



Qualifications and
Curriculum Authority



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Rewarding Learning

GCE A level performance descriptions for economics

July 2007

QCA/07/3224

Introduction

Performance descriptions have been created for all GCE subjects. They describe the learning outcomes and levels of attainment likely to be demonstrated by a representative candidate performing at the A/B and E/U boundaries for AS and A2.

In practice most candidates will show uneven profiles across the attainments listed, with strengths in some areas compensating in the award process for weaknesses or omissions elsewhere. Performance descriptions illustrate expectations at the A/B and E/U boundaries of the AS and A2 as a whole; they have not been written at unit level.

Grade A/B and E/U boundaries should be set using professional judgement. The judgement should reflect the quality of candidates' work, informed by the available technical and statistical evidence. Performance descriptions are designed to assist examiners in exercising their professional judgement. They should be interpreted and applied in the context of individual specifications and their associated units. However, performance descriptions are not designed to define the content of specifications and units.

The requirement for all AS and A level specifications to assess candidates' quality of written communication will be met through one or more of the assessment objectives.

The performance descriptions have been produced by the regulatory authorities in collaboration with the awarding bodies.

AS performance descriptions for economics

	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3	Assessment objective 4
Assessment objectives	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the specified content.	Apply knowledge and understanding of the specified content to problems and issues arising from both familiar and unfamiliar situations.	Analyse economic problems and issues.	Evaluate economic arguments and evidence, making informed judgements.
A/B boundary performance descriptions	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <p>a) demonstrate detailed knowledge of a range of facts and concepts included in the AS specification</p> <p>b) demonstrate clear understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • terminology • institutions • models. 	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <p>a) apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concepts • numerical and graphical techniques • theories and models • terminology <p>to issues arising in familiar and unfamiliar situations.</p>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <p>a) select relevant concepts, models, theories and techniques</p> <p>b) demonstrate, for the most part, development of logical explanations of economic problems and issues with focus and relevance.</p>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <p>a) evaluate straightforward economic arguments and evidence by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prioritising evidence and arguments • making judgements • reaching and presenting conclusions.
E/U boundary performance descriptions	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <p>a) demonstrate knowledge of some facts and concepts included in the AS specification</p> <p>b) demonstrate some understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • terminology • institutions • models. 	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <p>a) apply in part some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concepts • numerical and graphical techniques • theories and models • terminology <p>to issues arising in familiar situations.</p>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <p>a) demonstrate some evidence of selecting relevant concepts, models, theories and techniques</p> <p>b) demonstrate partial explanations of economic problems and issues.</p>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <p>a) evaluate straightforward economic arguments and evidence at a simple level, for example by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offering judgements • stating conclusions.

A2 performance descriptions for economics

	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3	Assessment objective 4
Assessment objectives	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the specified content.	Apply knowledge and understanding of the specified content to problems and issues arising from both familiar and unfamiliar situations.	Analyse economic problems and issues.	Evaluate economic arguments and evidence, making informed judgements.
A/B boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically demonstrate, across the AS and A2 specifications: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) detailed knowledge of a range of facts and concepts b) clear understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • terminology • institutions • models c) detailed knowledge and clear understanding of the interconnections between the different elements of the subject content. 	Candidates characteristically: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) apply clearly and effectively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concepts • numerical and graphical techniques • theories and models • terminology to complex issues arising in familiar and unfamiliar situations. 	Candidates characteristically: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) select relevant concepts, models, theories and techniques b) demonstrate, for the most part, development of logical explanations for complex economic problems and issues, with focus and relevance. 	Candidates characteristically: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) evaluate effectively complex economic arguments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prioritise evidence and arguments • make reasoned judgements • reach and present supported conclusions • make reasoned recommendations.
E/U boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically demonstrate, across the AS and A2 specifications: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) knowledge of some facts and concepts b) some understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • terminology • institutions • models c) some knowledge and understanding of the interconnections between the different elements of the subject content. 	Candidates characteristically: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) apply appropriately some: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concepts • numerical and graphical techniques • theories and models • terminology to complex issues arising in a range of situations, some of which may be unfamiliar. 	Candidates characteristically: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate some evidence of selecting relevant concepts, models, theories and techniques b) demonstrate partial development of logical explanations for complex economic problems and issues. 	Candidates characteristically: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate some evaluative skills in relation to complex economic arguments and evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make judgements • reach and present conclusions with some supporting evidence • make recommendations.