



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Economics 3144

Paper 2 Higher Tier

Mark Scheme

2008 examination - June series

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

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Economics - Paper Two, Higher Tier (3144/2H)

General Marking Guidance

While the task is structured in five parts, answers are to be marked holistically according to the following criteria/levels.

Start at the highest level for each criteria, and look at the candidate's response to see if you can identify evidence of achievement of that level. If you cannot find evidence of that level, move down to the next level. It is not necessary to obtain the lower levels below that which is actually rewarded. For many levels it is only necessary for candidates to show the applicable evidence once to be awarded in that level. There are some levels, however, where candidates need to show evidence more than once. This particularly applies where the term 'consistently uses' is in the level descriptor.

Layout/style/structure are not to be rewarded.

Guidance will be provided to examiners at the standardisation meeting on how to differentiate between the range of marks at each level.

Quantity may be misleading.

Please note the mark scheme will be supplemented by extracts from candidates' answers selected during the standardisation process. These should be used to assist in determining the levels reached by the candidate being assessed.

Details of general instructions for markers will be found in the AQA *booklet Instructions for examiners marking scripts*, which follows the Mandatory Code of Practice. Further supplementary detailed instructions will be given by the Principal Examiner at the standardisation meeting.

Shoreworth Airport is one of the fastest growing regional airports in the UK. It would like to maintain this growth. To attract more passengers, it is looking to improve its services and to build a second runway.

Your task

As an economist working for Shoreworth County Council, you have collected the information given to you in the Information Leaflet.

Using the Information Leaflet, together with your own knowledge and understanding of economics, write a report for Shoreworth County Council.

In your report, you should:

1. describe the trends in passenger numbers using UK airports;
2. explain why 'Shoreworth Airport is one of the fastest growing regional airports in the UK';
3. discuss whether or not Shoreworth Airport is likely to remain 'one of the fastest growing regional airports in the UK';
4. explain the possible effects of the proposed airport expansion on the people and businesses in the Shoreworth area;
5. recommend and justify to Shoreworth County Council whether it should approve or reject the expansion of Shoreworth Airport.

Your report will be assessed on your ability to:

- A. use economic knowledge, show understanding and use information; (20 marks)
- B. apply economic concepts and theories and use appropriate economic terminology and methods; (20 marks)
- C. select, organise and interpret information; (20 marks)
- D. evaluate evidence, make reasoned judgements and draw appropriate conclusions; (20 marks)
- E. present information in a clear, legible and logical way; spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar accurately; and enable the meaning of the text to be understood. (4 marks)

(Total: 84 marks)

Terms and concepts

Candidates may elect to use a variety of relevant terms and concepts including:

Economic Growth
Elasticity
Employment/Unemployment
External Benefits
External Costs
Multiplier (not in specification)
Opportunity Cost
Private Benefits
Private Costs
Profits
Scarce Resources
Shift in Demand
Shift in Supply
Social Benefits
Social Costs
Supply & Demand

The paper is to be marked holistically. This means that the AOs may be achieved at any point in the answer. These must be indicated in the following way:

AO1 – Knowledge and Understanding	K
AO2 – Application	A
AO3 – Select, Organise and Analyse	S
AO4 – Evaluation	E

In their answers candidates may make the following points from the Sources:

Item A

- direct rail link;
- lack of main road/rail link;
- motorway/A roads reasonably near.

Item B

- continuing increase in passenger numbers;
- very large increase in 2002 and then smaller increases;
- rising numbers up to 2005, levelling off in 2006;
- could link this to need for second runway.

Item C

- passenger numbers up by 6%;
- regional airports passenger numbers rose on average by 9%;
- regional airport passenger numbers have doubled since 1995;
- flights to Europe increased by 6% - Italy by 11%;
- fastest growth was to:
 - North Africa 38%
 - Australia 33%.

Item D

- airport seen positively by some & negatively by others;
- main negative points:
 - parking charges;
 - food & duty free prices;
 - facilities;
 - poor staff attitudes.
- main positive points:
 - good rail links;
 - cheerful staff;
 - good baggage handling;
 - good links with major airports avoiding road travel.

Item E

- passenger numbers rose in 2005 by 32% - numbers will continue to rise;
- planes fly to Europe and major UK airports;
- planes fly from the airport between 6am and 8pm;
- new runway needed as the single runway can only just cope with existing numbers;
- customers see us as a friendly airport, but we need to provide better facilities in some areas;
- over 500 people are employed at the Airport;
- in addition, many businesses in the area are involved in supplying services to the Airport and/or benefit from people visiting the area;
- profitable business putting money into the local economy;
- over 200 000 visitors used the airport in 2005;
- trying to encourage more people to come to the airport by public transport.

Item F

- new runway will mean destruction of Debenton village;
- 700 homes/1600 people affected;
- thousands affected by rise in air/noise pollution.

Item G

- environmental groups/individuals/some councils all protesting against airport expansion;
- night flights create more noise;
- aviation industry supported by expensive subsidies;
- growth in air travel will have a devastating impact on climate change, local communities and the wider environment;
- government should be tackling climate change & rethinking aviation strategy.

Recommendation

Candidates should recommend whether or not the expansion should be approved. There is no one correct answer. They may link approval to improvement in facilities/staff attitudes etc.

Evaluation

Candidates may mention in evaluation of the evidence:

- no knowledge of other competing airports and distance from Shoreworth;
- no information on costs;
- no information on possible benefits or future passenger numbers;
- no interview with any anti person/organisation;
- negative view is largely a national not a regional one;
- only 6 passengers' views – not representative?
- conflict between optimistic view of Manager and the actual passenger numbers for 2006?
- pressure on prominent figures, eg Prince Charles, politicians, etc to reduce their 'global imprint';
- rise in fuel costs;
- slow down/recession in economies;
- no sources given for Items B and C;
- allow any other valid comments.

Essay Marking Grid

Knowledge and Understanding and Use of Information		
Level 4	Substantial evidence of using economic knowledge and gathering information is demonstrated. The candidate has assembled relevant evidence and shown very good understanding.	15–20 marks
Level 3	The candidate has used economic knowledge in relation to the context of the question. Has copied some material, but has summarised and adopted other information. Has demonstrated good understanding of evidence.	9–14 marks
Level 2	The candidate has made some attempt to use economic knowledge, but is limited in its relevance. Most of the answer is copied from source material and understanding is limited.	1–8 marks
Level 1	No relevant information is presented.	0 marks

Application		
Level 4	Clear evidence of applying at least three economic concepts and theories appropriately to the question is demonstrated. Precise use of economic terminology and methodology is used in addressing the question.	15–20 marks
Level 3	A good attempt is made to apply economic concepts and/or terms to the question. The candidate has applied at least two economic theories to the question. The candidate has made use of appropriate economic terminology and methodology with some success.	9–14 marks
Level 2	Some attempt is made to apply at least one economic concept and/or theory and/or term to the question, but there is a tendency to make unsupported generalisations.	1–8 marks
Level 1	No attempt is made to apply economic knowledge to the question.	0 marks

Select/Organise/Analyse and Interpret		
Level 4	Information/data is selected in an effective way. The information selected is well organised; at least three items are analysed. Evidence of interpretation of information/data, applicable to the question is clearly demonstrated.	15–20 marks
Level 3	Information/data is selected in an effective way. The information selected is organised; at least two items are analysed. The candidate has begun to interpret information/data in relation to the question.	9–14 marks
Level 2	Some evidence that data/information is selected from at least one item . There is some relevant analysis of the information used, but little or no interpretation is carried out.	1–8 marks
Level 1	No attempt is made to select, organise, analyse or interpret.	0 marks

Evaluation/Judgement		
Level 4	The candidate has examined the problem and drawn conclusions which are supported with evidence. Judgements and recommendations are made, using their economic knowledge. There is good evaluation of evidence with some reasoned judgements.	15–20 marks
Level 3	The candidate has begun to examine critically and drawn conclusions supported by some evidence with judgements and recommendations based on their economic knowledge. There is some relevant evaluation of evidence.	9–14 marks
Level 2	The candidate has made a limited attempt to draw conclusions and reasoned judgements in an elementary way. There is some attempt to evaluate the evidence.	1–8 marks
Level 1	No attempt is made to draw conclusions.	0 marks

Following assessment of all answers, a mark for Quality of Written Communication should be awarded using the following scheme:

Quality of Written Communication		
Level 4	Information is clearly and logically presented using an appropriate form. The text is legible. Candidates spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar accurately, enabling the meaning to be clearly understood.	4 marks
Level 3	Information is presented in an appropriate format. The text is legible. Candidates generally spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar accurately, although there may be some errors. The meaning is clear.	2–3 marks
Level 2	Some of the information presented is in an appropriate form. Generally the text is legible. Although there are errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar, candidates' meaning can be understood.	1 mark
Level 1	Candidates have failed to reach the standard required for the award of a mark.	0 marks