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Examiners' report

GCSE

ECONOMICS

OCR Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Economics

J205

For first teaching in 2017

J205/01 Summer 2025 series

Version 1

Contents

Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate responses is also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from Teach Cambridge.

Please note: OCR Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Economics (J205) will no longer be funded in Wales for new learners after **30 September 2026**. Please check the Qualifications in Wales portal (QiW) for more information.

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Paper 1 series overview

J205/01 (Introduction to Economics) is one of two examination components for GCSE Economics. This component focuses on:

- Introduction to Economics; including the main economic groups and factors of production and the basic economic problem.
- The role of markets and money, including demand, supply, price, competition, production, the labour market and the role of money and financial markets.

Most candidates found the paper to be accessible by attempting to answer all the questions. There were some candidates who appeared to run out of time, as some scripts showed evidence that later questions were left unanswered. Additionally, some candidates did not attempt all the questions with evidence showing that they might not have felt secure in their knowledge and understanding of some sections of the specification including: price elasticity of supply; factor and product markets; and the primary sector. In addition, there was evidence in both sections of the paper of candidates not fully reading the question but instead focusing on one or two words.

There was also some evidence that less successful candidates did not attempt one or more of the (d) (iii) questions.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
• read and fully understood what the question was asking for • had good solid knowledge of basic economic terms • drew accurate diagrams, which were clearly and correctly labelled • demonstrated good quantitative skills and understanding • used diagrams to help their analysis in part c questions • made use of the source material in the 6-mark questions • realised that the required evaluation differed in each part (d) (iii) questions and addressed this.	• ignored all or some of the wording of the question producing answers which were either of no merit or only marginally relevant • did not know or understand many economic terms • did not always offer an answer to all the multiple choice questions • produced incorrect or inaccurate diagrams, which were often poorly drawn and sometimes, not or mis, labelled • did not integrate the source material into their answers to the 6-mark questions • did not offer an evaluation or one which simply summarised points made earlier in their responses to (d) (iii) questions.

Section A overview

Section A of this paper has twenty multiple choice questions and is intended to examine Assessment Objective (AO)1: *Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of economic concepts and issues* and AO2: *Apply knowledge and understanding of economic concepts and issues to a variety of contexts*.

Centres seemed to have prepared their candidates well for this multiple choice question section of the paper. Many candidates found specific questions difficult (including Questions 5, 7, 12 and 18) and this could account for the lower number of candidates who achieved all 20 marks.

Although candidates are fully entitled to change their minds when answering a question, there was good evidence to show that overall, they were more likely to cross out the right answer and substitute it with an incorrect one. They must make sure than when changing the answer that the new one is clear. They are advised to cross the old one out and write a new one to the right of the answer box. They should not attempt to write over the original one as the result is likely to lack clarity. Candidates also must make sure that their writing of A, B and D are clearly different. Examiners should not be left to guess what letter is intended. Equally, candidates must write the answer in the box provided and not ring one of the letters. This could result in an examiner assuming no answer had been provided.

Question 1

1 One factor of production is labour.

The quantity of labour in an economy depends on the

A ability of entrepreneurs to organise it

B amount of land able to support people

C availability of human resources

D provision of education

Your answer [ ] **[1]**

While most candidates correctly gave C as the answer, there was a lot of support for A and D showing misconceptions about the quantity of labour.

Question 2

2 What is meant by scarce resources?

A Economic choice means that resources are used in the best way possible

B Resources must not be overused so they can be replaced

C The existence of finite resources and the need to choose between uses

D Where there are insufficient resources to satisfy all wants

Your answer ☐ **[1]**

Most candidates gave the correct answer D, but too many lacked understanding of scarcity with many choosing C.

Question 3

3 A clothing retailer decides to sell its goods to consumers on the internet.

According to an economist, what is this an example of?

A A market

B An exchange

C Demand

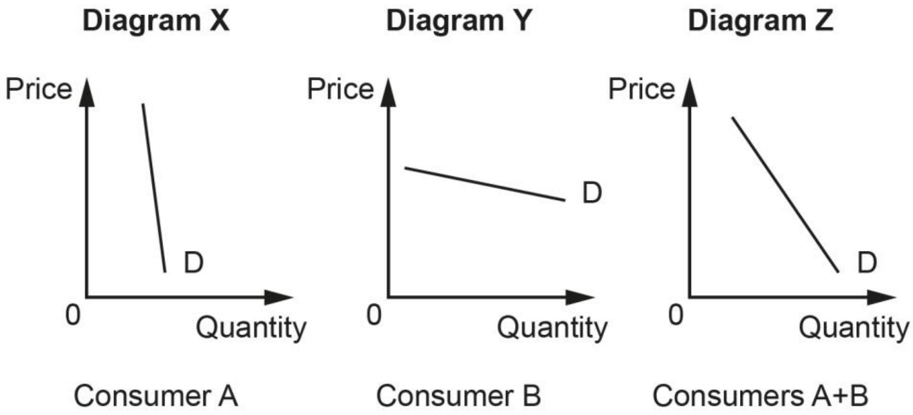
D Supply

Your answer ☐ **[1]**

Most of the candidates gave A as the correct response to this question.

Question 4

4



What does **Diagram Z** show?

A Changes in tastes of consumers

B Market demand of consumers

C Perfectly inelastic demand

D Shift in the demand curve

Your answer **[1]**

Most of the candidates gave B as the correct response to this question.

Question 5

5 The actions of one firm in a market has a considerable effect on other firms.

What type of market is this **most** likely to be?

A Competitive

B Monopoly

C Oligopoly

D Specialist

Your answer **[1]**

Only a few candidates gave the correct answer C. The most popular response was A showing a lack of understanding of competitive as against oligopolistic markets.

Question 6

6 What is **not** likely to result from an increase in production in an industry?

A An increase in profits

B An increase in the output of goods

C Greater environmental sustainability

D Increased economies of scale

Your answer ☐ **[1]**

Most of the candidates gave C as the correct response to this question.

Question 7

7 The time period is very important when considering supply.

What is the **best** reason for this?

A Goods and services vary in how long it takes to change their supply

B Greater efficiency can be gained if more resources are available

C Production costs will rise in the short run but fall in the long run

D The quantity supplied varies directly with the change in price

Your answer ☐ **[1]**

Nearly half of the candidates gave the correct answer A with the other responses showing a lack of solid understanding of the importance of time in supply.

Question 8

8 A farmer sells bags of carrots. When the price is reduced from £2.00 per bag to £1.50, the quantity sold increases by 15%.

The demand for carrots is

A perfectly price inelastic

B price elastic

C price inelastic

D unitary price elastic

Your answer [ ] **[1]**

Nearly half of the candidates gave the correct answer C with many thinking it was elastic while A and D also received support.

Question 9

9 What is the **best** description of the role of the labour market?

A It allows workers able and willing to work to meet employers who are able and willing to offer a job

B It consists of the supply of labour by consumers and the demand for labour by firms

C It makes sure there is a competitive market for the skills offered by labour

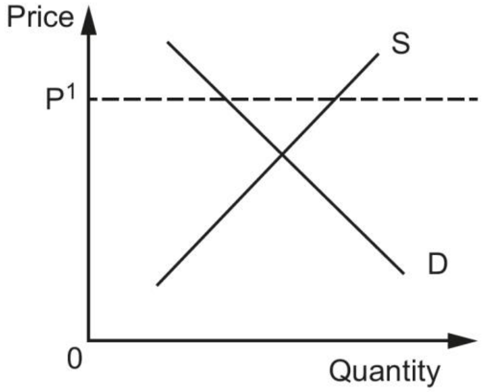
D Negotiations take place between workers and employers to set the wage rate

Your answer [ ] **[1]**

Most of the candidates gave A as the correct response to this question. It did not seem as if some candidates took notice of the word 'best'.

Question 10

10 The diagram shows the demand and supply for apples.



If the price is currently P^1 what would be the **most** likely result?

A Equilibrium price will rise

B More buyers will enter the market

C The market will be in equilibrium

D There will be excess supply

Your answer [1]

Most of the candidates gave D as the correct response to this question.

Question 11

11 A shop owner decides to close their shop for two weeks to go on holiday. As a result, they will lose £2000 in revenue.

This is an example of

A gross pay

B market forces

C opportunity cost

D the economic problem

Your answer [ ] **[1]**

Most of the candidates gave C as the correct response to this question.

Question 12

12 In a market where demand and prices are falling this means that fewer resources are needed.

This is an example of price acting as both

A a reflection of worth and a transmission of preferences

B a signaller and a transmission of preferences

C resource rationing and a signaller

D resource rationing and an opportunity cost indicator

Your answer [ ] **[1]**

Although nearly half of the candidates gave the correct answer B there was substantial support for A and C showing some confusion over the role of price.

Question 13

13 A self-employed business consultant has received a number of payments in the last month.

Payment	**£**
Bank interest	20
Rent from 2 properties	1200
Share dividends	250

What was the business consultant's gross pay last month?

A £2000

B £2020

C £2270

D £3470

Your answer **[1]**

None of the answer options were correct for this question. To treat all candidates fairly, we awarded a mark for this question to every candidate.

Question 14

14 Two workers asked their employer if they can specialise, instead of doing several different jobs.

What would be a direct benefit for these workers?

A Creates jobs

B Increased skill

C Less boredom

D Unemployment

Your answer **[1]**

Most of the candidates gave B as the correct response to this question.

Question 15

15 What would an economist consider to be the **best** example of money?

A A cheque

B A credit card

C A fifty-pound note

D A mobile phone pay app

Your answer ☐ **[1]**

Most of the candidates gave C as the correct response to this question.

Question 16

16 Plumbers who work for themselves are examples of individuals as

A competitors

B consumers

C employers

D producers

Your answer ☐ **[1]**

Most of the candidates gave D as the correct response to this question. Some candidates had not read the question carefully enough and gave answer C.

Question 17

17 What will happen to the price and quantity of **most** goods due to a movement along the demand curve?

A price and quantity will change in opposite directions

B price and quantity will change in the same direction

C price will change, but quantity will stay the same

D quantity will change, but price will stay the same

Your answer ☐ **[1]**

Most of the candidates gave A as the correct response to this question.

Question 18

18 The government allocates scarce resources between many uses.
When they decide to spend more money on health instead of education, the government is answering a key economic question.

What is the key economic question?

A Are the needs of health more than the wants of education?

B For whom should health be produced?

C How should health be produced?

D What should be produced?

Your answer ☐ **[1]**

Only a few candidates have the correct answer D showing that the concept of 'key economic question' is not well understood.

Question 19

19 What is the price elasticity of demand, if a price decrease leads to an increase in total revenue?

A Perfectly price inelastic

B Price elastic

C Price inelastic

D Unitary price elastic

Your answer [1]

Most of the candidates gave B as the correct response to this question.

Question 20

20 What would most likely lead to a fall in the number of people applying for a new job?

A Decline in the size of the working population

B Decrease in demand for the product made

C Improvement in the working conditions

D Increase in the level of productivity

Your answer [1]

Most of the candidates gave A as the correct response to this question.

Section B overview

Section B of this paper consists of three questions, with a short case study (Extracts 1, 2 and 3) and related short and medium response questions, as well as the opportunity for extended responses. Each of the three questions is broken down into six questions ranging in mark allocation – four 2-mark questions and two 6-mark questions making 20 marks in total. In addition to examining AO1 and AO2, Section B also examines AO3: *Analyse and evaluate economic evidence and issues to demonstrate understanding of economic behaviour, make judgements and draw conclusions*.

It is important that candidates both read the actual question asked, and not the one they would like to have been asked or the one they have practised, and link their answers, where appropriate with the Extract. In too many cases these basic rules did not appear to have been taken notice of leading to partial or even totally inaccurate answers.

The ability to draw and correctly label diagrams is vital as some questions depend on this skill. Over twenty percent of the marks in Section B were partly or wholly dependent on this. Equally, ten percent of marks were for quantitative skills. While many candidates performed well gaining all the marks, others seemed unable to perform relatively straightforward calculations.

Some parts of the specification are more difficult for candidates than others, but they need to be tested regularly. This includes topics such as price elasticity of supply. Unfortunately, some candidates were confused between price elastic supply and price inelastic supply and therefore, the respective consequences when, for example, demand alters. In addition, some candidates ignored 'supply' and wrote about 'demand'.

A further example of confusion for some candidates occurred when they used the terms 'cost' where the word 'price' was required.

Question 21 (a)

21 Extract 1
Letusprovide Ltd

Layla and Leo run Letusprovide Ltd, a food supply firm. Layla was delighted to hear that their local roads were to be improved, leading to an external economy of scale for the business. She was further pleased when a letter from their bank said that interest rates were being reduced. The fall from 6% to 5% will allow the business to borrow £10 000 more cheaply. This will help them to grow the business.

Leo has heard that the government has blocked the two largest food supply firms from joining together. This will mean Letusprovide Ltd can compete fairly with the other food supply businesses. Leo says this will be good both for the business and the consumers.

Layla reminded Leo that competition was not always positive for consumers, as smaller firms might not be able to gain the same economies of scale as large firms.

(a) Explain why improving local roads is an external economy of scale.

....

....

....

.... **[2]**

While most candidates were able to write something about the potential advantages of faster transport relatively few seemed to have a clear understanding of what is meant by an external economy of scale.

Question 21 (b)

(b) Letusprovide Ltd wants to borrow money from its bank.

Explain **one other** way banks can help Letusprovide Ltd to grow.

....

....

....

.... **[2]**

The most common correct responses referred to depositing savings and overdrafts. Too many had not read 'one other way' and talked about loans. Some candidates incorrectly believed that banks provide subsidies to businesses.

Question 21 (c)

(c) Analyse the effect of a reduction in interest rates on Letusprovide Ltd.

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....

....

.... **[6]**

There were a number of good answers to this question. Most candidates demonstrated some relevant knowledge of what was meant by an interest rate and there was some good application in relation to the particular size of the interest rate reduction. Analysis often related to the concept of opportunity cost or to developments in relation to internal economies of scale or that borrowing would be cheaper and/or less return on any savings, but cheaper loans could be used to employ more workers, advertise, purchase capital equipment all making Letusprovide more competitive.

Question 21 (d) (i)

(d)
(i) Calculate the saving that Letusprovide Ltd will make if it borrows £10 000 at a 5% rate of interest instead of 6%.

Show your working.

Answer = £ .... **[2]**

While most candidates gave the correct answer of £100 there were some who could not manage percentages or made arithmetic errors.

Question 21 (d) (ii)

(ii) State **two** reasons why businesses compete.

1 ....

2 ....
[2]

Most candidates were able to correctly state two reasons why businesses compete, such as to enter a market, to make a profit or to gain customers. A small number of candidates had the right idea but did not develop their answers sufficiently giving answer such as profit without providing any development or elaboration.

Question 21 (d) (iii)*

(iii)* Evaluate the extent to which competition is beneficial for consumers.

Use the information given in **Extract 1** and your own knowledge.

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.... **[6]**

There were a number of good answers to this question. Application was often related to the existence of more choice, while examples of analysis included lower prices, improved quality and a better standard of living. Many candidates made quite a good attempt to offer some relevant evaluation, such as in terms of the power of marketing to persuade consumers to buy products that they didn't really need or the possibility of firms cutting corners leading to a reduction in the quality of products. Some candidates however answered in terms of advantages to Letusprovide and not the consumer.

Reading the question

The question said 'Evaluate the extent to which competition is good for consumers'. For the application marks candidates needed to focus on the consumer. References to Letusprovide benefitting could not be credited. With evaluation the emphasis was on the 'extent' so answers which just consisted of a summary or statements such as 'consumers gain from competition' were unable to get more than one evaluation mark. Candidates must understand that reading the question carefully is a key skill in doing well in exams.

Question 22 (a)

22 Extract 2
ALASA

Alex, Ling, Amit, Sam and Azmi have recently left music college. They have decided to market themselves as ALASA offering solo musical concerts, with up to all five of them performing. Alex, acting as the business manager, pointed out that their supply is price inelastic.

Alex has produced a price list, including travel costs, based on a three-hour concert.

Number of musicians	Total price (£)
1	300
2	700
3	1100
4	1600
5	2200

Ling thinks these prices are fair. If consumers want more musicians they must expect to pay an increasing rate, to justify higher transport and practice costs.

Amit agreed, but said it was important that they established an equilibrium price and quantity as soon as possible.

Sam said they needed to think carefully about their costs, as this can cause the supply schedule to shift.

Azmi said that other factors can cause this to happen.

(a) Explain what is meant by 'their supply is price inelastic'.

....

....

....

.... **[2]**

As with Questions 8 and 19 there were many candidates who did not fully understand what was meant by price elasticity, in this case inelastic price elasticity of supply. The idea of percentage change in quantity being less than percentage change in price was only provided by a minority. Some answered in terms of elastic while others wrote about price elasticity of demand.

Exemplar 1

the Quantity supplied of offering solo musical concerts is not very responsive to a change in price.

[2]

Exemplar 1 was given 1 mark as the candidate had the general idea that quantity supplied was less responsive to a change in price, but did not give the idea of percentage change. This was typical of many answers.

Question 22 (b)

(b) Explain the role of the market in determining equilibrium price and quantity.

[2]

Most candidates could define market equilibrium but then struggled to explain the role of the market in determining it.

Question 22 (c)

(c) Using a diagram, analyse the possible consequences of a movement along ALASA's supply curve.

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....

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.... **[6]**

Most candidates included a diagram in their answer and the majority of these were able to gain marks in relation to both knowledge and analysis. Those who did not show a shift in the demand curve, but only drew changes in price and quantity along the supply curve often had problems when trying to analyse their diagram. Some of these mistakenly associated a rise in price with a fall in quantity demanded instead of considering supply. Others showed a shift in the supply curve which meant much of the analysis was incorrect. The main issue was not using the material in the extract correctly and not relating it to the number of musicians employed.

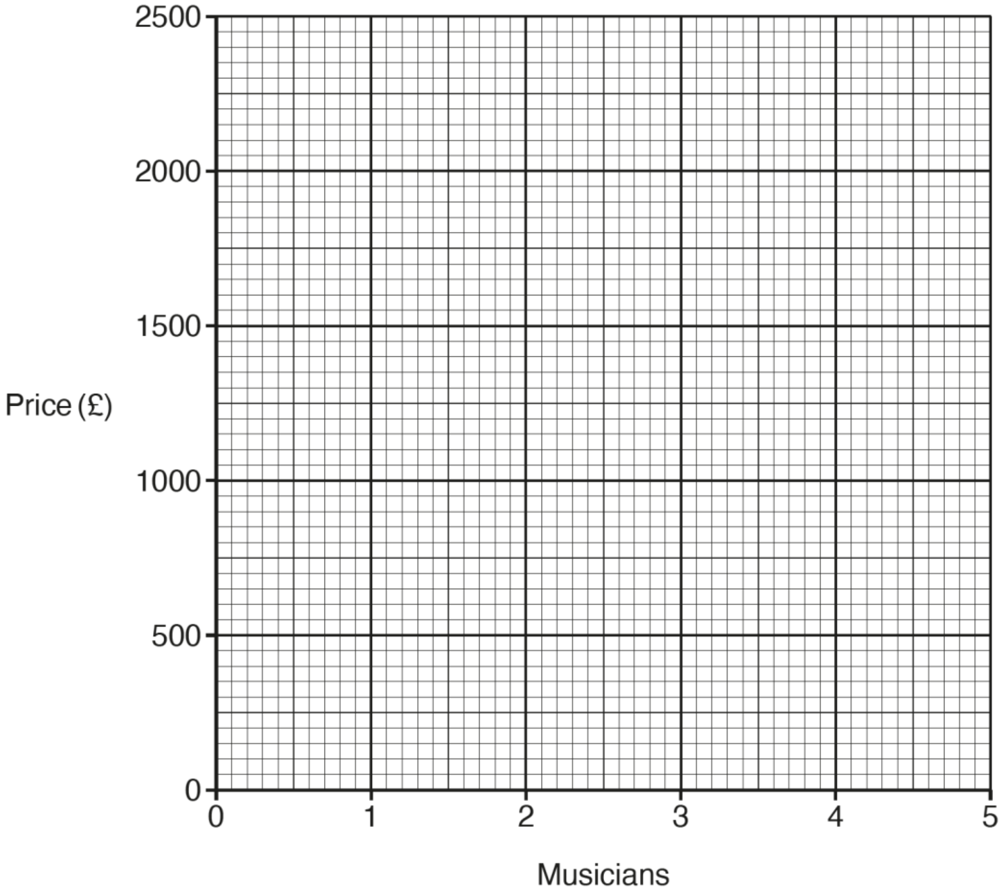
Reading and using the Extract

Candidates need to take time to read the Extract and should go back to it for parts c and diii. The Extract will provide them with material for the application mark(s). It will focus their attention, also, on what the question is about. In this case it is about the number of musicians and **not** the number of tickets or concerts which is what many candidates wrote about. Answers must address the question asked not the question candidates would have preferred.

Question 22 (d) (i)

(d)

(i) Using the information in **Extract 2**, draw the supply curve for ALASA.



[2]

Most candidates gained 2 marks by accurately plotting the points and then joining them up. Others, however, drew a line of best fit thus scoring only 1 mark. A few invented their own numbers.

Drawing diagrams

Candidates should make sure they can draw and label diagrams correctly both from given data, as here, but also in terms of supply and demand diagrams as required in 22 (c) and 23 (c).

Question 22 (d) (ii)

(ii) ALASA reduces all the prices of hiring musicians by £50 due to falling travel costs.

Calculate ALASA's total revenue from two musicians being hired for two separate concerts after the price reduction.

Show your working.

Answer = £ .... **[2]**

Although most candidates gained both marks some did not relate the information in the question with the table in the extract.

Question 22 (d) (iii)*

(iii)* Evaluate the importance for consumers of ALASA having a price inelastic supply.

Use the information given in **Extract 2** and your own knowledge.

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....

....

....

....

.... **[6]**

Many candidates were able to demonstrate some application by showing understanding of what was meant by inelastic supply and analysis was demonstrated by the potentially negative effect on consumers' standard of living. In relation to evaluation, a number of candidates wrote about the fact that there may be other factors which were more important than price elasticity of supply, such as the conditions of demand. Unfortunately, some candidates wrote about tickets or concerts. Others confused price elasticity of supply with demand.

Exemplar 2

with suppy being inelastic, MLASA are less able to respondua to changes in price in terms of their suppy and may lack flexibility in what they offer to consumers that make up the audience. The 5000 musical concerts suggests that suppy is fixed and the irena is a fixed capacity that MLASA can provide which can cause MLASA to charge higher prices, this should lead to lower standards of living for consumers as firstly there is less choice and fixed capacity but also how they may not be able to afford for example 5 musicians which costs £2200. However, it depends on whether the income recieved by the target audience consumers and whether high prices are a bigger issue or if it does not matter.

In conclusion, price inelastic suppy is very * back page [6]

22d(ii) important to consumers as they may face higher prices and may not be able to afford. ~~Hkan~~ As long as MLASA have more competition in order to encourage them to compete more perraps in non price areas, ~~BA~~ so that consumers are benefitted.

The candidate addresses the relevance of PES to the customer making two analytical points and two valid evaluations, as well as an application. It gained, therefore 5 marks. To get 6 marks it needed one more evaluation focused on the importance to the customer.

Question 23 (a)

23 Extract 3
The Asian Hornet

The Asian Hornet is an insect first found in France in 2004. It has spread to many other European countries and has now reached the UK.

The Asian Hornet has a negative impact because it destroys honeybees and many other insects which pollinate plants, damaging the primary sector. This causes a fall in the level of production of most fruit and vegetable crops, leading to economic losses. This has already happened in Spain, France, Italy, and Portugal.

The Asian Hornet is very aggressive and can affect consumers and producers. The hornet's sting can cause a severe reaction and in extreme cases leads to death. The annual cost of destroying the nests to get rid of the Asian Hornet is estimated to be £10.5 million for France, £8 million for Italy, and £7.6 million for the UK.

Overall, the Asian Hornet will have a negative effect on the quality of life and wellbeing in the UK, unless it can be destroyed.

(a) Explain what is meant by the primary sector.

....

....

....

.... **[2]**

Most candidates were able to explain what was meant by the primary sector in relation to the extraction of raw materials and give an example such as forestry or mining. Others could only offer examples for 1 mark.

Exemplar 3

The area of jobs concened with the extraction of raw materials

in the extract, this is likely to be the ~~grow er~~ farmes of fruit

.... **[2]**

Exemplar 3 was given 2 marks as it clearly identified 'extraction of raw materials' and then gave the example of 'farmers of fruit'.

Question 23 (b)

(b) Explain how the Asian Hornet can affect the producer's role in the economy.

....

....

....

.... **[2]**

Many candidates realised that it would reduce producers' ability to supply but found it difficult to go further although some did talk about rising prices. Those who talked about falling revenue or profit were not credited because lower output could lead to higher prices and increased revenue if demand is price inelastic.

Question 23 (c)

(c) Using a diagram, analyse the effect of the spread of the Asian Hornet on the equilibrium price and quantity of food.

....

....

....

....

....

.... **[6]**

Most candidates drew a correct diagram showing the supply curve moving to the left, gaining a knowledge and an analysis mark. Application was often in the form of a comment about a fall in the level of production. Further analysis marks were gained by a number of candidates in relation to an increase in price and a decrease in the quantity supplied.

Question 23 (d) (i)

(d)
(i) Using the information in **Extract 3**, calculate the average cost of destroying the Asian Hornet in France, Italy, and the UK.

Show your working.

Answer = £ .... **[2]**

Most candidates correctly identified the average cost as £8.7 million, but some of them gained just 1 mark because although they correctly calculated the 8.7, they forgot to add million to the answer.

Question 23 (d) (ii)

(ii) Explain how the Asian Hornet can affect the interdependence of the factor and product markets.

....

....

....

.... **[2]**

Many candidates did not understand what was meant by the factor or the product markets. The former was often confused with the primary sector. Although 'interdependence' is in the Specification this was also not understood.

Misconception

Factor Market is not the same as Primary Sector.

Product Market is not the same as Secondary/Tertiary Sector.

Question 23 (d) (iii)*

(iii)* Evaluate the extent to which the Asian Hornet will have a negative effect on the social sustainability of the UK.

Use the information given in **Extract 3** and your own knowledge.

....

....

....

....

....

.... **[6]**

There were some very good answers to this question. Many of the candidates clearly understood what was meant by the term 'social sustainability'. Application marks were gained in terms of the impact of the hornet's sting or the lack of produce and the annual cost to the UK government of destroying the nests in order to get rid of the Asian Hornet. Analysis usually referred to the existence of higher prices and the decline in the quality of life, while evaluation was often in relation to the existence of opportunity cost in terms of expenditure by the UK government or to the possible need to bring in imports from different countries.

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