

Scholarship

2011 Assessment Report

Economics

COMMENTARY

The range of material provided in the resource booklet provided candidates with sufficient stimulus material to use in their analysis. Most candidates understood the concepts involved and the intent of each part of the question. The scaffolding questions encouraged candidates to focus their analysis, while the essay questions enabled them to demonstrate Scholarship skills, particularly evaluation.

The minority of candidates who did not attempt the essay tended to complete most of the scaffolding questions. A small number of candidates did not answer the scaffolding questions but answered the essay section, perhaps thinking this was a better use of time. These answers tended not to score well as they lacked the focus provided by the analysis section, and were penalised as each question is marked holistically.

Candidates' synthesis skills were demonstrated with better use of the resources. However, graphing skills were in need of improvement, and evidence of critical thought and evaluation was often lacking.

The planning box was used effectively, particularly by candidates who achieved higher scores, resulting in some very well-constructed essays that were relevant, and balanced with evaluation.

SCHOLARSHIP WITH OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Candidates who were awarded Scholarship with Outstanding Performance typically:

- answered all parts of the questions comprehensively and appropriately
- demonstrated a clear understanding of economics, and were economically literate
- demonstrated excellent reasoning that was logical and clearly expressed
- effectively integrated the resource material into their answers without repeating large sections of the material
- used the planning pages to carefully plan their answers and write in-depth responses to the essay questions
- effectively integrated their analysis from the scaffolding questions into their essays
- effectively incorporated economics graphs and models into their answers
- identified and objectively analysed a range of policy options and evaluated them
- produced sophisticated, evaluative statements that effectively answered the essay questions.

SCHOLARSHIP

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

- demonstrated economic literacy and logical reasoning that was clearly expressed
- appropriately referred to the resource material in their answers
- applied economic theory and models accurately and were able to draw accurate, correctly labelled graphs
- addressed most requirements of the questions clearly in their answers
- integrated resource material and the analysis from the scaffolding questions as well as providing an evaluation in their essays.

OTHER CANDIDATES

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

- used an insufficient amount of the resource material in their answers or misinterpreted the resource material
- copied sections of resource material without applying economic theory
- did not carry out a sufficient analysis or did not address all of the requirements of the question
- were unable to use economic models effectively, and mislabelled graphs
- wrote answers that lacked focus or made unsupported generalisations.