

Principal Examiner Feedback

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IGCSE

IGCSE Economic (4350) Paper 03

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Examiners' Report Economics IGCSE 4350 Paper 03

The paper provided opportunities for all candidates to demonstrate their economic knowledge and understanding together with their ability to use this in relationship to the sources and the questions asked.

Better candidates had used the pre-released material as a basis for further study and had a good understanding of the issues involved in competition and the effectiveness and role of governments. Many of these used information from their own country to enhance their answers. In addition, these candidates took careful note of the 'key word', and used the sources, in order to answer the precise question that had been asked.

Weaker candidates appeared, in many cases, not to have seen the sources, to be unprepared for the questions and, in the exam room, to have either ignored the sources or resorted to copying them out thus limiting the credit that was available.

Centres, and candidates, are reminded of the need to use the material as a basis of further study and preparation for the exam, including application to a country of their choice. They need, also, to make sure that basic concepts are fully understood.

Question 1

(a) Most candidates were able to make some comparisons, but not everyone made use of the actual figures to give substance to their answer.

(b) The main failing here was to repeat the content on Source B without any explanation. Others were able to go beyond this to offer some application, but ignored 'to improve a country's competitive position'. There were, however, some excellent answers that fully addressed this issue.

Question 2

Good answers made sensible use of the sources to explain how 'making it easier to start a business' would increase employment pointing out that this would encompass both the business owner and any future employees. Only a small minority of candidates, however, addressed the issue of effectiveness. Weak answers consisted of either writing out the examples from Source D with no comment or ignoring the source altogether.

Question 3

(a) Although it was pleasing to see that most candidates had a sound idea of what privatisation meant, it was alarming to find a distinct minority who had no idea even though the term is present in Source E.

(b) The best answers were those who were able to explain that the consequences could be both positive and negative for consumers. Candidates who only listed the consequences in Source E, but did not explain how they affected the consumer were limited to Level 1.

Question 4

The best answers were those that stated some government policies and then explained the advantages and disadvantages of these for consumers before coming to

a conclusion. Most candidates, however, concentrated only on the positive aspects, while many wandered from the question by talking about the effects on firms. Weak answers consisted of assertions without any references to policies. A few candidates had clearly prepared an answer on fiscal and monetary policies and thought this was the appropriate place to repeat this material.

Question 5

Most candidates were able to state two appropriate policies and to briefly explain them with a minority mentioning, unnecessarily, three or four. Many of these answers talked in terms of competition in general, thus often repeating parts of their answers to questions 2 and 4, rather than 'more competitive in the world economy'. Better answers both addressed this issue and offered some comment on whether the policies would achieve this aim or which would be best. Only a few took the opportunity to use material from a country of their own choice, but these were often perceptive in their views.

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