



Changes in Assessment

AS and A Level Economics

This factsheet summarises the information given in our short video on the horizontal assessment of extended response questions.

You can watch the video here <https://youtu.be/B8uE8kS56aI>

With extended response questions we are now applying a more holistic and fairer approach to marking.

When our examiners mark an extended response, they will decide what level it could be BEFORE looking in more detail how well the individual Assessment Objectives have been achieved. This is when the Level Descriptors come into play. Then it is determined where within that level the answer is. The column in the mark scheme shows the allocation of Assessment Objectives for a particular question.

Level descriptors

Knowledge & understanding

Good -Strong knowledge and understanding/application in the use of the terms in the question and applied in a focused way to the context of the question

Good knowledge and understanding/application

Reasonable knowledge and understanding/application

Limited knowledge and understanding/application.

Analysis

Strong analysis will have **consistently** well-developed links through a **coherent** chain of reasoning which addresses the question. Any relevant diagram(s) are predominantly correct with no significant errors that affect the validity of the analysis. Any diagrams must be integral to the analysis.

Good analysis of xxxx. There is correct analysis in the form of developed links. These links are developed through a chain of reasoning which addresses the question. Any relevant diagram(s) are predominantly correct and linked to the analysis.

Reasonable analysis of xxxx. There is correct analysis largely in the form of single links. These address the question **but** are not developed into a clear chain of reasoning. Any relevant diagram(s) may be imperfectly labelled or not linked to the analysis.

Limited analysis of xxx. Little evidence of reasoning that addresses the question asked. There is a lack of a clear structure.

Evaluation

Strong evaluation of xxxx weighing up both sides/comparing alternatives and reaching a supported judgment.

Good evaluation will weigh up both sides/comparing alternatives but without reaching a supported judgment.

Reasonable evaluation of xxx considering both sides/comparing alternatives.

Limited evaluation of xxx in the form of an unsupported statement or **no** evaluation.

AS Level – 20 mark question

Level 4 (16-20 marks)

Good knowledge and understanding

Strong analysis

Strong evaluation

There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and substantiated.

Level 3 (11-15 marks)

Good knowledge and understanding

Good analysis

Good evaluation

There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is in the most part relevant and supported by some evidence.

Level 2 (6-10 marks)

Reasonable knowledge and understanding

Reasonable analysis

Reasonable evaluation

The information has some relevance and is presented with limited structure. The information is supported by limited evidence.



Level 1 (1-5 marks)

Limited knowledge and understanding

Limited or no analysis

Limited evaluation

Information is basic and communicated in an unstructured way. The information is supported by limited evidence. The relationship to the evidence may not be clear.

Then it's determined where **within that level** the answer is.

Descriptor	Award mark
Consistently meets the criteria for this level	At top of level
Meets the criteria but with some slight inconsistency	Above middle and either below top of level or at middle of level (depending on number of marks available)
Meets most of the criteria with some inconsistencies	Middle of level
Just enough achievement on balance for this level	Above bottom and either below middle or at middle of level (depending on number of marks available)
On the borderline of this level and the one below	At bottom of level

The **distribution of marks per AO** is another indicator for how marks are being allocated!

Level 3 (11–15 marks) Good knowledge and understanding of xxx. Good – strong analysis of xxxx. Good analysis will be in the form of developed links. These links are developed through a chain of reasoning which addresses the question. Any relevant diagram(s) are predominantly correct and linked to the analysis. Strong analysis will have consistently well-developed links through a coherent chain of reasoning which addresses the question. Any relevant diagram(s) are predominantly correct with no significant errors that affect the validity of the analysis. Any diagrams must be integral to the analysis. Good - strong evaluation of xxx, weighing up both sides/comparing alternatives. Strong evaluation should include a supported judgment.	15 (AO1 x 2 AO2 x 3 AO3 x 4 AO4 x 6)
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For more information, please visit the qualification homepage at

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-economics-h060-h460-from-2015/>

