and 360 times the average wage of the workers in those banks. The six CEOs were all male.

Discuss the extent to which economic theory can account for these variations in wages. [25]

March 20

5 (a) How does economic analysis explain the level of wage rates in a perfectly competitive labour market? [12]

(b) Discuss, with the aid of a diagram, the possible effects on the operation of an imperfectly competitive labour market of a government fixing a wage rate in this market. [13]

ON19

5 (a) Explain the relevance of economic rent and transfer earnings when comparing the wages of skilled workers and unskilled workers. [12]

(b) Discuss whether workers always benefit when their trade union achieves an increase in wages. [13]

March19

5 (a) According to economic theory, what is the significance for a firm in a perfectly competitive labour market of a worker's marginal product and average product? [12]

(b) Discuss the economic conditions that might make it possible for a trade union to increase the wages of its members without reducing the number of workers employed. [13]

ON18

4 Consider whether wages are only determined by the market forces of supply and demand. [25]

MJ18

4 (a) Explain how a firm derives its demand curve for labour and consider how the structure of the product market in which the firm operates affects the firm's demand curve for labour. [12]

(b) Discuss whether it is possible for a trade union to negotiate higher wages and more employment. [13]

ON17

5 The merit of the economic theory of wage determination is that it clearly shows what the best level of wage rates should be and thus is evidence that there is no need for either the government or trades unions to fix wages.

Discuss this assertion. [25]

MJ17

4 (a) Explain why people demand money according to the liquidity preference theory. [12]

(b) In 2016 the Trade Unions called a strike of bus and train drivers after a demand for higher wages was rejected.

Use the economic theory of wages to discuss whether a demand for higher wages is likely to be successful. [13]

Mega Lecture

Examiner to-dos and not to-dos:

- Candidates are reminded that a thorough reading of the question is necessary to pick out the full breadth of the question. This is especially true of the questions without sub-divisions
- The use of badly drawn, or inaccurately labelled diagrams, or even perfectly presented diagram without any reference to them in the essay re-occurred as did the use of pre-learned answers that did not match the question which had been set.
- A number of candidates wrote at great length. In many examples these responses were poorly directed towards the question set. Candidates who can produce a relevant, concise and well directed answer will always be fully rewarded
- Candidates are reminded the paper is titled in part 'Data Response' which implies that reference should be made to the data/text where relevant or specified in the question.
- Several questions contained the command word 'Discuss' or 'Consider'. Both these terms require an argument or debate within the answer and the drawing of a conclusion to access the higher levels in the mark scheme.

Notes Link

https://mega.nz/folder/JWlByalL#f1b_1abdbGoS8XHeoi0ccw

Solved answers

<https://mega.nz/file/teQhyCRY#O8lji5q748yx0kJRpCcjUb4MQ6CIAaVbjE8X5wCqP0w>

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