

Scholarship

2012 Assessment Report

Economics

COMMENTARY

Each question was particularly topical and the range of material provided in the resource booklet provided candidates sufficient stimulus material to use in their analysis. Most candidates understood the concepts involved and the intent of each part of the question, as well as the relevance of the scaffolding questions to the essay. The scaffolding questions encouraged candidates to focus their analysis and the essay questions enabled them to demonstrate scholarship skills, particularly critical thinking and evaluation.

Most candidates attempted all parts of each question; the minority who didn't attempt the essay tended to complete most of the scaffolding questions.

There was some improvement in candidates' synthesis skills with better use of the resources.

It was evident that the question and answer booklet contained sufficient space for candidate responses, as very few supplementary sheets were required.

The planning box is being used more effectively, especially by better candidates, resulting in some very well constructed essays that helped create a relevant, balanced and well organised essay with evaluation.

SCHOLARSHIP WITH OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Candidates who were awarded Scholarship with Outstanding Performance typically:

- abstracted and synthesised the resource material into their explanations in a coherent manner that enhanced the quality of the answers
- effectively integrated the analysis from the scaffolding questions into their essays
- demonstrated economic literacy in their application of appropriate economic theory, graphs and models clearly and accurately in their analysis
- demonstrated critical thought by providing sophisticated arguments and evaluative statements which effectively answered the essay questions
- planned their answers well and used their time effectively
- answered all parts of the questions comprehensively and appropriately.

SCHOLARSHIP

Candidates who were awarded Scholarship but not Scholarship with Outstanding Performance typically:

- appropriately referred to the resource material in their answers
- used the analysis in the scaffolding questions in their essays
- demonstrated economic literacy in their application of economic theory, graphs and models in their analysis
- demonstrated logical reasoning that was clearly expressed
- planned their answers reasonably well and used available time effectively
- addressed most requirements of the questions clearly in their answers.

OTHER CANDIDATES

Candidates who were not awarded Scholarship typically:

- failed to use a sufficient amount of the resource material or misinterpreted the resource material in their answers

- copied sections of resource material without applying economic theory
- did not carry out a sufficient analysis
- wrote answers that lacked focus or made unsupported generalisations, did not address some of the question's requirements and lacked academic rigour
- were unable to demonstrate economic literacy, failing to use economic models effectively, and mislabelled graphs.