



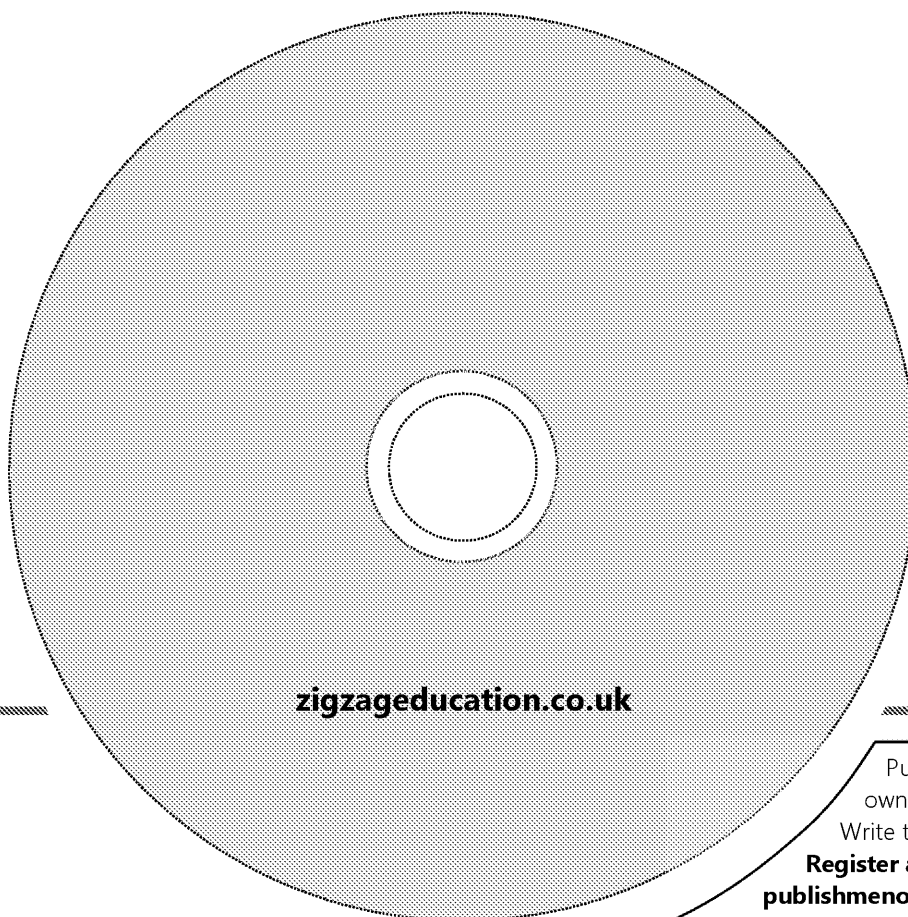
Tricky Questions with Explanations for AS and A Level Edexcel A

Theme 1: Introduction to Markets and Market Failure

Update v1.2, 4th March 2016

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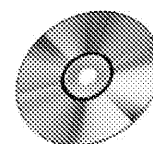
Teacher's Introduction

Multiple-choice questions are an integral part of 2015 A Level Economics specifications, and to score highly in this section of the examination the candidate needs knowledge and technique acquired by practice! The aim of this collection of original questions with supported answers is not simply to replicate the style and content of exam questions by thorough coverage of the specification, including 'borderline' issues such as merit and demerit goods – and thus improve examination technique – but also to provide many 'trickier' questions which should stretch the student, enhance understanding and build competence and confidence.

Format

This resource consists of:

- Write-on **worksheets** with space for the answer and explanation for each question. The explanation is a useful way of indicating understanding and should help reduce guessing.
- **Answers:** Each question is supported with the correct answer with detailed discussion of why it is correct. Many of the answers contain advice about technique – how drawing diagrams can help to process the data within the question, how to avoid typical errors, how to apply formulae, and how to remove 'red herrings' from your decision-making.
- The CD includes the same questions in **PowerPoint** format, presented one by one. This format is ideal for starters/plenaries or for a timed test (simply add timings to the slides so they progress at the same speed students would be advised to spend on them in the exam). Each slide has the option to reveal the answer and explanation (this will only reveal if clicked on specifically, not as the slideshow progresses).



Valuable Exam Preparation

The resource will supply a valuable bank of questions both to the busy teacher wishing to test a given topic, as material for a 'mock' or for end-of-module revision, and to the student seeking to improve their performance on specific topics or preparing for their AS Paper 1. The teacher will find thorough coverage of the specification and the student will find that the 'question and supported answer' format is complementary to their other resources, whether it be their course notes, online facility or textbook.

I personally have used multiple-choice questions for over 30 years in teaching Economics, whether or not they form part of formal assessment. Past papers have been one reliable source; so too are original questions such as these, especially for a new specification.

November 2015

Topic Coverage

Topic	Spec. ref.
1. Economics, Demand and Decision-making	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2.1, 2.2
2. The Economic Problem and PPFs	1.3, 1.4, 1.6
3. Elasticities	2.3
4. Supply	2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 3.3

Topic	Spec. ref.
5. Price	2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9
6. Surpluses, Taxes and Subsidies	2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9
7. Market Failure	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1
8. Government Intervention	4.1, 4.2

Version 1.1, 28th January 2016

Minor corrections and clarifications:

- Page 7: added label 'O' at the origin for clarity.
- Page 20: clarified labels on diagram: added point 'D' and labelled the demand curve 'D₁'.
- Page 29: corrected label from 'D' to 'D₂'.
- Page 31: improved question by adding 'at the free market price' to option c).
- Page 45: clarified explanation of question 12.
- Page 47: corrected answer to 'c)' and clarified explanation.

Version 1.2, 4th March 2016

Minor corrections and clarifications:

- Page 9: corrected labels for 17
- Page 10: clarified option d in question 5
- Page 12: corrected error in 19 c
- Page 18: corrected answer for 5
- Page 21: corrected labels for 3
- Page 22: corrected labels for 5
- Page 25: amended 16 to match explanation
- Page 32: clarified wording of question 6
- Page 34: clarified meaning of question 15 option b
- Page 35: added missing answer box
- Page 44: clarified answers 5, 6 and 7 and corrected answers to 11, 12 and 13

Topic 1: Economics, Demand and Decision-making

No.

- 1) Offering economic opinions within an argument is part of:
- Microeconomics
 - Normative economics
 - Positive economics
 - Macroeconomics

Answer: ☐

- 2) Advantages of the use of the division of labour in production of goods and services include each of the following with **one exception**:

- Greater labour productivity and lower average costs of production.
- An increase in productive efficiency.
- Correction of market failures.
- Workers concentrate on tasks to which they are suited to focus on ones to which they are not.

Answer: ☐

- 3) As a system of exchange barter has many limitations. These include which of the following:

- Many goods lack divisibility so are difficult to trade.
- The requirement for a double coincidence of wants for transactions to occur.
- The absence of common measures of value.

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Answer: ☐

- 4) to 6) inclusive: make use of these options, each of which is a function of money in the economy:

- Medium of exchange
- Standard for deferred payment
- Store of value
- Measure of value

Which of the above refers to:

- A means of storing purchasing power for the future. Answer: ☐
- A means by which credit may be employed. Answer: ☐
- A means by which the exchange rate of goods can be expressed. Answer: ☐

- 7) Which of the following goods or services would **not** be provided in a free market?

- National defence
- Train travel
- Insurance
- Secondary education

Answer: ☐

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8) In a free market the allocation of goods and services between consumers is based upon:

- a) Profitability in those markets
- b) The desires of consumers
- c) The effective demand of consumers
- d) The wishes of sellers

Answer: ☐

9) A free market in a product will allocate resources inefficiently if there are:

- a) Shortages of that product
- b) External costs or benefits generated by production or consumption of that product
- c) Surpluses of that product
- d) Many buyers and sellers of that product, none with significant power.

Answer: ☐

10) Adam Smith observed that working individually in the production of pins, each of 10 workers averaged an output of 10 per day. Once each worker became a specialist, they produced 48,000 per day between them.

Adam thus calculated that:

- a) Productivity increased by a factor of 48,000.
- b) To calculate the increase in productivity we divide 48,000 by 10.
- c) Productivity has increased by a factor of 480.
- d) Productivity growth is simply worked out by subtracting 100 from 48,000.

Answer: ☐

11) As more of a good is consumed within a limited time frame satisfaction gained increases, but at a reducing rate. This principle is known as:

- a) Consumer rationality
- b) Diminishing total utility
- c) Diminishing marginal utility
- d) The law of diminishing returns

Answer: ☐

12) Consumer rationality means that consumers:

- a) Experience diminishing marginal utility
- b) Spend on a good until its marginal utility is zero
- c) Attempt to maximise marginal utility
- d) Attempt to maximise total utility given their current budget

Answer: ☐

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- 13) Consider this demand schedule for portions of chicken nuggets:

Price (£s)	Quantity Demanded per period
5	0
4	10
3	20
2	30
1	40
0	50

Only one of these combinations of statements about the data above, reflecting the demand curve, is **correct**. Which one?

- a) Total revenue would be zero if price charged is either £5 or 0 but revenue is maximised at a price of £1
- b) Many people do not want the good even if it is 'free' and revenue would be constant if either £3 or £2 is charged
- c) Revenue would rise by £20 if price is lowered from £4 to £3 but fall by £30 if price is raised from £4 to £5
- d) At a price of 20 pence, 48 units would sell and at a price of £4.50, 7 units would sell

Answer: ☐

- 14) One of these statements about **the position** of a product's demand curve is **false**. Which one?

- a) It will be unaffected if the price of a weak complement falls.
- b) It will shift to the right if incomes rise and it is a normal good.
- c) It would shift further to the left if the price of a strong substitute fell than if a weak substitute had become cheaper.
- d) If the price of an unrelated good rises it will not move.

Answer: ☐

- 15) Which one of the following will cause an extension or expansion of demand (movement along the curve)?

- a) A successful advertising campaign
- b) A fall in incomes and the good is inferior
- c) A government subsidy to producers
- d) Good reviews of the product in *Which* magazine

Answer: ☐

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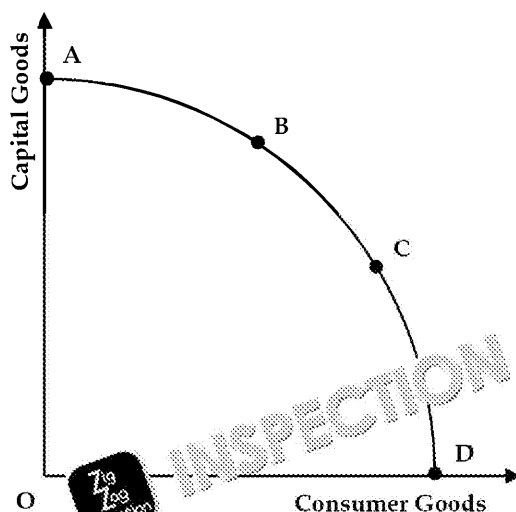
- 16) The term 'enterprise', as used in Economics, has only one characteristic. Which of the following is it?
- Developing new products for a market.
 - Deciding how a product should be produced.
 - Choosing an introductory price for a new product.
 - Bearing the risks of production.
- Answer: ☐
- 17) The theory that consumers are rational beings bent on maximising their satisfaction from allocating their income is undermined by each of the following **except**:
- Buying an identical list of goods on a 'big shop' at the supermarket.
 - 'Keeping up with the Joneses'.
 - Calculating marginal utility per pound spent across a choice of products.
 - Highly priced products are perceived to generate more utility than cheaper ones.
- Answer: ☐
- 18) When a demand curve for a consumer product is drawn, all of the following are assumed constant **except**:
- Consumer tastes
 - The season of the year
 - The price of the good
 - The price of complementary goods
- Answer: ☐
- 19) Three of these statements are **positive**; the other is a **value judgement**. Which one is the value judgement?
- Unemployment in the North is higher than in the South.
 - In 2013 the UK economy was growing but output was still below the pre-crash level of 2008.
 - In August 2013 the value of the pound against the US dollar was an average of £1 = \$1.55.
 - Raising tax-free allowances is the best way to improve the incentive to work in the economy.
- Answer: ☐
- 20) to 22) inclusive; match these economists to the brief summary of one of their key contributions to the subject:
- The 'invisible hand' of the market reconciles the self-interests of producer and consumer alike.
 - Cutting taxes can cause a multiple expansion of national income as households increase their spending.
 - Profits in free market economies accrue from the exploitation of workers.
 - Cheap credit induces poor investment and bust tends to follow boom.
- 20) Karl Marx Answer: ☐
- 21) Adam Smith Answer: ☐
- 22) Friedrich Hayek Answer: ☐

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Topic 2: The Economic Problem and PPFs

No.

- 1) Only one of the following is incorrectly included as an example of capital. Which one?
 - a) Eddie Stobart lorries
 - b) NHS hospitals
 - c) Stocks of unsold tablet computers
 - d) Money saved in a building society account
 Answer: ☐
- 2) A teenager spends £500 on repairing his/her car after a crash. As a result he/she misses out on a holiday to Ibiza. The opportunity cost of the car repair is:
 - a) The depreciation of the car
 - b) £500
 - c) The holiday
 - d) The resources used to carry out the car repair
 Answer: ☐
- 3) One of the examples of the factors of production is incorrect. Which one?
 - a) Land: fish in the sea
 - b) Labour: economics teacher
 - c) Capital: pizza oven in Domino's
 - d) Enterprise: manager of a branch of McDonald's
 Answer: ☐
- 4) On a production possibility frontier the rate at which the output of one good has to be sacrificed in order to expand output of the other is:
 - a) The substitution effect
 - b) The income effect
 - c) The opportunity cost
 - d) The marginal utility
 Answer: ☐
- 5) Consider the production possibility frontier (PPF) diagram below:



Which of the combinations of points below concerning the standard of living (as measured by consumer good consumption) is correct?

	Highest Current	Highest Future
a)	A	B
b)	D	B
c)	A	D
d)	C	D

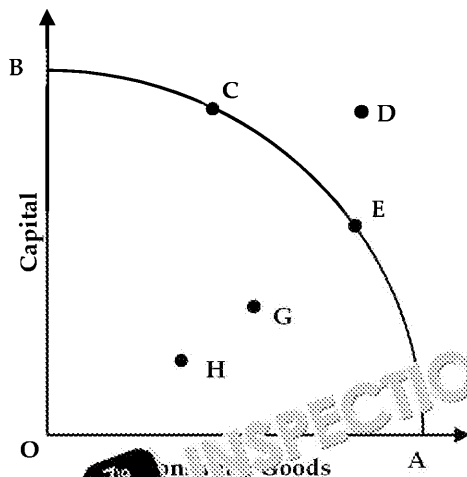
Answer: ☐

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- 6) Based on the PPF diagram below, only one of the following options (each comprises two statements) is correct. Which one?



- a) The line AB indicates that the economy has limited resources; a movement from G to H would be caused by a fall in productive capacity.
- b) C is an efficient point on the PPF and D will be next year.
- c) A movement from G to E allows greater output of both goods; movement from E to C involves opportunity cost.
- d) Output of 0A consumer goods is unsustainable; movement from C to E is undesirable.

Answer: ☐

- 7) Consider the production possibilities for an economy that can produce two goods using its scarce resources:

Rice (Million Tonnes)	Cheeseburgers (Million Units)
50	0
40	15
30	27
20	37
10	45
0	50

Which one of these statements is false?

- a) The opportunity cost of 50 million tonnes of rice is 50 million cheeseburgers
- b) An output combination of 20 million tonnes of rice and 37 million cheeseburgers would be on the PPF for this economy.
- c) The opportunity cost of increasing cheeseburger output from 37 million to 45 million is 10 million tonnes of rice.
- d) If the economy produces 20 million units of both goods its productive potential has shrunk.

Answer: ☐

- 8) Which of the following proverbs equates to the law of diminishing returns:

- a) Many hands make light work
- b) There's no such thing as a free lunch
- c) Too many cooks spoil the broth
- d) Practice makes perfect

Answer: ☐

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9) If a production possibility frontier is a straight line it follows that:

- a) Only one good can be produced
- b) It cannot be shifted outwards or inwards
- c) The opportunity cost of reallocating resources is zero
- d) The opportunity cost of reallocating resources is constant

Answer: ☐

10) If economic goods are limited in supply it follows that:

- a) Effective demand is missing
- b) Few of such goods exist
- c) Demand exceeds supply at all prices
- d) These goods have an opportunity cost

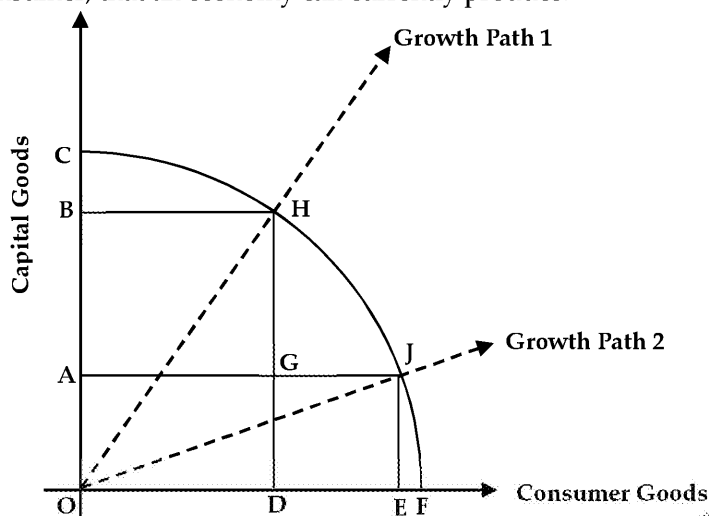
Answer: ☐

11) If a production possibility frontier is of a typical shape which of the following statements is **false**?

- a) The opportunity cost of increasing the output of one good along the curve is constant.
- b) The law of diminishing returns will apply to resource reallocation.
- c) The opportunity cost of moving from the maximum of one good to the maximum of another can be calculated.
- d) Movement to the curve from inside it will involve opportunity cost.

Answer: ☐

Questions 12) to 14) refer to the production possibility diagram below, which shows the maximum combinations of two goods, capital and consumer, that an economy can currently produce.



12) Which of the following combinations of goods can be produced by this economy?

- a) OC capital and zero consumer goods
- b) OB capital and OD consumer goods
- c) OA capital and OE consumer goods
- d) OC capital and OD consumer goods

Answer: ☐

13) If the economy is operating on its production possibility curve, only one of these statements regarding the application of **opportunity cost** on the diagram is **false**. Which one?

- a) For OC capital goods the opportunity cost is OF consumer goods.
- b) From G to H the opportunity cost is GJ consumer goods.
- c) For an extra DE consumer goods the opportunity cost is AB capital goods.
- d) A reallocation of resources from point C to H involves an opportunity cost of BC capital goods.

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14) If two economies, X and Y, have the same production possibility curve as in the diagram and X chooses growth path 1, and Y chooses growth path 2, which of the following statements will be **unverifiable (cannot be proved)**? (Growth paths indicate future combinations of the two goods as the production possibility curve shifts.)

- a) At full employment Y will produce an extra DE consumer goods.
- b) At full employment X will produce at point H, Y will produce at J.
- c) Y will have a higher standard of living than X in the future.
- d) At full employment, X produces AB more capital goods than Y.

Answer: ☐

15) Each of the following is an example of **correct** except:

- a) A tractor used on a farm
- b) A photocopier used in an office
- c) A washing machine used in a home
- d) A washing machine used in a launderette

Answer: ☐

16) Each of the following is a characteristic of a pure 'free' market economy except:

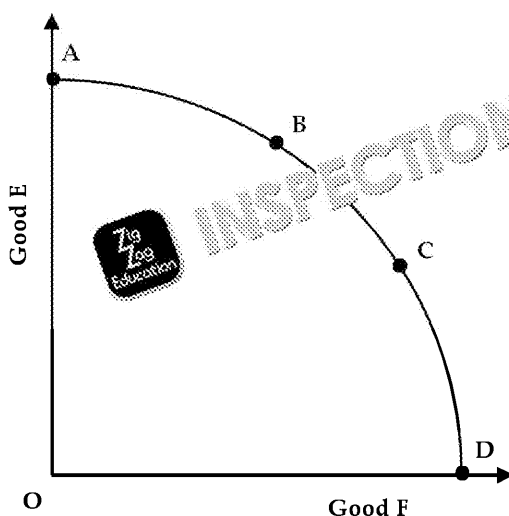
- a) Suppliers aim to maximise profits.
- b) Consumers aim to maximise utility or satisfaction from their income.
- c) There is an unequal distribution of income.
- d) The state protects the poorest with welfare payments.

Answer: ☐

17) A free market economy is able to produce two goods, E and F. It is currently operating on its production possibility frontier at B on the diagram below, producing a combination of the two goods.

The combined effects of a **small** fall in demand for E and a **small** rise in demand for F would be shown by which movement on the curve below?

- a) A to B
- b) B to C
- c) C to D
- d) B to D

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Topic 3: Elasticities

No.

- 1) Following an increase in demand for its product a firm can now generate unit sales of 120 at £11 each having previously sold 100 units at £10 each.

Based on this information, which of the following is **correct**?

- a) Price has risen by 9%, quantity exchanged by 20% and total revenue by 32%.
- b) Total revenue has risen by 32%, price by 10% and quantity exchanged by 20%.
- c) Quantity exchanged has increased at twice the rate of price and thus total revenue has doubled.
- d) Price elasticity of supply is 0.5 and total revenue has increased by 32%.

Answer: ☐

- 2) If the price of good A increases from £10 to £10.50, causing unit sales of good B to increase from 1,000 to 1,040 at constant prices, and unit sales of C to fall from 1,000 to 980 **then**:

- a) A's price has increased by 20%, B's demand has increased by 4% and C's has fallen by 5%.
- b) The cross elasticity of demand of C with respect to A is -1.
- c) A's price has risen by 5%, B's demand has risen by 4% and C's has fallen by 2%.
- d) Goods B and C are weak complements.

Answer: ☐

- 3) If a product is **inferior** with respect to income it:

- a) Is by definition badly made.
- b) Has a YED of zero.
- c) Will rise in demand in a recession.
- d) Will fall sharply in demand if a substitute falls in price.

Answer: ☐

- 4) The price of UK passport **renewals** rises from £80 to £84. Annual demand falls from 500,000 to 485,000. Only one of these statements is **fully** correct. Which one?

- a) Price has risen by 5% and demand has fallen by 1.5%.
- b) Originally, annual sales revenue from passports was £40m but demand is elastic for the price rise.
- c) The price rise is 5%. The fall in demand is 3% and so sales revenue is greater than £40m at a price of £84.
- d) Demand for overseas visits by tourists will fall as there are fewer passport holders.

Answer: ☐

- 5) Good A has a price elasticity of demand (PED) less than 1. Also, the cross elasticity of demand for B with respect to A is 0.5. All of the following statements are **true except**:

- a) A price rise for A will lead to a proportionately smaller fall in demand for A.
- b) If the price of A rises so will revenue from sales of both A and B.
- c) A 10% fall in the price of A will cause sales of B to fall by 5%.
- d) A has inelastic demand following a price rise and B is a strong substitute for A.

Answer: ☐

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- 6) If a specific tax is imposed on a product which has relatively elastic demand then which one of these statements is partially **false**?
- If price rises by $x\%$, demand will contract by a bigger % than x , and consumer expenditure on the product will fall.
 - Price rises, demand contracts and the bulk of the tax is paid by the consumer.
 - Both producer and consumer surplus will fall.
 - Government revenue from the tax is equal to the tax per unit times the quantity demanded after the tax.
- Answer: ☐

For questions 7) to 15), match these options to the numbered statement about price elasticity of demand. Each option may be used more than once.

Options:

- Perfectly elastic demand
 - Perfectly inelastic demand
 - Unit elastic demand
 - Relatively inelastic demand
- 7) The price of the product to consumers would fall by the full amount of a producer subsidy. Answer: ☐
- 8) A 10% price rise in the product would result in total revenue rising, but by less than 10%. Answer: ☐
- 9) Consumer surplus at the equilibrium price of the product is zero. Answer: ☐
- 10) Total revenue from sales of the product would remain constant after a 5% price fall. Answer: ☐
- 11) The product has perfect substitutes – demand would fall to zero if a seller attempted to raise price. Answer: ☐
- 12) A 7% price cut for the product would leave quantity demanded unchanged but total revenue would fall by 7%. Answer: ☐
- 13) The product has weak substitutes, isn't habit-forming and buying it takes up only a small proportion of income. Answer: ☐
- 14) If total revenue for the product was plotted on a y-axis and quantity demanded on an x-axis, the curve would be horizontal. Answer: ☐
- 15) The burden of an excise duty on the product would fall **mainly** on the consumer. Answer: ☐
- 16) If a firm lowers the price of its product, good A from £10 to £9 and quantity demanded expands from 100 to 125 per time period then which is the **incorrect** statement?
- Price elasticity of demand is inelastic.
 - Total revenue from sales of good A would rise by £125 per period.
 - Price elasticity of demand for good A equals -2.5.
 - Sellers would earn 12.5% less per item sold of A but sales would rise by more than 10% to compensate for this.
- Answer: ☐
- 17) Which of the following could explain why the demand for a product is elastic with respect to price?
- It has only weak substitutes
 - Buying it takes up a large proportion of consumers' incomes
 - It is habit-forming
 - Its demand is normal with respect to income
- 1, 2 and 3 only
 - 2 only
 - All of them
 - 3 only
- Answer: ☐

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- 18) In the short run the price elasticity of supply (PES) of a product is 0.6 but it is 0.95 in the long run. Which of the following combinations of statements most accurately describes this?

	SR	LR
a)	Inelastic	Elastic
b)	Inelastic	Unit elastic
c)	Inelastic	Inelastic
d)	Elastic	Elastic

Answer: ☐

- 19) If the PED for good A is (-) 0.8 and the cross elasticity of demand for A with respect to B is 0.5 we can deduce that:

- a) A 10% price rise for A will cause total revenue from A to fall by 8%.
 b) A 10% price fall for B will cause revenue from A to fall by 20% at constant prices.
 c) A 10% price rise for A will cause its demand to contract by 8% and the price of B to rise by 5% at a constant price.
 d) A 10% price rise for B will cause demand for A to rise by 5%.

Answer: ☐

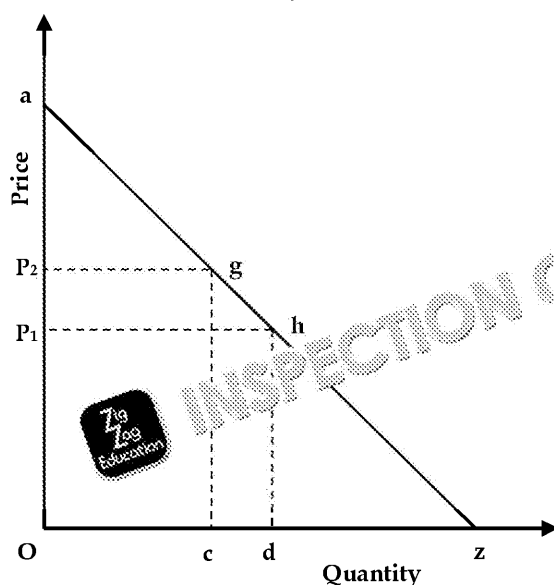
- 20) A fishmonger has ten kilos of fish left unsold late one Saturday afternoon. She will not be able to sell the fish when trade resumes on the Monday as it will have gone off.

Knowing the demand schedule for the fish and motivated by the desire to maximise profit she should:

- a) Reduce the current price charged by 10%.
 b) Choose the price at which ten kilos would sell.
 c) Choose the price at which sales revenue would be maximised then dispense with any surplus fish.
 d) Advertise in the shop window.

Answer: ☐

- 21) This question is based on the straight line demand curve diagram below. Point h is midway between a and z.



The diagram shows that:

- a) Price elasticity of demand is constant.
 b) A rise in price causes a leftward shift in demand.
 c) Demand is more elastic at point g than point h.
 d) The product is a normal good.

Answer: ☐

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- 22) A local store reduces the price for DVD hire from £3 to £2.50. The number of DVDs hired per week increases from 240 to 260. Which of the following statements is **correct**?
- Price elasticity of demand (PED) is 2 and total revenue rises as a result.
 - Total revenue rises from £720 to £780.
 - PED is unit elastic and total revenue would be unchanged.
 - PED is -0.5 and total revenue would fall by £70.

Answer: ☐

- 23) A pub manageress notices that if the average price of a pint of lager is raised from £2.50 to £2.75, the demand for cider decreases by 5% per period but the demand for beer nuts rises by 12%.

Which of the following statements is **correct**?

- Sales of beer nuts and lager will fall.
- Beer nuts and lager are a weak complement for lager.
- Cider is a weak substitute for lager because its cross-elasticity with respect to beer is 0.5.
- Beer nuts have a negative cross-elasticity of demand with respect to the price of cider.

Answer: ☐

- 24) The table below gives estimate values for the price and cross-price elasticities of demand for 7 Up and Sprite:

Soft drink:	Elasticity with respect to the price of:	
	7 Up	Sprite
7 Up	-0.8	0.9
Sprite	0.6	-0.7

Which one of these statements is **incorrect**?

- The drinks are substitutes for each other, but relatively weak ones.
- If the price of Sprite was increased by 10%, its demand would contract by 7%.
- If the price of Sprite was lowered, total revenue from its sales would rise.
- 7 Up is a stronger substitute for Sprite than Sprite is for 7 Up.

Answer: ☐

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Topic 4: Supply

No.

1) The supply curve of good A will shift to the right in all of the following circumstances **except**:

- a) An increase in demand for a product in joint supply with A.
- b) If government removes VAT from A.
- c) If the price of A falls after a fall in demand.
- d) If good A is a bacon sandwich and the price of bacon falls.

Answer: ☐

2) If an increase in demand for oranges for juicing purposes causes a fall in the supply of whole oranges the two goods are:

- a) In competitive demand
- b) Substitutes in production
- c) Complements
- d) In joint supply

Answer: ☐

3) If the supply curve of a product is **perfectly inelastic** then it:

- a) Slopes upwards from left to right.
- b) Must pass through the origin.
- c) Is horizontal.
- d) Is vertical at a set quantity.

Answer: ☐

4) If a product's supply curve is perfectly inelastic then all of the following are true **except**:

- a) Any increase in demand must act exclusively on the price of the product not the quantity exchanged.
- b) Since quantity exchanged cannot rise, total revenue cannot rise either.
- c) Producer surplus will rise or fall as demand rises or falls.
- d) There can be no excess supply or excess demand for this product.

Answer: ☐

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For questions 5) to 11) match the following options to the numbered statement about price elasticity of supply. Each option may be used more than once.

Options:

- a) Perfectly elastic supply
 b) Perfectly inelastic supply
 c) Unit elastic supply
 d) Relatively inelastic supply
- 5) A leftward shift of the demand curve from an equilibrium point would cause price and quantity exchanged to fall by the same %. Answer: ☐
- 6) Product supply is fixed in the short run, such as the number of seats in a stadium. Answer: ☐
- 7) An increase in demand from an equilibrium point would cause both price and quantity exchanged to rise, but price would be bigger %. Answer: ☐
- 8) If price increased from £10 to £11 and quantity supplied expanded from 100 to 110 units, this indicates... Answer: ☐
- 9) If price fell from £10 to £9 and supply remained at 125 units, this indicates... Answer: ☐
- 10) Downloads are apparently unlimited at a price of 89p each. This reflects... Answer: ☐
- 11) A rightward shift in demand for the product causes an increase in price from £10 to £11 and total revenue from sales of the product rises from £1,000 per period to £1,155. This indicates... Answer: ☐
- 12) In a market-based economy, the job of the price mechanism includes all of the following **except**:
- a) Inducing extensions or contractions in supply as demand changes.
 b) Indicating changes in effective demand.
 c) Indicating where markets are in disequilibrium.
 d) Limiting price rises for scarce goods such as housing. Answer: ☐
- 13) Which of the following could explain why the price elasticity of supply of a product is inelastic?
- [1] It takes a long time to produce.
 [2] Firms supplying it are already working at full capacity.
 [3] Stocks of finished goods are few.
 [4] It has close substitutes.
- a) All of them
 b) 1 and 2 only
 c) 1, 2 and 3 only
 d) 2, 3 and 4 only Answer: ☐
- 14) A farmer can use the same land to grow either maize or wheat. Based on this simple statement which of the following is **correct**?
- a) Maize and wheat have a positive cross elasticity of demand relationship.
 b) The farmer will choose which of the two crops costs less to grow.
 c) The two crops are in competitive supply.
 d) The farmer will necessarily grow whichever of the two goods commands the higher market price. Answer: ☐

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- 15) Markets for goods A, B and C are all at equilibrium and have conventional demand and supply curves. Good B is a substitute for A but good C is a complement for A. An increase in the costs of producing A and a price rise for it **must** lead to which one of the following:
- Less being spent on A.
 - More being spent on B.
 - The price of C staying the same.
 - Demand for C staying constant.
- Answer: ☐
- 16) A public good has all of the following characteristics **except**:
- It is non-rival.
 - It is non-rejectable.
 - It has to be produced by a public sector organisation.
 - It is non-excludable.
- Answer: ☐
- 17) If a product's supply is **relatively inelastic** then which of the following statements is **false**?
- A 10% increase in demand for the product will act **mainly** on the price of the product.
 - A 10% increase in price will induce an extension of supply of less than 10%.
 - It is difficult, but not impossible, to supply more of the product if demand rises.
 - The value for price elasticity of supply will be zero.
- Answer: ☐
- 18) Which of the following is a plausible explanation for why the price elasticity of supply for a product is elastic?
- Suppliers have plentiful stocks.
 - Suppliers struggle to switch resources from other uses into making this good.
 - The product has a long production cycle.
 - Suppliers are working close to full capacity.
- Answer: ☐

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Topic 5: Price

No.

- 1) The price for a car to enter Wales via the Severn Bridge is £6.50 whatever the time of day or year. The turnstiles can process up to 500 vehicles per hour. Sometimes there are long queues, sometimes the bridge is empty. Based on this information which of these statements is **correct**?

- a) The bridge will generate £3,250 per hour in revenue.
- b) £6.50 is the **equilibrium** price to cross the bridge at all times.
- c) £6.50 is the **set** price to cross the bridge.
- d) If fewer than 500 cars wish to cross the bridge in a given hour there will be queues.

Answer: ☐

- 2) Assuming an upward sloping supply curve and a downward sloping demand for a product, an increase in demand for the product from an equilibrium point will lead to:

- a) An increase in price and additional sales revenue only.
- b) An increase in quantity exchanged and additional sales revenue only.
- c) Increases in both price and quantity sold of equal percentage only.
- d) An increase in price, quantity sold and total revenue.

Answer: ☐

- 3) If a free market for a product is originally in equilibrium then conditions change due to **equal increases** in supply and demand this will cause:

- a) An increase in both price and quantity exchanged.
- b) An increase in quantity exchanged at a lower price.
- c) An increase in quantity exchanged with price unchanged.
- d) An increase in price only with no change in quantity exchanged.

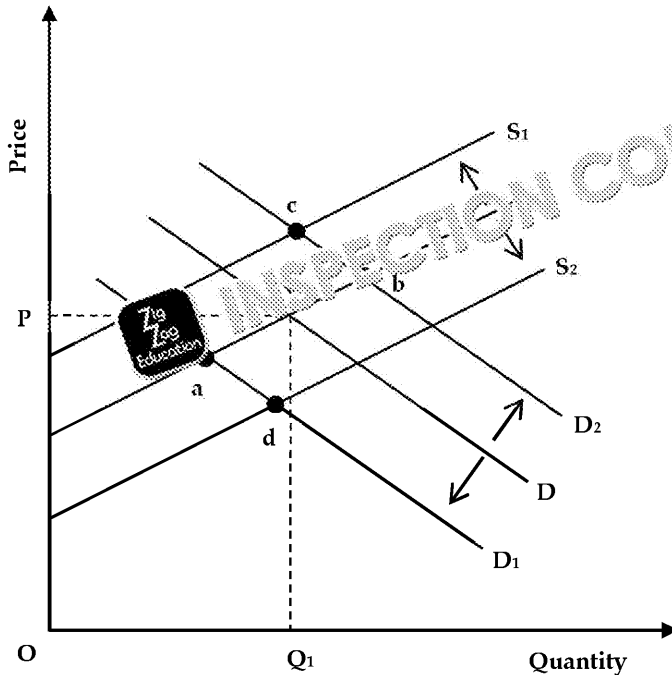
Answer: ☐

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4) to 9) inclusive: make use of the following diagram which shows a product market in equilibrium at price P at point X from the intersection of demand curve D and supply curve S . The questions require you to identify the new equilibrium by letter, following shifts in either or both of D and S . Each question starts afresh from point X . Each letter option can be used more than once.



- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 4) A specific tax is introduced at the same time as an advertising campaign. | Answer: <input type="text"/> |
| 5) The price of a substitute good falls. | Answer: <input type="text"/> |
| 6) The price of a complementary good falls. | Answer: <input type="text"/> |
| 7) During a recession the government subsidises the good, whose demand is normal with respect to income. | Answer: <input type="text"/> |
| 8) The product is the subject of a successful advertising campaign. | Answer: <input type="text"/> |
| 9) A brief craze for the product comes to an end. | Answer: <input type="text"/> |

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- 10) The PES of good C is 2. Following an increase in demand for the good the equilibrium price rises to £11 from £10 and quantity sold increases from 100.

It follows that:

- a) The new quantity sold is 120 and total revenue is now £1,320.
- b) The new quantity sold is 105 and total revenue is £1,155.
- c) The increase in total revenue generated is £200.
- d) Total revenue will rise by 10%.

Answer: ☐

- 11) The price mechanism performs which of the following functions in free markets?

- a) It indicates shifts in consumer demand.
- b) It achieves an equilibrium of total output without government intervention.
- c) It induces reductions of supply if demand for a good falls.
- d) All of the above.

Answer: ☐

- 12) In early September a billboard advertises a winter coat available at fashion retailer H&M for £24.99.

Based on this statement we can infer which of the following:

- [1] £24.99 is the supply price of the coat.
- [2] Demand may rise as a result of the billboard.
- [3] The coat will feature in the January sales.
- [4] The coat is in excess demand.

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of them

Answer: ☐

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- 13) Assuming conventional supply and demand curves a fall in supply for a good from an equilibrium point will lead to which combination of outcomes?
- A higher price, lower demand and lower total revenue.
 - A higher price, lower demand and unchanged consumer surplus.
 - A higher price, lower demand, lower consumer surplus but it is not possible to calculate the revenue impact.
 - A higher price, lower demand, lower consumer surplus and unchanged revenue.

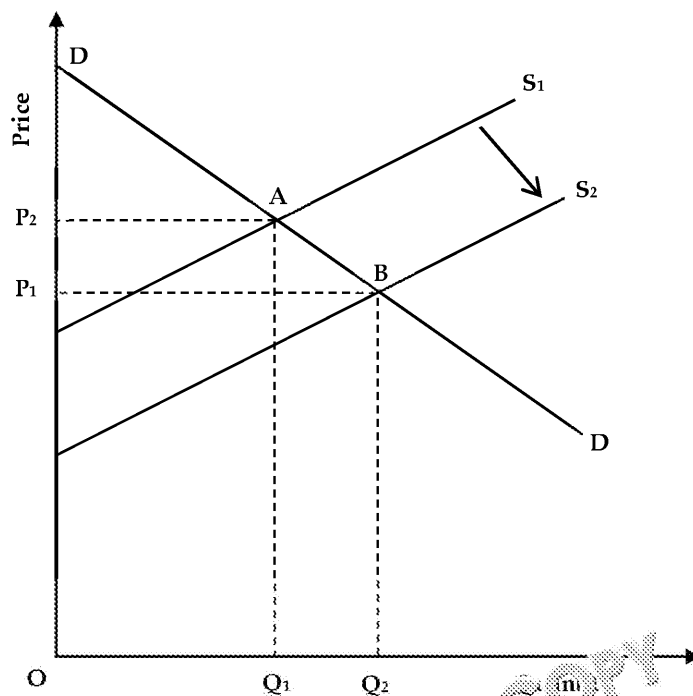
Answer: ☐

- 14) The 'signalling' function of a market includes:

- That prices need to fall if there is excess supply.
- That prices need to rise if there is a shortage.
- That if supply and demand are equal price will not change.
- Each of b) and c).

Answer: ☐

- 15) Based on the diagram below, which shows the impact on a market of an increase in supply (from S_1 to S_2) only one of the following statements is *entirely* correct – which one?



- Price falls by P_2P_1 and consumer surplus becomes DP_1A .
- Quantity exchanged increases by Q_1Q_2 and consumer surplus increases by DP_1A .
- Consumer surplus becomes DP_1B but total revenue must rise.
- Suppliers earn P_1P_2 less per item sold and consumer surplus increases by this amount per unit sold.

Answer: ☐

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Topic 6: Surpluses, Taxes and Subsidies

No.

- 1) Consumer surplus can be defined as:
- Satisfaction received by consumers of a good.
 - That part of their income that consumers have not spent.
 - The difference between what consumers spend on buying x units of a good and what they would be prepared to spend on those x units.
 - The price of a good times quantity demanded.

Answer: ☐

- 2) One hundred thousand tickets (at £220 each) available for the Glastonbury Festival sold within ten minutes. Nine hundred thousand applicants for tickets, most disappointed.

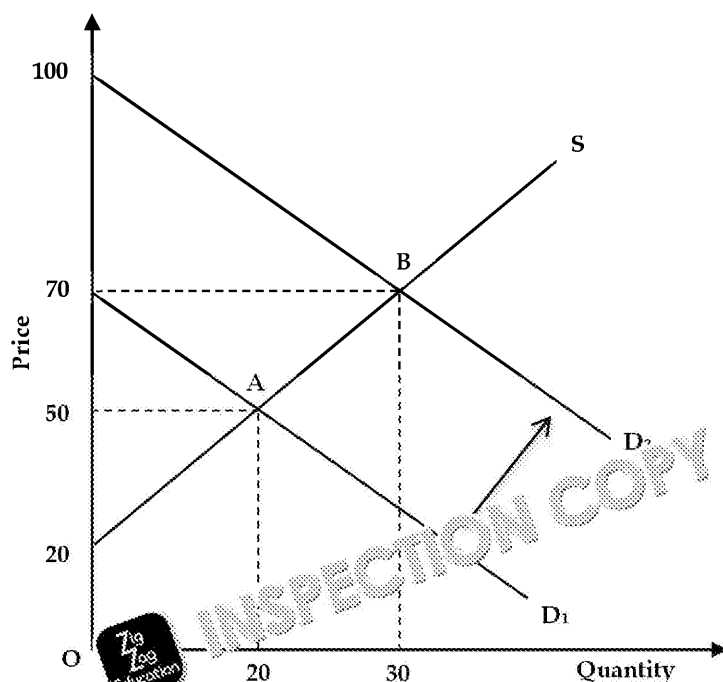
Based on this information which of the following are **true**:

- The equilibrium price is not £220.
- The tickets have sold 'ten times over' at £220 each.
- There is an incentive to print 'fake' tickets.
- Producer surplus would have been higher at the equilibrium price, consumer surplus lower.

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- All of them

Answer: ☐

- 3) Consider this diagram which shows the market for a product before and after an increase in demand.



Which of these statements is **incorrect**?

- The original value of producer surplus is £30 and this rises to £75.
- Total revenue rises from £100 to £210.
- Consumer surplus rises by £25.
- Consumers would be prepared to spend £300 to buy the 30 units they do buy at £7 each.

Answer: ☐

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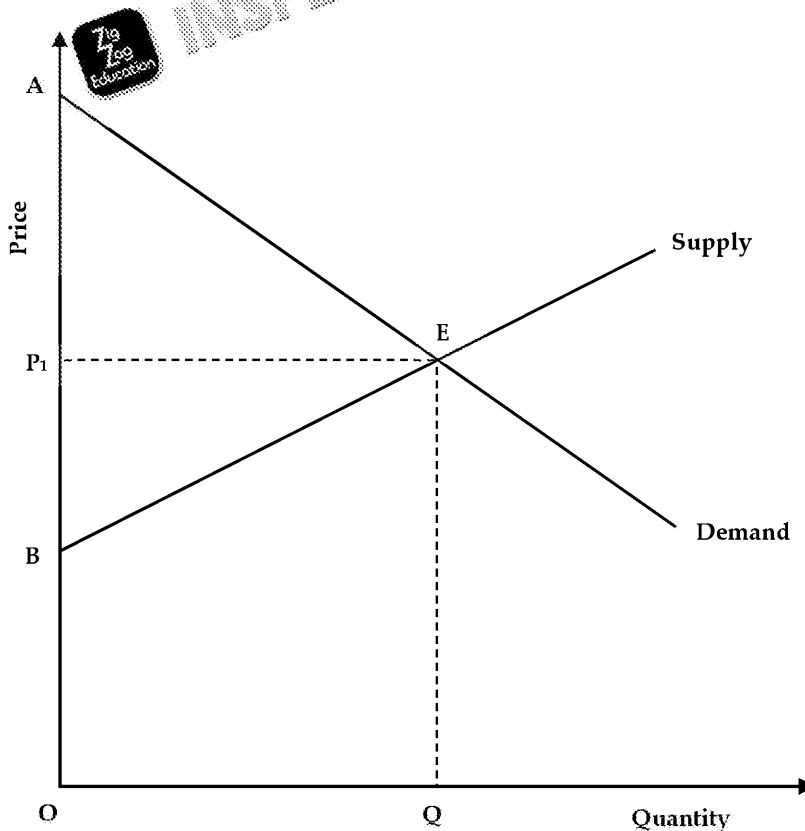
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- 4) If a product's supply curve is horizontal (perfectly elastic) then an increase in demand for the good from an equilibrium point will lead to:
- A slight increase in price and an increase in quantity exchanged with a higher total revenue resulting.
 - An increase in quantity exchanged and a higher producer surplus.
 - Both price and producer surplus being unchanged but quantity exchanged and total revenue would rise.
 - An increase in quantity demanded, sales revenue and producer surplus.

Answer: ☐

- 5) Consider the diagram which shows equilibrium in a competitive market. Only one of the following four statements is **incorrect**. Which one?



- Consumers would be prepared to spend $0AEO$ on $0Q$ units and consumer surplus is $0AEQ - 0P_1EQ$.
- The supply costs of $0Q$ units are $0BEQ$ and the value of social welfare is BEA .
- Producer surplus is $0BEQ$ and consumer surplus is AP_1E .
- On the supply curve the last unit, $0Q$, generates both consumer and producer surplus.

Answer: ☐

- 6) If VAT is put on a previously untaxed product, which of the following will happen to market conditions?
- A leftward, parallel shift in demand.
 - A leftward shift in both the demand and supply curves.
 - A divergent (or rotational) shift in the supply curve.
 - A leftward, parallel shift in supply.

Answer: ☐

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Questions 7) to 11) inclusive, make use of this supply (Sy) and demand (Dd) schedule for Good X:

Price (£s)	Qty Sy per period	Qty Dd per period
10	100	0
9	90	10
8	80	20
7	70	30
6	60	40
5	50	50
4	40	60
3	30	70
2	20	80
1	10	90
0	0	100

- 7) Based on the schedules above **all** of the following statements are true **except**:
- The equilibrium price is £5 where quantity exchanged is 50 per period.
 - £210 **would be** spent at a price of £7, £250 at the equilibrium price and £160 at £2 per item.
 - The product's supply curve is unit elastic.
 - Demand for the product is relatively elastic.
- Answer: ☐
- 8) If a specific (or unit) tax was imposed on the product then which of these is correct?
- Only its demand curve would shift, and to the left.
 - Both its demand and supply curves would shift to the left.
 - Only its supply curve would shift, and to the left.
 - Price would rise by the same amount as the tax.
- Answer: ☐
- 9) If a specific tax of £2 was placed on the product then which of the following is **incorrect**?
- Demand falls to 40 units at the new market price.
 - Total tax revenue to the Government would be £80, split 50/50 between producer and consumer.
 - The new price must be £5 plus £2 equals £7.
 - Having paid the Government tax, producers experience reduced revenue.
- Answer: ☐
- 10) If Government had introduced a maximum price of £7 per item then which of the following would follow?
- Suppliers would expand supply to the market.
 - Consumers would buy fewer items at the higher price.
 - Supplies would have to be rationed.
 - Price and quantity exchanged would be unchanged.
- Answer: ☐

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- 11) If the Government had awarded suppliers a specific subsidy of £2 per item then which of the following would **not** have occurred?
- The supply curve would have shifted outwards, price falling by £2 for all quantities.
 - Some of the subsidy would be 'passed on' to consumers, some retained by suppliers.
 - Consumers would now pay £4 per item, demanding 60 units per period.
 - Suppliers would be worse off, total consumer expenditure falling from £250 (£5 × 50) to £240 (£4 × 60).

Answer: ☐

12) and 13) are based on the table below which shows a typical breakdown of the component parts of the price of petrol.

	Price (per litre)
Product:	57
Duty:	48
Retail:	5
VAT:	22
Pump price: 132 pence.	

- 12) Based on the table each of the following can be deduced **except**:

- VAT is added to the other components of the price.
- There are two taxes levied on petrol.
- More than half of the pump price is made up of tax.
- The rate of VAT is 16.7%.

Answer: ☐

- 13) Based **entirely** on the table above which of the following statements is **true**?

- Petrol stations make 5p profit per litre of petrol.
- If the price of 'the product' rose then the duty would rise too.
- VAT-free, petrol would be 62p per litre.
- The proportion of the pump price per litre that is tax is calculated by 70p/£1.32.

Answer: ☐

- 14) Which of the following would cause a product's supply curve to shift to the right?

- The removal of an expenditure tax.
- The introduction of a government subsidy.
- An increase in demand for a product in joint supply.
- An increase in the price of a good in joint demand.

- 1
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- All of them
- 1, 2 and 3 only

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- 15) Consumer surplus gained from a market will rise in all of the following circumstances **except**:
- A rightward shift in demand with an upward sloping supply curve
 - Downloads of the new U2 album being available at zero price rather than £7.99
 - A rightward shift in supply, downward sloping demand curve.
 - Demand is perfectly elastic for the good and supply falls.

Answer: ☐

- 16) The burden of a tax will fall entirely on the consumer of a good if:
- Price elasticity of demand and price elasticity of supply are equal at the equilibrium price.
 - Supply is perfectly elastic.
 - Demand is perfectly elastic.
 - Supply is perfectly elastic.

Answer: ☐

Questions 17 and 18) use this supply and demand information for good F.

- 17) Examine this weekly supply and demand schedule for good F.

P (£)	Quantity supplied	Quantity demanded
10	100	0
8	80	20
6	60	40
4	40	60
2	20	80
0	0	100

Which of the statements is **false**?

- At £2 there would be a shortage of 60 units of F.
- At a price of zero, demand for this 'free' good is infinite.
- The equilibrium price of this product lies between £4 and £6.
- At a price of £8 there is a surplus of 60 units of F.

Answer: ☐

- 18) If a £2 specific tax was imposed on good F, which one of the following statements is **correct**?

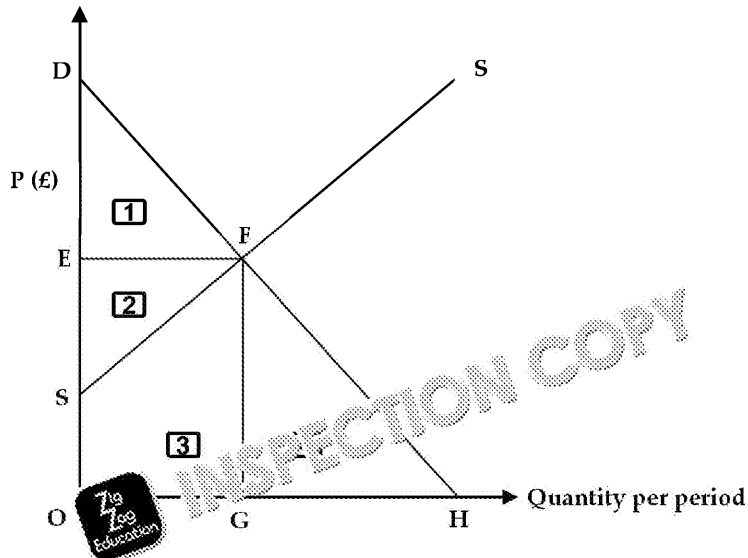
- The demand curve for F would shift to the left.
- The price of F would rise by £2.
- The market price would rise to £6.
- Profit from the market would rise.

Answer: ☐

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19) Consider the diagram below.



Based on the supply and demand diagram for good X at the equilibrium price and output, which of these options is correct?

- a) The value of consumer surplus comprises areas 1) to 4) inclusive.
- b) Consumer surplus is area 2) plus area 3) minus area 1).
- c) Consumer surplus is area 1) only.
- d) Producer surplus is areas 2) and 3) combined.

Answer:

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Topic 7: Market Failure

No.

- 1) In the course of producing a private good a firm does not include the damage it does to the environment within its cost calculations. In a market free from government intervention, which of the following will **not** occur?
- a) Price will be too low.
 - b) Output will be too high.
 - c) Social welfare will be maximised.
 - d) Social costs will exceed private costs.
- Answer: ☐
- 2) Which of the following would result in market failure?
- a) A profit-maximising monopolist achieves dominance in a once competitive market.
 - b) Ignorant of its true value, a pensioner sells a painting to a dealer for £1000.
 - c) To stimulate civil aviation, government abolishes Air Passenger Duty.
 - d) Each of a), b) and c).
- Answer: ☐
- 3) Socially efficient output levels would not be achieved in free markets for merit and demerit goods. Which of the following combinations of points helps to explain this?
- [1] Consumers do not have full information about the benefits of consuming each good.
 - [2] Consumption of each good creates externalities.
 - [3] De-merit goods can only be supplied by the private sector, merit by the public sector.
- a) 1 only
 - b) 1 and 2 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 3 only
- Answer: ☐
- 4) Research suggests that usage of cycle helmets would rise if they were cheaper and if cyclists were better informed about their value in protecting life. Which of these government policy options would best address their underconsumption?
- a) Reduce the rate of VAT on helmets and cycling equipment.
 - b) Subsidise cycle helmets and make wearing them compulsory (when cycling...).
 - c) Improve the provision of cycle repair shops.
 - d) Produce public information films for showing on the BBC.
- Answer: ☐
- 5) Only one of the following statements about a merit good such as education is **false**. Which one?
- a) It is always free at the point of use.
 - b) It is often better for consumers than they realise.
 - c) There are external benefits of consumption which the consumer may undervalue.
 - d) In the UK both public and private sector provide merit goods.
- Answer: ☐

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- 6) Arguments against the NHS being replaced by a free market in medical insurance include all of the following **except**:
- Many people could choose to be uninsured.
 - Some people with congenital conditions would be an uninsurable risk.
 - Premiums could act like a regressive tax.
 - Waiting lists for certain treatments would lengthen.
- Answer: ☐
- 7) The consumption of demerit goods is worse for us than we realise and also imposes external costs on other people. In a free market they are over-consumed. Which combination of goods below only contains goods classified as demerit?
- Petrol, alcohol, cigarettes
 - Cake, lasagne, alcopops
 - Escalators, burgers, legal highs
 - Wine, cigarettes, champagne
- Answer: ☐
- 8) Use of the division of labour in manufacturing is likely to have all the following effects **except**:
- Lower unit costs of production.
 - Higher productivity of labour.
 - A reduction in the capital-intensity of production.
 - Reduced movement of labour around the shop floor.
- Answer: ☐
- 9) If the social costs of an economic activity exceed the private costs then:
- It must be taxed to reduce consumption.
 - It must generate external costs.
 - It should be made illegal.
 - It would be under-consumed in a free market.
- Answer: ☐
- 10) Pure public goods include all of the following **except**:
- Streetlights
 - Public roads
 - National defence
 - Flood defences
- Answer: ☐

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11) Only one of the following is genuinely non-rival in its consumption. Which one?

- a) A beach
- b) A motorway
- c) A lighthouse
- d) The Severn Bridge which separates Wales and England

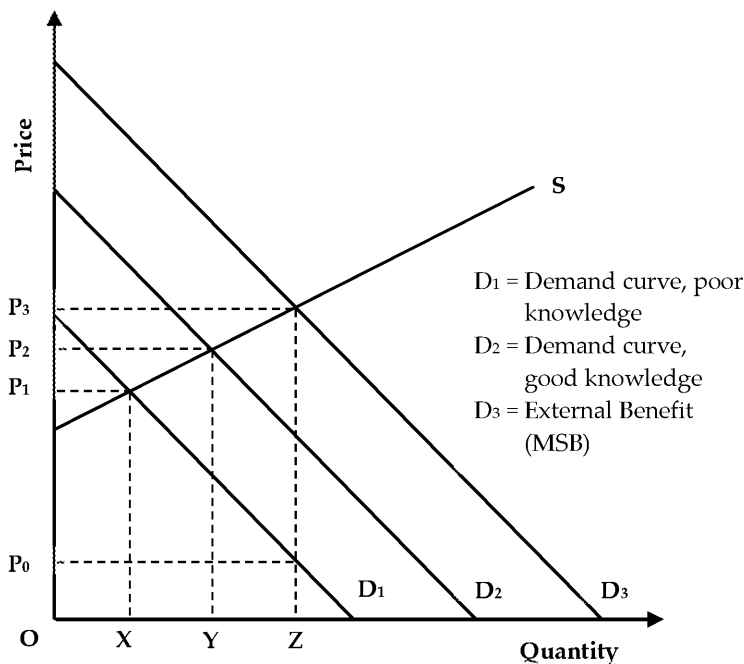
Answer: ☐

12) Only one of these statements about public goods is false. Which one?

- a) Defence services are non-rival.
- b) Flood defences are non-rejectable.
- c) Roads are non-excludable.
- d) Lighthouse services are non-rival and non-rejectable.

Answer: ☐

13) Consider the diagram below, which shows the market in Higher Education. It is assumed that students underestimate the financial benefits to themselves of being a graduate and ignore the external benefits to the wider economy.



Only one of these statements is **fully** correct. Which one?

- a) In a free market degrees would be priced at P_1 and would be under-consumed by XY units.
- b) Given better information students would be prepared to pay OP_3 and there would be no underconsumption.
- c) Students would be willing to buy the socially efficient quantity of degrees at OP_2 .
- d) To achieve an output of OZ degrees government should subsidise each student by $P_0 P_3$.

Answer: ☐

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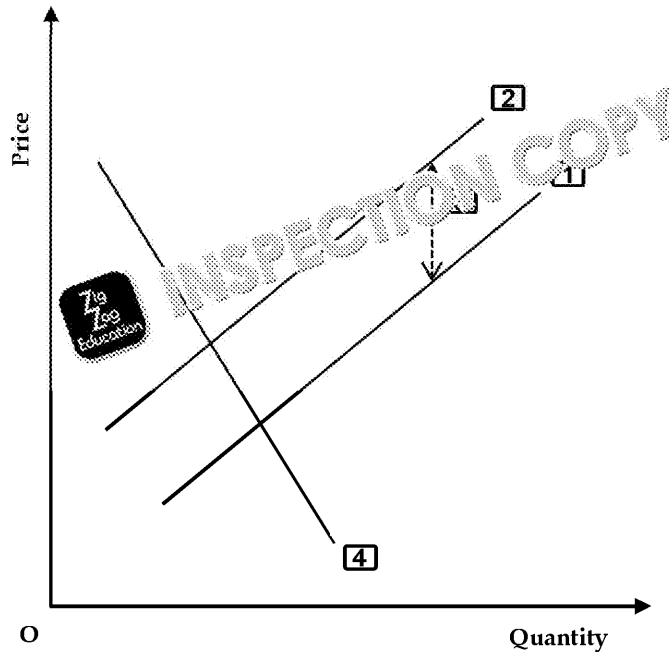
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14) This question refers to the diagram below which shows the market for a product which generates external costs of production. One of the diagram 'match-ups' is incorrect. Which one?

- a) '1' is the marginal private cost curve.
- b) '2' is the marginal social cost curve.
- c) '3' is the external cost per item produced.
- d) '4' is the marginal external benefit curve.

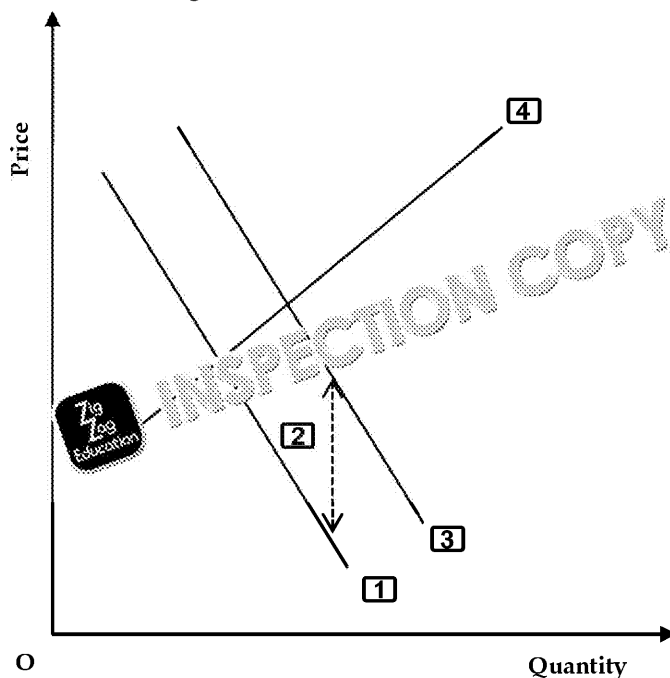
Answer: ☐



15) This question refers to the diagram below which shows the market for a product which generates external benefits of consumption. One of the diagram 'match-ups' is incorrect. Which one?

- a) '1' is the marginal private benefit curve.
- b) '2' is the external benefit per item produced
- c) '3' is the marginal external benefit curve.
- d) '4' is the marginal social cost curve.

Answer: ☐



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16) A free market system *could* supply all but one of the following pairs of goods. Which pair?

- a) Designer clothes and health care
- b) Education and foreign holidays
- c) Toll roads and flood defences
- d) Socks and shoes

Answer: ☐

17) Civil aviation is a highly polluting form of transport. Without government intervention to address this issue the market would fail for each of the following reasons except:

- a) Flights would be too cheap.
- b) Airlines would have little incentive to reduce emissions.
- c) There would be excess demand at the free market price.
- d) Flights would be over-congested.

Answer: ☐

18) Consider the table below which gives selected data on the labour market in the North and the South within the UK.

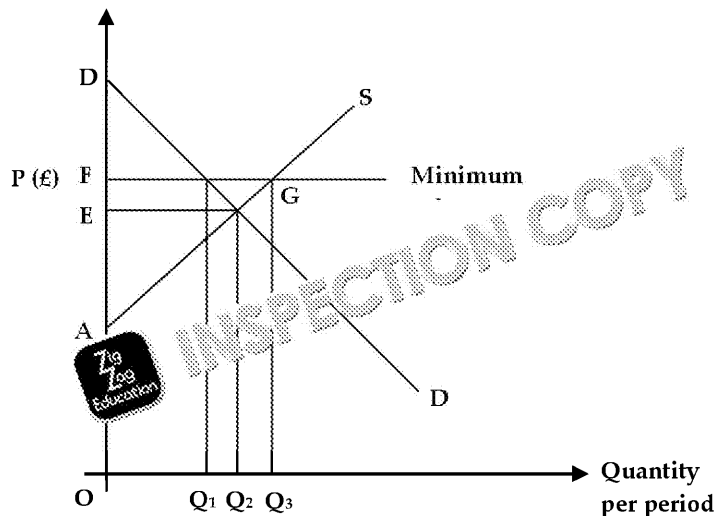
Region	% Unemployed	Average full-time weekly wage (£)	Unemployed per vacancy
N	12	500	100
S	8	600	25

Based on the data, which of these statements is correct?

- a) There are 100 applicants per vacancy in the North, 25 in the South.
- b) The UK is experiencing 10% unemployment.
- c) Geographically mobile unemployed workers will move from North to South.
- d) Wage differences between North and South will disappear.

Answer: ☐

19) The diagram below shows a market for certain alcoholic drinks in Scotland after the government has intervened to impose a minimum price. Only one of the ensuing statements is false. Which one?



- a) Demand will contract by Q_1Q_2 units.
- b) The supply curve for alcohol will be unaffected.
- c) Purchases of alcohol in England from sources over the border will rise.
- d) The external costs of alcohol consumption will fall.

Answer: ☐

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Topic 8: Government Intervention

No.

1) Externalities should arise from government-backed development of high speed rail links. These include all of the following **except**:

- a) Construction costs.
- b) Reduced noise from vehicles.
- c) Faster travel leading to shorter journey times.
- d) Less congested roads.

Answer: ☐

2) Government is most likely to subject which of the following to heavy taxes?

- a) Superior goods
- b) Public goods
- c) Demerit goods
- d) Inferior goods

Answer: ☐

3) If the government started to impose 'green' taxes on polluting firms which of the following should occur?

- a) Externalities are internalised.
- b) Recycling of waste materials.
- c) Higher product prices.
- d) Each of a) to c) is correct.

Answer: ☐

4) Which of the following policies would not help to combat obesity?

- a) Putting an excise duty on 'fizzy' drinks.
- b) Banning fast-food outlets from areas near schools.
- c) Subsidising sugar production.
- d) Requiring warnings to be put on the packaging of 'high fat' foods.

Answer: ☐

5) Following a fall in supply of petrol the Government prevents the price rising from the original equilibrium (effectively a maximum price)

Which **combination** of the following might be expected to happen?

- [1] Rationing of petrol
- [2] Increased car sharing among commuters
- [3] Extra supply of petrol
- [4] Petrol hoarding.

- a) 1 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: ☐

6) Which of the following government policies would **not** reduce the external costs of private car travel?

- a) Raising road tax.
- b) Building car parks on brownfield sites.
- c) Subsidising the electric car industry.
- d) Developing more cycle lanes on roads.

Answer: ☐

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7) If a government offered farmers a guaranteed minimum price for supplying an agricultural good this could cause government failure for which of the following reason(s)?

- a) Surpluses are sold off below cost price
- b) Surpluses are destroyed
- c) Taxpayers money could have been more productively spent elsewhere
- d) Each of a) b) and c) is correct.

Answer: ☐

8) Creating a market in pollution permits may result in government failure for all of these reasons **except**:

- a) Too many permits are distributed initially
- b) Firms can transfer production outside the controlled area
- c) The supply of permits is reduced, year on year in order to increase pollution
- d) Companies are allowed to use permits to be resold

Answer: ☐

9) Since 2003, to reduce vehicular congestion in central London weekday charging for road use has applied. The government has **failed** if:

- a) The daily charge has more than doubled.
- b) Journey times have increased.
- c) Demand has proved to be elastic.
- d) Some motorists avoid the charging zone.

Answer: ☐

10) Examples of government intervention in the free market in the UK include all of the following **except**:

- a) The national minimum wage.
- b) Free visits to GPs.
- c) Social housing rent controls.
- d) Pay rates for the self-employed.

Answer: ☐

11) If a specific tax is placed on a good with relatively inelastic demand it follows that:

- a) The tax will be paid entirely by consumers.
- b) The bulk of the tax will be passed on in higher prices to consumers.
- c) Supplier revenue will be unaffected.
- d) Producers must pay 50% of the tax.

Answer: ☐

12) If government agrees to a unit subsidy for bus services the impact on the market would be:

- a) Lower prices, more journeys bought but unchanged revenue for suppliers.
- b) Unchanged prices, more frequent buses and greater supplier revenue.
- c) Ticket prices fall by the size of the subsidy and buses become less frequent.
- d) Ticket prices fall, demand extends and supplier revenue rises too.

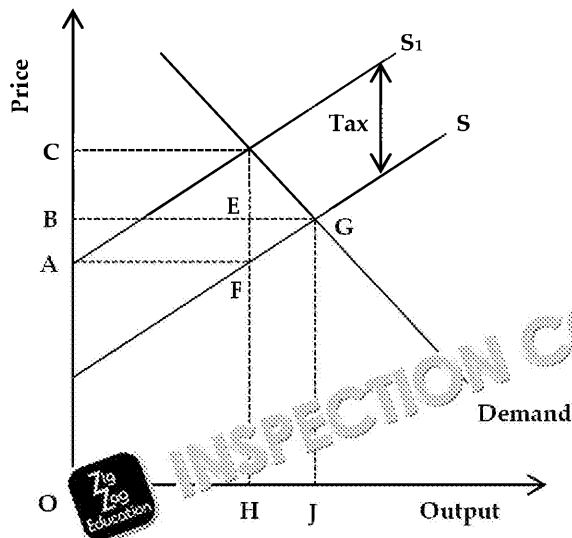
Answer: ☐

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- 13) Consider the diagram below, which shows the market for a good after a specific tax has been put on it.

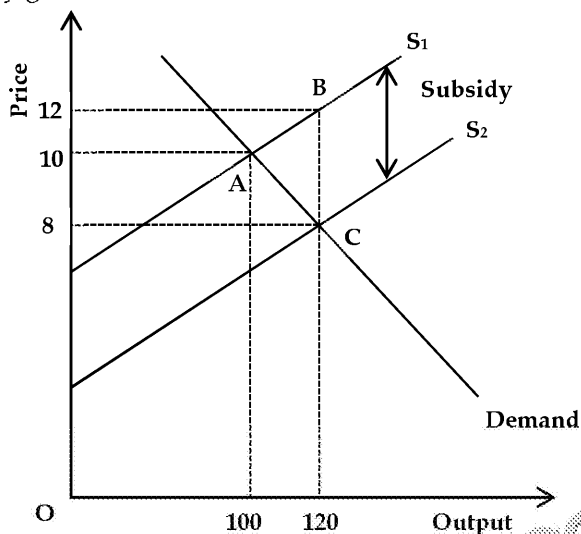


The producer's share of the tax is shown by the area:

- a) BCDE
- b) DEG
- c) ACDF
- d) ABEF

Answer: ☐

- 14) In the diagram below a specific subsidy of £4 has been introduced by government.



As a result of the subsidy, the total revenue of suppliers changes from:

- a) £1,000 to £960
- b) £960 to £1,440
- c) £1,000 to £960
- d) £960 to £1,000

Answer: ☐

- 15) Other things being equal, the consumer's share of a subsidy will be:

- a) Greater, the bigger the subsidy on the product.
- b) Lower, the higher the original equilibrium quantity demanded of the product.
- c) Greater, the lower the price elasticity of demand of the good.
- d) Greater, the more income elasticity of demand for the good.

Answer: ☐

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16) Information failure in the market for cigarettes is addressed by all of the following policies **except**:

- a) Health warnings on the packets.
- b) An advertising ban.
- c) Public information films.
- d) Heavy excise duties.

Answer: ☐

17) Asymmetry of information cannot occur in a market if:

- a) A job applicant needs to supply two references.
- b) A potential car buyer inspects the vehicle they wish to buy.
- c) Goods are 'sold as seen'.
- d) Consumers and producers are equally knowledgeable about the product.

Answer: ☐

18) Imposing a maximum price for private rented accommodation could be a cause of government failure due to which of the following outcomes:

- a) The excessive administration costs of monitoring the system.
- b) A deterioration in the quality of rentals for hire.
- c) Landlords discriminating between applicants on grounds of status or ethnicity.
- d) Each of a, b and c is evidence of government failure.

Answer: ☐

19) Government failure is defined as:

- a) Failure of the government to achieve its target for 2% inflation
- b) Failure of the government to reduce its budget deficit to zero
- c) When its intervention in the economy to correct a market failure creates further inefficiency
- d) Both A) and B)

Answer: ☐

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Topic 1: Economics, demand and decision-making

Q	A	Explanation
1	b)	Normative economics is based on opinions. Positive economics is science. Micro and macro are both branches of the subject about which opinions may be expressed.
2	c)	Options a), b) and d) are established advantages of the division of labour – specialise they become more productive, lowering unit costs and making the economy more productively efficient. However, the division of labour does not correct market failure. The correct answer is c) – the division of labour does not correct market failure of a given market to produce an efficient allocation of resources. The correct answer is c).
3	d)	Many goods are indivisible – cannot be broken down into smaller units for trade. A universal way of gauging the value of items is a double coincidence of wants. In trade, two people must want what the other is offering.
4	c)	Money acting as a 'medium of exchange' allows saving to take place.
5	b)	Credit means you can consume now but pay later – a 'standard for deferred payment'.
6	d)	Money allows us to measure the value of goods in a universally understood way.
7	a)	Option a) is a public good, non-excludable in nature (consumers can't be excluded from consumption so could take a 'free ride'). The other three goods are excludable and can be consumed.
8	c)	Effective demand is the desire to buy supported by the ability. Goods in a market are those among those prepared to pay the price – c). 'Desire' may not be backed by the ability to pay.
9	b)	A free market should remove shortages and surpluses via 'the invisible hand'. Buyers and sellers are required for a market to be genuinely competitive. Externalities tend to be ignored in an unregulated free market, leading to overproduction or underproduction, so the correct answer is b).
10	c)	Productivity is defined as output per worker per period; originally it was 10 (48,000/4,800) – so has increased by a factor of 480 – option c) is, therefore, the correct answer.
11	c)	Diminishing marginal utility – satisfaction grows as extra units of a good are consumed at a decreasing rate – second helpings are less satisfying than first, etc.; option c) is the correct answer.
12	d)	Consumers are assumed to be utility maximisers, seeking to make the most of their resources. They are rational, not 'sensible'. Cabbage would be consumed instead of health benefits for extra utility rather than extra health benefits.
13	b)	Demand is limited to 50 units even if the good is 'free' but revenue is maximised at 50 units (quantity demanded) at £60, via a price of £3 or £2.
14	a)	All the options would cause a shift in demand except a) – the correct answer is a). A weak complement will have a small impact on the demand for the good.
15	c)	We are looking for a factor causing an expansion of demand, namely greater income. This can only be caused by a rightward shift in supply, such as a good weather. Option c) is the correct answer.
16	d)	Options a), b) and c) are examples of the types of decisions entrepreneurs make. Option d) – risk-taking, the correct option.
17	c)	Option c) is a summary of how 'economic' man is assumed to behave but each of the other three options is an example of common consumer behaviour.
18	c)	In order to draw a demand curve we have to allow the price of the good to change. Options a), b) and d) are some of the constants assumed when the curve is drawn.

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Q	A	Explanation
19	d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive statements are factual or verifiable by testing whereas value judgements are not. Statements a), b) and c) are factual, whereas d) is an opinion. A lower tax burden is a recognised way of boosting incentives to earn and invest, but it has not been proven to be 'the best way'. Value judgements inform government policy decisions.
20	c)	Option b) is a Keynesian perspective. Keynes and Hayek disagree over the role of government in the economy.
21	a)	
22	d)	



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Topic 2: The Economic Problem and PPFs

Q	A	Explanation
1	d)	Money held in savings is precisely that – a store of wealth. The other three options are incorrect. The lorry will be used to create services. The unsold tablets, an inventory of capital goods.
2	c)	The closest alternative foregone is the holiday – which the student might have enjoyed – option c), therefore.
3	d)	The McDonald's manager (d) is not 'bearing the risks of production' as his continued employment will depend on the profitability of the restaurant. The other options are incorrect. The manager would not undertake the risks of setting up a new restaurant.
4	c)	It has to be opportunity cost. (c) Income and substitution effects refer to changes in the demand for a product; marginal utility is a measure of additional utility gained from an additional unit consumed of a good.
5	b)	The highest standard of living (consumer goods) is the highest 'in the future' as capital goods are required to produce more capital goods – option b), therefore.
6	c)	For option a) the second statement is incorrect, since it indicates a movement along the curve. The second claim in option b) cannot be made – it depends on the state of productive potential. Option c) is entirely correct; for d) output of capital goods is unsustainable, but the latter statement is a value judgment.
7	d)	Option d) is false – using existing resources, the economy could have produced 10 million cheeseburgers in combination with the 20 million tonnes of rice. The other options are incorrect. The economy's potential has declined, just that it is inefficient. The other options are incorrect.
8	c)	All these proverbs have an economics application, but only 'too many cooks' – diminishing returns – (c); 'many hands' – the division of labour; 'no one is getting ahead' – someone is paying.
9	d)	If a PPC has a straight line then it is like any other PPC curve except that the marginal rate of increasing either good is a constant (as in basic free trade theory) – the other options are incorrect.
10	d)	Limited in supply means scarce but in this subject 'scarce' does not mean 'rare' but does mean finite – so option d) is the correct choice.
11	d)	If a PPF is concave in shape then options a) and b) are correct. So is c), since the marginal cost of a complete reallocation of resources is calculable. D) is false and if an economy moves from a point inside its curve to the curve itself then this is known as a Pareto improvement.
12	c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OA capital goods can combine with OF consumer goods (Point J) but capital goods are only available with zero consumer goods. Options A and B are on the curve. D is inside the curve and suggests a point that is possible but it is not efficient.
13	b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The movement from G to H involves no opportunity cost since an extra unit of capital goods is produced without requiring sacrifice of consumer goods. The movement is not along the production possibility curve, which would require a sacrifice, but from a point inside it to one on it. The other options correctly identify the alternative good sacrificed – opportunity cost.

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Q	A	Explanation
14	c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This statement involves a prediction which cannot be verified from measured by access to consumer goods, citizens of Y may have a higher standard of living in the short run, but with fewer resources devoted to capital goods to sustain this. X produces more capital goods – which are needed for consumer goods. Statements A and D involve opportunity cost. The diagram confirms that B is correct.
15	c)	The classification of goods as consumer or capital can depend on their use. If a washing machine is designed to produce consumer goods or services, generating a profit, it is a source of income to the manufacturer, not to a household. Option c).
16	d)	The state would <u>not</u> protect the interest with welfare payments in a free market.
17	b)	Resources would be allocated between E and F; less E would be produced and more F. A movement from B to C; therefore, option b). A movement from C to D would result in a reduction of both goods falling.



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Topic 3: Elasticities

Q	A	Explanation									
1	b)	Revenue has risen from £1,000 to £1,320 (32%), price has risen by £1 from 10 to 11. PED is 2.5, 25%/-10%, so it is elastic; 25 extra sales at £9 each make up for the £1 loss on each of the original items.									
2	c)	The price of A has risen by 5% – 50p/£10; the other parts of the statement are correct. 40/1,000 is the increased demand for B; the fall in demand for C is 20/1,000.									
3	c)	An inferior good is one with a negative income elasticity of demand (Y and incomes are inversely related – option c), since a recession is a period of falling incomes.									
4	c)	Writing out the key information in a table helps to see the logic. Then work out PED and total revenue (TR) at the higher price. Demand is perfectly elastic so revenue will rise – option c) is correct. It does not follow that there will be more trips by UK citizens, although it is possible.									
5	d)	Good A has perfectly inelastic demand so its revenue would rise after a price rise. The demand for B is perfectly elastic. However, good B is a weak substitute (cross price elasticity (XPED) is less than 1 at 0.5) for A, not a strong one – so d) is incorrect.									
6	b)	Part of b) is false since the bulk of the tax will not be paid by the consumer if demand was inelastic, say. Price would rise though, and demand would fall.									
7	b)	Would happen if demand was perfectly inelastic – so option b) is correct.									
8	d)	If demand is inelastic but less than perfectly so, then a price rise will lead to a rise in revenue but of a lower % than the price rise. Only if PED is zero will revenue rise by the same % – see Q. 47)									
9	b)	Consumer surplus will exist so long as the demand curve is less than perfectly elastic. The equilibrium price is £5 and that is the highest price any units would sell for.									
10	c)	If TR is constant between two prices demand is unit elastic.									
11	a)	Demand must be perfectly elastic – raise price by 1p above the going rate and all sales disappear.									
12	b)	If revenue changes by the same % as price, in the same direction, PED is unit elastic.									
13	d)	Product ticks the boxes for low PED – inelastic, but not perfectly so: option d) is correct.									
14	c)	In this case TR is a constant, whatever the price charged, which would be the case if demand was unit elastic between all prices.									
15	d)	If the incidence of a tax falls mainly on either consumer or producer then demand must be perfectly inelastic. Here it's the consumer paying more, so demand must be perfectly inelastic.									
16	a)	Statement a) is incorrect: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>P (£)</th><th>Qty Dd per period</th><th>TR (£s)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td><td>100</td><td>1,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>125</td><td>1,125</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>PED is elastic at 2.5, 25%/-10%, so it is elastic; 25 extra sales at £9 each make up for the £1 loss on each of the original items.</p>	P (£)	Qty Dd per period	TR (£s)	10	100	1,000	9	125	1,125
P (£)	Qty Dd per period	TR (£s)									
10	100	1,000									
9	125	1,125									
17	b)	Options 1 and 3 contribute to inelastic demand; option 2) is related to perfectly elastic for the good in question, and thus b) is correct. Option 4) refers to perfectly elastic demand.									
18	c)	In both the short run and the long run the PES is less than 1, thus inelastic in the short run than the long run.									
19	c)	B is a weak substitute for A (+XPED but <1); demand for A is price inelastic (PED = 0.8, so option c) describes the correct combination.									
20	c)	There are no extra costs associated with the fish, so the supply curve is perfectly elastic.									

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Q	A	Explanation
		revenue is maximised.
21	c)	PED varies along the length of a straight-line curve, increasing as price falls. A change in price cannot cause a shift in demand – so b) is wrong. The point elasticity at g is gz/ag whereas at h it is hz/ah – so option c) is correct. Income elasticity is incorrect.
22	d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Price has been reduced by $1/6$ ($-50p/£3$) and demand has extended by 240 so the proportional change in quantity demanded is exactly 6 times the change in price. It follows that total revenue would fall, since the extra demand does not make up for the fall in price. The new value for revenue is $£650 - £50 \times 240$; originally, revenue was $£650$.
23	c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are not told specifically what happened to the sales of lager; quantity has fallen but price has risen, but without knowing by how much we cannot tell if the revenue is higher or lower (fewer sales (albeit at a higher price) would be offset by the higher price). a) is therefore incorrect. Beer nuts are a strong complement for lager as their cross-elasticity of demand is greater than -1 at -1.2 (a 12% fall has been caused by a 10% rise in the price of lager – $25p/£2.50$). The correct option is c); a weak substitute has a cross-price elasticity of demand less than 1; demand for the substitute is rising at a lower rate than the price rise caused it. The answer here is 0.5 ($5\% / 10\%$). d) cannot be correct – within the data the price of cider is unchanged and no calculation can be performed.
24	c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 'soft drink' are the goods whose demand is being affected by the price change to their right. To simplify the table, which is a common format for showing the effects of a price change, we assume a 10% price change for the drinks. Thus a 10% price rise for Sprite would cause a 9% increase in demand for Sprite and a 1% contraction in its own demand. Sprite has a price elasticity of demand of 0.7, less than 1 so therefore relatively inelastic. Price cuts lead to a cut in total revenue. The drinks are evidently substitutes but with positive cross-price elasticity values of less than 1 they are weak ones. If PED for Sprite is -0.7 then the equation for PED confirms that B) is correct ($-0.7 = -7\% / 10\%$). If the cross-elasticity of demand values, confirming this statement.

Topic 4: Supply

Q	A	Explanation
1	c)	A fall in demand induces a movement down a supply curve, a contraction in supply. Try to avoid the error that if a demand curve shifts, so vice versa.
2	b)	The goods are substitutes in production (option b), as an increase in oranges restricts the number available for juicing and vice versa. The but we can't deduce that based on the information given. Juice is not oranges.
3	d)	Perfectly inelastic supply is depicted by a vertical supply curve, since to any change in price.
4	b)	Option b) is false as the correct answer – revenue can change if the a higher price, will result in an equivalent increase in total revenue.
5	c)	Sketching a diagram – if both price and quantity fall equally supply passing through the origin.
6	b)	Supply is fixed, its curve is vertical, and PES must be zero.
7	d)	As with Q. 51) try a quick diagram – if the impact of rising demand is supply must be inelastic, but not perfectly inelastic.
8	c)	Both price and quantity supplied have increased by 10% – so PED is
9	b)	Supply again must be fixed – all the impact of falling demand is on price at 125.
10	a)	Perfectly elastic supply – ‘apparently limitless’.
11	d)	Dividing TR by price gives us the new quantity supplied – $\text{£}1,155/\text{£}11$ has been induced by a 10% price rise (from $\text{£}10$ to $\text{£}11$) so PED IS 0.5; then, so option d) is correct.
12	d)	The price mechanism will perform each of a), b) and c) but it will not property (d) as that would imply some sort of government intervention maximum price.
13	c)	Option 4) would make demand elastic, not supply; it is incorrect; option conventional causes of inelastic supply, so c) is correct.
14	c)	The goods are in competitive supply – the land can be used for either c); the farmer will grow whichever makes more profit, rather than the price or the lowest costs. They may be substitutes, with a positive XPD deduce this based on the information given.
15	b)	The only certainty is that more will be supplied as the price of A rises correct. Good C should be in lower demand at a lower price as a consumer is spent on A dependent on PED, which is not given.
16	c)	C) is correct as the goods are provided with taxpayers' money but not produced by a public sector organisation.

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Q	A	Explanation
17	d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think of the formula for price elasticity of supply, and then apply change in quantity supplied / proportional change in price). The value for price elasticity of supply (PES) will be less than 1 since change in quantity supplied will be less than the proportional change in price (will not be zero – option D). Thus statement A) is correct, as is B). C) helps to explain why the PES is less than 1.
18	a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The question is about factors typically affecting price elasticity of supply. Plentiful stocks suggest that suppliers can react readily to any increase in demand without a major price rise, making supply elastic. Options B), C) and D) are typical reasons why product supply is inelastic, which indicates difficulty in increasing supply in response to rising demand. By the way, even if you didn't know that A) is the correct option, it's a good idea to check the other options too.



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Topic 5: Price

Q	A	Explanation						
1	c)	Study the terms carefully. The set price to cross the bridge is £6.50, it changes in demand, many of which cannot be predicted – hence the not others. The system could generate £3,250 per hour but it is not guaranteed.						
2	d)	Sketch out supply and demand curves, label equilibrium price and quantity and revenue – answer must be d).						
3	c)	Unless you know ‘the rule’ for this one try a simple diagram – the increase in demand cancel out any price rise but result in a greater quantity exchanged. If price is unchanged, increase in quantity exchanged is d, option c) then						
4	c)	S_1 meets D_2 : option c)						
5	a)	D_1 meets S_2 : option a)						
6	b)	Theory as for Q. 37), thus option b)						
7	d)	Theory as for Q. 37), thus option d)						
8	b)	Theory as for Q. 37), thus option b)						
9	a)	Option a) as demand falls from DD to D_1D_1						
10	a)	Substitute into the equation for PES: $2 = x/1/10$, where x is the proportion of the quantity supplied. Cross multiplying confirms that $x = 1/5$, so the supply is 20% of the quantity demanded. <table><tr><th>P (£)</th><th>Qty S_y</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>100</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>120 (20% extra) so the new TR is $£11 \times 120 = £1,320$, so</td></tr></table>	P (£)	Qty S_y	10	100	11	120 (20% extra) so the new TR is $£11 \times 120 = £1,320$, so
P (£)	Qty S_y							
10	100							
11	120 (20% extra) so the new TR is $£11 \times 120 = £1,320$, so							
11	d)	Answer d): the price mechanism, the ‘free’ interaction of supply and demand, each of a), b) and c).						
12	b)	Options 1) and 2) are correct, answer is b). The coat will feature in the January excess supply. We can’t tell if it is in excess demand, but the existence of the price mechanism means that there will be no excess demand.						
13	c)	Similar method to Q. 24) here; supply shifts to the left, demand constant (conventional) but the impact on total revenue is only calculable if PES is not. Consumer surplus will fall though. Thus, the right answer is c).						
14	d)	Option d) is again correct. Prices signal whether prices are too low, too high or just right.						
15	b)	Option b) is correct – try shading in the increase in consumer surplus. If demand is elastic, consumers necessarily spend more in total – this is true only if demand is elastic. The increase in units sold would add P_1P_2 of consumer surplus.						

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Topic 6: Surpluses, Taxes and Subsidies

Q	A	Explanation
1	c)	Option a) may appear to be correct, but consumer surplus is the difference between the utility received when goods are bought and total utility paid for. So, c) is correct.
2	d)	All the statements are correct – at £220, the preset price, demand was 100 and supply was 120. This excess demand suggests that the equilibrium price is higher and for a market in ‘fakes’. Producer surplus would be higher at a higher price. The shift from consumer surplus to producer surplus.
3	d)	Consumers are prepared to pay the revenue equal to the area under the demand curve up to the equilibrium output – this is £255, not £300.
4	c)	Try a diagram – horizontal supply curve, demand shifts to the right, price unchanged but quantity demanded rises. Producer surplus, profit, is unchanged. Price elasticity of demand (PED), other things being equal, so is zero if demand is perfectly elastic. Revenue would rise by the extra sales times the price. Option c) is correct.
5	d)	Option a) is false since the last unit consumed and produced is the one that determines CS or PS – the rest are true.
6	c)	The conditions of demand are unchanged so there is no shift in the demand curve. If supply is a %, the new supply curve diverges from the original rather than being parallel – so c) is correct.
7	d)	a) is clearly correct – supply and demand are equal; £250 would be spent on 50 units; PES is unit elastic – the supply curve is linear and passes through the origin; PED varies along its course – it is not ‘relatively elastic’ so d) is false – the correct answer is a).
8	c)	Avoid the assumption that if a supply curve shifts position the demand curve must shift. Separate reasons are required. A tax shifts the supply curve to the left – the quantity supplied falls by the full extent of the tax but demand must be perfectly inelastic – not the case here.
9	c)	When a specific tax is introduced a new supply schedule can be written. The quantity supplied would be 40, but at a price now £2 higher (in this case). The new equilibrium quantity is 40. Price to consumers has risen by £2, price to suppliers has fallen by £1, thus tax revenue is £2 times 40. Suppliers now receive 40 lots of £5. All options are correct except c) then.
10	d)	A maximum price will only affect the market if below the free market equilibrium price, leaving the market undisturbed – so d) is correct.
11	d)	Try a new supply schedule (parallel to the old but with all quantities supplied at a price £2 lower). Option d) is incorrect though. Although consumers benefit from the subsidy suggested, suppliers receive the subsidy too, raising their revenue.
12	d)	VAT is 20% of the value added – the price of the component costs plus the profit margin – which includes VAT – so VAT can be deducted and is therefore not a cost. Total tax per litre, at 70p, plus the two taxes, is more than 50% of the price.
13	d)	Option d) is correct – 57p plus 22p/£1.32 – there is ‘tax on the tax’; revenue is calculated before costs, so is not profit. VAT is ‘automatically built in’ (not the 20% rate) will rise if any of the components increase. Cost price would be 62p – 57p plus 5p, not simply VAT free.

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Q	A	Explanation
14	d)	Statement 4) is incorrect – the demand curve for the complement shifts in an extension of supply, not a shift. The removal of a tax, or a subsidy shifts demand for a good in joint supply – all these are supply shifting events.
15	d)	Try drawing out the events described in the options – CS rises in all cases. If demand is perfectly elastic then consumer surplus is zero, whether supply shifts or not.
16	b)	Option b) is correct. If supply is perfectly elastic then an excise duty shifts the supply curve upwards and parallel to the original, thus all the tax is borne by consumers.
17	b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Q42) and Q43) work directly from the supply and demand schedule or alternatively quickly draw the curves (if they are linear). £2 would generate excess demand of 60 units so a) is correct. £8 would create a shortage of 60 units as described. Assuming perfectly elastic supply and demand curves, £5 would be the correct price for £4 and £6. <p>Option c) is false for two reasons: demand is for 100 units and is not infinite. 'free' in the economic sense as its production would consume resources and have an opportunity cost.</p>
18	c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A shift in supply causes a movement up or down a demand curve (not a movement up the demand curve), not a shift, which would be caused by one of the non-price conditions of demand. A common error is to assume that the price of a product always rises when any tax is imposed; this can happen, but only if demand is perfectly inelastic. c) is correct: the same quantities would be supplied as before the tax was imposed. The price would rise by £2 in each case, e.g. 20 units now supplied at £4, 40 units at £6. The supply schedule set against the original demand schedule generates a profit of £20 (quantity of 40 per period). d) Profit would fall – 10 fewer items would be sold and although the price would be £6 the government is entitled to tax of £2 per item, leaving a profit of £4 per item sold.
19	c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas 1) to 4) inclusive would represent consumer surplus if the price was at the point of use, not at the equilibrium price. Consumer surplus is measured by subtracting what consumers actually pay (areas 2 and 3) from what they would be prepared to spend in total (the area under the demand curve at the price in question). Thus b) is incorrect but c) is right. Producer surplus is a measure of the difference between what suppliers actually receive for selling goods and what they would be prepared to supply them for – area 2) plus area 3) minus area 1).

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Topic 7: Market Failure

Q	A	Explanation
1	c)	Social welfare will not be maximised (option c) because the good is bad – the impact of the external costs should be reflected in a higher price for output.
2	d)	All three would be instances of market failure – option d) – the monopoly price and restrict output below what would occur in a competitive market, asymmetry of information regarding the painting and the abolition of increased flying, increased external costs, not reflected in the price per unit.
3	b)	Option b) is correct – statement c) is incorrect. The impact of private health insurance is not a market failure.
4	b)	Only b) makes them both a public good and shifts the demand curve to the right. Requirements for higher quality and lower prices and greater demand. Compulsion to consume is not a market failure.
5	a)	Public goods are classified as such by government and not only have external costs. Consumers also tend to underestimate the benefits to themselves of consuming a public good (option a), e.g. higher education is subsidised. Always free at the point of use (option a), e.g. higher education is subsidised. Suffers fees.
6	d)	Waiting lists for treatment (option d) should shorten if prices lead to a reduction in demand.
7	d)	Option d) contains alcohol and tobacco products – petrol, burgers and cigarettes are not public goods.
8	c)	Increased division of labour would be facilitated by increased rather than reduced investment in specialist machinery (c); the other options are likely.
9	b)	It must, by definition, generate external costs, so in a free market it would be over-produced. Tax is simply one way of trying to achieve a socially efficient output, but it would only be illegal if social costs exceed social benefits at all output levels. Option b) is correct.
10	b)	Roads are not pure public goods because they can be rival – congested roads are excludable if charged directly for, as with the M6 toll.
11	c)	There is only so much capacity on a beach, a motorway and the Severn estuary. A lighthouse is non-rival – thus option c) is correct.
12	c)	Roads are excludable (option c), i.e. non-payers can be denied access, e.g. toll roads.
13	d)	Students would be prepared to pay OP_2 for OZ courses but providers would supply a quantity at a price of OP_3 , the suggested unit subsidy being the difference between OP_2 and OP_3 . Better information would shift demand from D_1 to D_2 but the external benefits would not be included in the calculations.
14	d)	Option d) is incorrect. The right answer: '4' is the marginal private benefit curve, the marginal external benefit curve, the others are correct.
15	c)	Option c) is incorrectly identified – it is the marginal social benefit curve, which is the marginal private benefit curve plus the external benefits of consumption – indicated by '2'.
16	c)	Option c) is correct: toll roads create a market in the use of specific roads. Roads are a public good, non-excludable, non-rival, non-rejectable.
17	c)	The correct answer is c) – it is a contradiction in terms. The 'free market' would not factor in the external (social) costs, so the good would be over-consumed and too cheap.

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Q	A	Explanation
18	c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By definition, the geographically mobile C) are able and willing to move for opportunities (such workers are more likely to be young, single and mobile). The ratio of unemployed people per vacancy A) is an indicator of the balance between demand for and supply of labour but it does not follow that the person will apply for every vacancy. Equally, currently employed workers are also able to apply. Option B) would only be true if the two regions comprised the entire labour forces were equal in size. There may be some narrowing in regional wage differentials D) but it is unlikely – many jobs still have national pay rates, the cost of living is higher in the south, and we are not assuming perfect mobility of labour either way until regional wage differentials disappear.
19	b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before the minimum price alcohol would have been supplied at a price above the market price. Legally none should be supplied now below OF so the market supply is zero. Described by the letters FGS rather than AS. Demand does contract by Q_1Q_2 so d) should result too. In the absence of an English minimum price sales of alcohol to visitors will rise.

Topic 8: Government Intervention

Q	A	Explanation
1	a)	Construction costs are private costs paid for by the train-operating company. People other than the buyer and seller of the good could benefit from such as the employers who benefit when their employees can travel.
2	c)	It has to be c); goods which are over-consumed in a free market due to external costs, such as alcohol and tobacco, are subject to taxation. Taxing superior goods would be a good revenue raise in a period of recession (as happens with VAT).
3	d)	All three of the options are likely: 'externalities' are 'internalised' as the private costs of production. Prices rise as some of the tax is 'passed on'; recycled the tax. Each of the options a) to c) is individually correct, thus d) is the correct selection.
4	c)	A tax on drinks would reduce demand and hence some of the external costs (highly unlikely); restricting location should reduce external costs. 'Warnings' should address information failure and reduce external costs. Lower prices will lower product prices, stimulating demand – thus the correct option is c).
5	c)	There will be excess demand for petrol, a shortage at the suppressed price will be rationing, hoarding, and increased car sharing. An increase in petrol is implausible, so any option including '3' as correct is not valid. It follows that c) is the correct selection.
6	b)	Building car parks (b) would increase the supply of car parking spaces and reduce demand for petrol/diesel cars. (cheaper complement), whereas the other options would reduce demand for petrol/diesel cars.
7	d)	Government failure can involve its policy designed to reduce or eliminate a problem actually deepening it, or creating a new one, or indeed leading to a worse problem. Hence a), b) and c) are all correct, thus d) is the correct selection.
8	c)	Option c) should be a cause of increasing permit prices, thus creating a disincentive to reduce their emissions and maybe sell surplus permits at profit. The reasons why such a system may fail.
9	b)	It has to be b) – the main aim of the charge is to remove congestion so 'congestion times' suggest that congestion is worse.
10	d)	The government does not intervene to regulate option d); pay rates for those who are exempt from minimum wage legislation, for instance.
11	b)	Option b) is correct as 'the bulk of the tax' (but not all of it) will be passed on to consumers. If suppliers tried to pass it on in full there would be excess supply.
12	d)	Option d) is correct: ticket prices fall, demand increases and supplier revenue increases. Remember that suppliers receive the net revenue from consumers minus the expenditure from the government on the subsidy. See a subsidy diagram – student tax diagrams.
13	d)	The producer's share of the tax is shown by option d), area ABFE. It is the difference between the price paid by the consumer, effectively the price cut by the supplier multiplied by the new quantity demanded.
14	c)	Total revenue is £1,000 per period before the subsidy (£10 × 1,000). After the subsidy (£8 × 120) the supplier receives an extra £960, £480 in subsidy, thus £14,440 in total – option c).
15	c)	The consumer's share of a subsidy refers to the extent of the price fall. If the subsidy is 'passed on' to consumers, thus option c) is correct.

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Q	A	Explanation
16	d)	Information failure in the market for cigarettes is not addressed by options a) and b) as they simply raise price rather than advising consumers of the private costs. Option c) is overestimating.
17	d)	Option d) If consumers and producers are equally knowledgeable about the market, there can be no information imbalance.
18	d)	Government fails when it attempts to correct a market failure – the market failure – and deepens the failure or creates new one(s) – option d) is correct. A supply and demand diagram will help. Any price controls impose a deadweight loss.
19	c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government failure is a technical term which applies when its attempts to correct a market failure lead to a deepening of the market failure or the allocation of resources. An example – rent controls are imposed to control a key living cost but lead to shortages of rental accommodation and homelessness. Options a) and b) could be instances of government failing to achieve a socially desirable target, however, but is not a government failure.



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