

Assessment Report

Scholarship, 2008

Economics

COMMENTARY

The standard overall continues to improve, particularly that of the top scripts. There was, however, a large tail in the marks distribution generated by a significant number of very poor quality scripts. This may be because whole classes of students are entering the scholarship examination.

The best performing candidates most commonly demonstrated the following skills and/or knowledge:

- ability to read questions and resource material carefully and to ensure that all parts of the question were identified and addressed
- ability to correctly interpret resource material and apply this within answers
- ability to clearly and accurately label graphs
- ability to use planning pages effectively
- ability to evaluate in an essay rather than limiting the response to demonstrating knowledge of the theory involved
- ability to critically review and selectively refer to the resource material in essays
- ability to include information from more recent events reported in the media
- ability to stay focused on the question and not go off on a tangent with irrelevancies
- ability to identify and objectively analyse in depth, a range of appropriate policy options as well as evaluate these.

Candidates who did NOT achieve scholarship lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge above, and in addition they:

- did not clearly explain how their answers met the requirements of the question
- did not fully answer each aspect of the question
- did not fully label graphs, especially appropriate equilibriums
- used language that over-stated situations (generalisations without evidence) or that was too emotive
- based answers on erroneous assumptions and wrote whole paragraphs that had to be ignored as a consequence
- wrote vague and illogical answers
- used illegible writing in paragraphs and on graphs.