

BACCALAUREATE ECONOMICS EXAMINATION

Guidelines for the development of proposals

The economics exam consists of three questions, all of which the candidate must answer. Each question is made up of four parts, occasionally one part may be split into two sub-parts: for example, 1a and 1b).

Each question is normally centred on one area taken from the Year 7 syllabus, for example Economic Growth or Employment; there are five main areas within the syllabus. It is not unusual for a question to cover more than one area of the syllabus as in economics it is important that the student understands links between various topics within the subject, for example:

- the impact of economic growth on employment or the environment,
- the effect that a change in exchange rates will have on inflation and growth (as well as the Balance of Payments).

A typical structure for a question on the examination will be:

- a) Definition and/or brief explanation of a key principle of macroeconomics, for example how to measure inflation or the structure of a Balance of Payments account. (6/7 points).
- b) Explanation and analysis of the source material which can be: a short newspaper article, graphical or tabular representation of economic data, or a map (for example unemployment rates in European states). (7 points).
- c) A statement and more detailed explanation of the problems caused by macroeconomic problems, for example youth unemployment, protectionism or deflation, and the causes of those problems. (10 points).
- d) A discussion of various policies available to institutions to deal with economic problems and the wider consequences of such measures for the national and international (mainly European) economy. (10 points).

The order may vary from question to question, for example reference to the source material could also appear in parts c) or d), but this is a typical structure.

The ability to apply and discuss knowledge objectively is regarded as very important in economics and thus roughly 50% of points are allocated to those skills.