

AS and A level Economics B 2015

Exploring the assessment model





This session will cover:

- The new specification at a glance
- Overview of assessment objectives
- Quantitative skills
- AS assessment
- A level assessment
- Overview of support



Specification at a glance

Theme 1

Markets, consumers and firms

Scarcity, choice and potential conflicts
Enterprise, business and the economy
Introducing the market
The role of credit in the economy
Market failure and government intervention
Revenue, costs, profits and cash

Theme 2

The wider economic environment

Business growth and competitive advantage
Firms, consumers and elasticities of demand
Productive efficiency
Life in a global economy
The economic cycle
Introduction to macroeconomic policy

Theme 4

Making markets work

Competition and market power
Market power and market failure
Market failure across the economy
Macroeconomic policies and impact on firms and individuals
Risk and the financial sector

Theme 3

The global economy

Globalisation
Economics factors in business expansion
Impact of globalisation on global companies
Impact of globalisation on local and national economies
Global labour markets
Inequality and redistribution



AS at a glance

Theme 1 and Theme 2 are assessed through two externally examined papers:

Theme 1

Markets, consumers and firms

Theme 2

The UK wider economic environment

Paper 1

Markets, consumers and firms

Paper 2

The UK wider economic environment



A level at a glance

Themes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are assessed through three externally examined papers:

Theme 1 Markets, consumers and firms	Theme 2 The UK wider economic environment
Theme 4 Making markets work	Theme 3 The global economy

Paper 1 Markets and how they work	Paper 2 Competing in the global economy
Paper 3 The economic environment and business	

Assessment objectives





Assessment objectives

		A level	AS
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge of terms/concepts and theories/models to show an understanding of the behaviour of economic agents and how they are affected by and respond to economic issues	20-22%	25-27%
AO2	Apply knowledge and understanding to various economic contexts to show how economic agents are affected by and respond to issues	22-24%	25-27%
AO3	Analyse issues within economics, showing an understanding of their impact on economic agents	28-30%	24-26%
AO4	Evaluate economic arguments and use qualitative and quantitative evidence to support informed judgements relating to economic issues	26-28%	22-24%



AO1: knowledge

- **Knowledge and understanding** of a fact, a reason for something, a concept
- **Identification** of key points



AO2: application

- Using knowledge and understanding **in context**
- Use of **data/extracts** in answer
- Use of **examples to illustrate points**
- Manipulation of data e.g. **calculations** based on data
- Use of diagrams



AO2: application

- When questions stipulate the use of an extract(s) students:
 - must directly reference, interpret or analyse the information
 - may also select relevant examples from their own knowledge
- When questions do not stipulate the use of an extract(s) students:
 - must select relevant examples from their own knowledge
 - may also directly reference, interpret or analyse the information given in extracts



AO3: analysis

- Selecting and applying the **appropriate theories/concepts**
- Identifying and explaining possible causal factors
- Identifying and explaining possible consequences
- **Diagrammatic** analysis
- A **chain of reasoning**: may be exemplified by explaining a transmission mechanism – causes or consequences



AO3: analysis

- Explanation of a situation/issue/problem by a logical sequence of linked ideas
- Use link words such as **so**, **because**, **unless**, **if** and **therefore**
- Strong analysis also uses **can/could/might**



AO4: evaluation

- Showing a **critical awareness**
- Recognising **different viewpoints** and **balance**
- Questioning **quality of the evidence**: validity and reliability
- Questioning **validity of underlying assumptions** (e.g. does correlation imply causation)
- Making **informed judgements** or **conclusions**



Quantitative skills

- Quantitative skills are assessed:
 - through calculate and illustrate questions
 - within extended questions
- In extended questions, students need to demonstrate quantitative skills to support their judgements
- Will include Level 2 mathematical skills
- Minimum of 20% of the overall marks for A level (15% for AS)

AS assessment





AS assessment

Paper 1

Markets, consumers and firms

80 marks, 1.5 hours, 50%

Section A: data response

Section B: data response

Section C: essay

Paper 2

The wider economic environment

80 marks, 1.5 hours, 50%

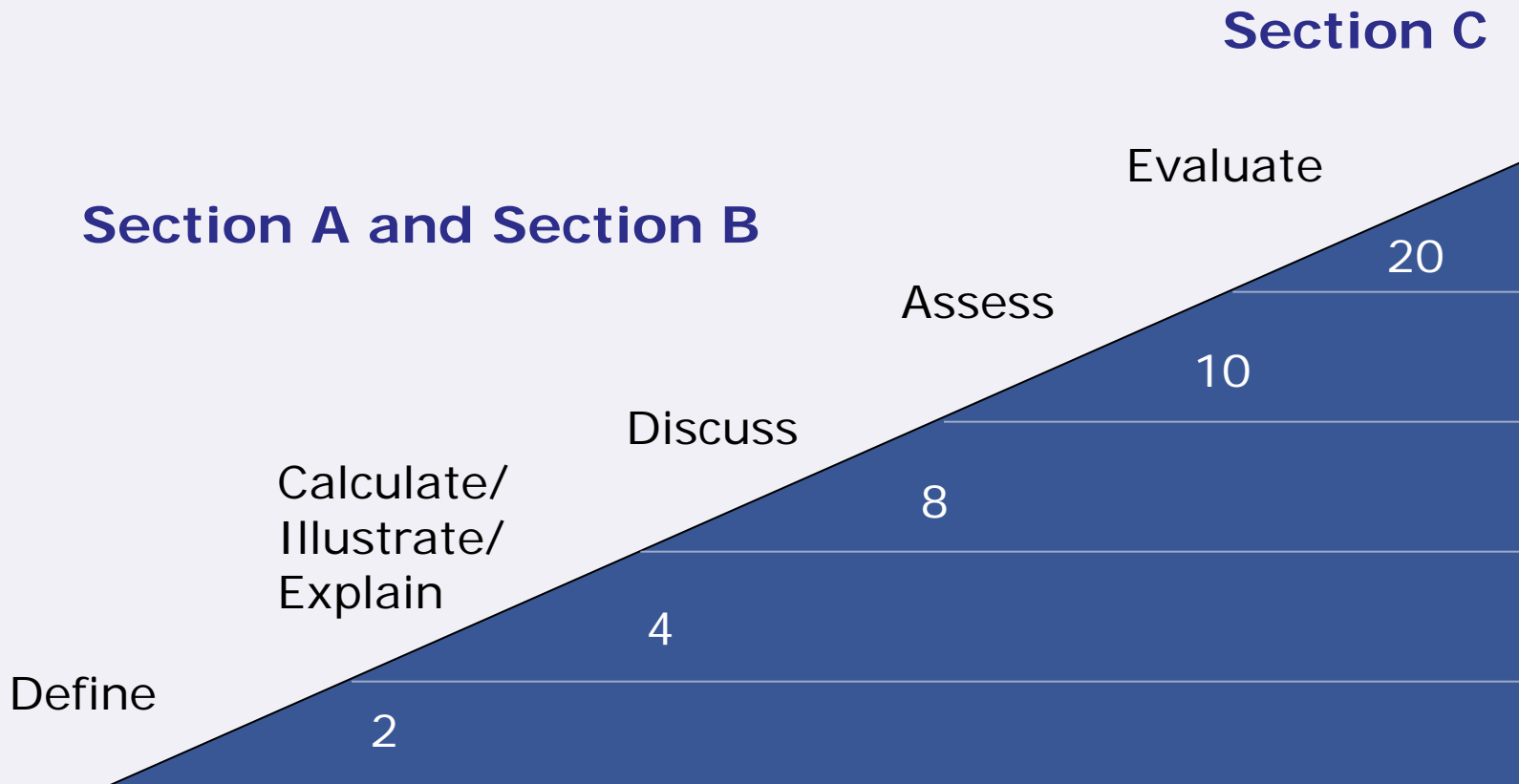
Section A: data response

Section B: data response

Section C: essay



AS sample assessment: Paper 1 and Paper 2





Extended answers

		Evaluate: 4,4,6,6
	Assess: 2,2,4,4	
Discuss: 2,2,2,2		
Accurate knowledge	Accurate knowledge	Accurate & precise knowledge
Context and/or examples	Context and/or examples	Context and/or examples
Chains of reasoning	Chains of reasoning	Chains of reasoning
Balance	Points evaluated for validity and significance Balance	Points evaluated for validity and significance Balanced comparisons, judgements or conclusions



Discuss

- Accurate knowledge
- Apply to context and/or use relevant examples
- Analysis – factors/arguments identified and explained using logical chains of reasoning
- Evaluation – shows balance between competing factors/arguments



Assess

- Accurate knowledge
- Apply to context and/or use relevant examples
- Analysis – factors/arguments identified and explained using logical chains of reasoning
- Evaluation
 - shows balance between competing factors/arguments
 - relative importance of factors/arguments
 - critical of the factors/arguments



Evaluate

- Accurate knowledge
- Apply to context and/or use relevant examples
- Analysis – factors/arguments identified and explained using logical chains of reasoning
- Evaluation:
 - shows balance between and understanding of relative importance of competing factors/arguments
 - critical of the factors/arguments
 - judgements or conclusions made

Marking activity





A level assessment



A level assessment

Paper 1

Markets and how they work

100 marks, 2 hours, 35%

Section A: data response

Section B: essay

Section C: essay

Paper 2

Competing in the global economy

100 marks, 2 hours, 35%

Section A: data response

Section B: essay

Section C: essay

Paper 3

The economic environment and business

100 marks, 2 hours, 30%

Context pre-released in November

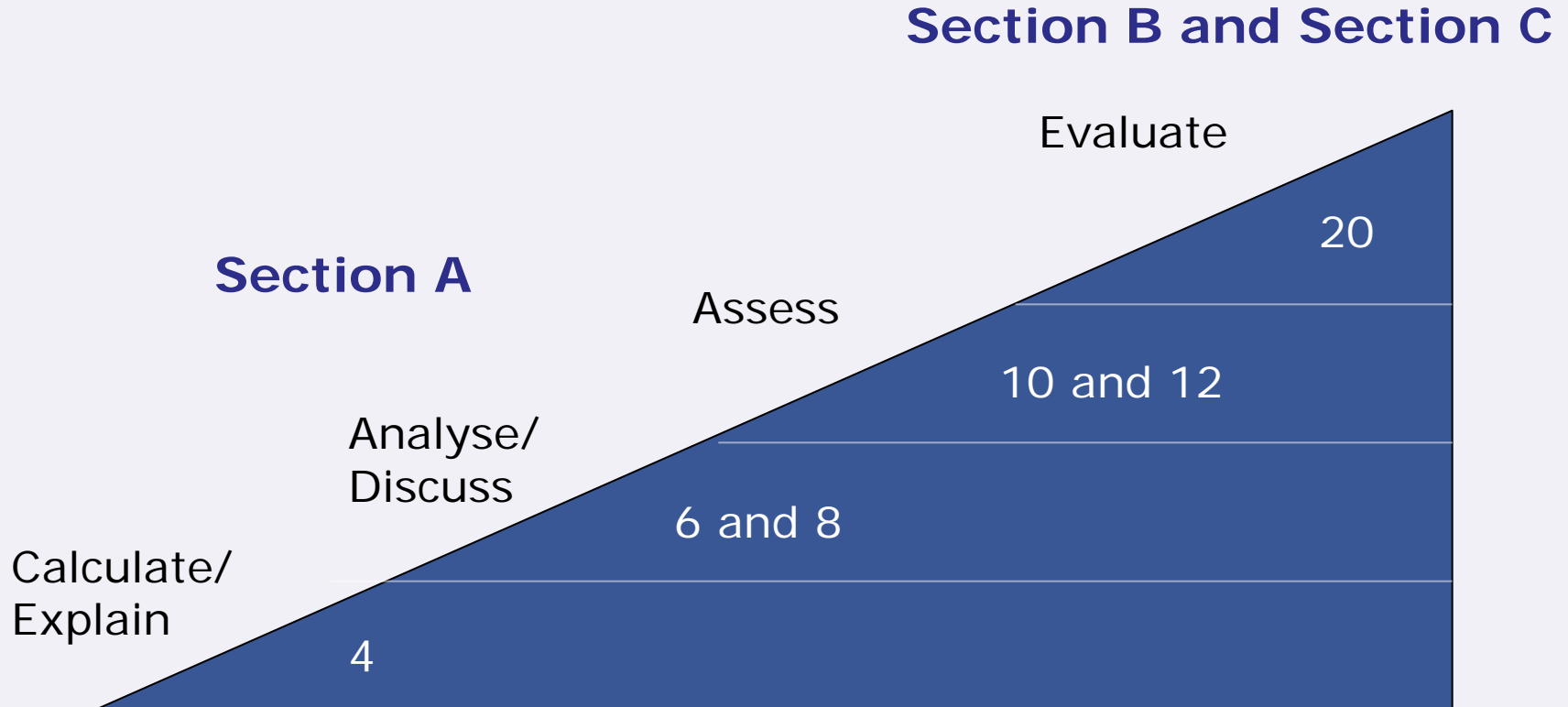
Section A: focus on the broad context

Section B: focus on a strand within the context

In each section, one data response and essay

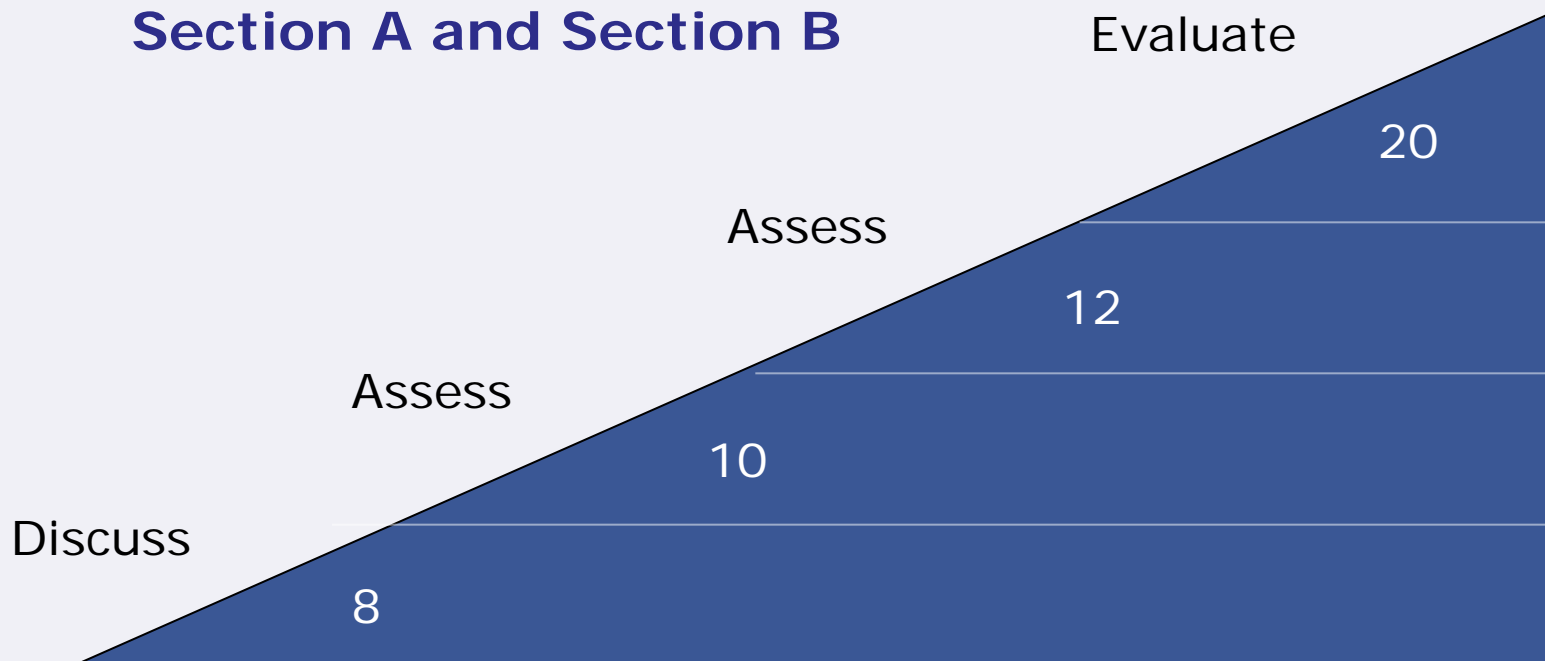


A level sample assessment: Paper 1 and Paper 2





A level sample assessment: Paper 3





Extended answers

		Evaluate: 4,4,6,6
	Assess: 2,2,3,3 Assess: 2,2,4,4	
Discuss: 2,2,2,2 Accurate knowledge	Accurate knowledge	Accurate & precise knowledge
Context and/or examples	Context and/or examples	Context and/or examples
Chains of reasoning	Chains of reasoning	Chains of reasoning
Balance	Points evaluated for validity and significance Balance	Points evaluated for validity and significance Balanced comparisons, judgements or conclusions

Support overview





Support

- A comprehensive **Getting Started** guide, with detailed guidance on the specification and assessment
- An editable **course planner** and **scheme of work, mapping documents** and a **student guide**
- **Extra assessment materials** for A level for use in formative assessments and mocks
- **Exemplar student work** and **examiner commentaries** generated from work with A level students and centres
- More **training** in 2016 to prepare for Themes 3 and 4, and to support with marking mocks
- **ResultsPlus** for tracking student progress
- Subject advisor **Colin Leith**



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Edexcel AS and A level Economics B (2015)

edexcel

Specification Course materials Teaching support Training and events

Here, you'll find everything you need to prepare for the changes to Edexcel AS and A level Economics B from 2015 (first assessment 2016 and 2017). View our draft specifications and sample assessment materials, read about the key content and assessment changes, and find out about our launch events and the other support that's available.

On this page

- ↓ Specification
- ↓ Support for teachers
- ↓ Subject advisor
- ↓ Related qualifications

Specification

A level AS

Qualification type: A level

Level: Level 3

Accreditation status: Accredited

Subject: Economics B

Specification codes: 9EB0

Availability: UK and international

Teaching: 2015

Course materials

- Specification and sample assessments (4)
- Teaching and learning materials (9)

qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/economics-b-2015.html

Final thoughts





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Thank you