

Skills Exercises

AO1 Knowledge and understanding

Cambridge International AS & A Level Economics 9708

For examination from 2023



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Introduction

Cambridge International AS & A Level Economics attracts a variety of learners from many different backgrounds. For some learners Economics is a new subject and an opportunity to explore an area of study that interests them, while developing a set of transferable skills. Other learners have previously studied Economics and are looking to continue developing their knowledge of the subject. Either way, the study of Economics allows learners to experience the diverse and dynamic world within which different economies exist and gain the knowledge needed to understand how governments and markets operate within real contexts, analyse alternative courses of action and develop the ability to make justified recommendations.

Skills and why they are important?

Skills are the key to success. The performance of candidates in Cambridge International AS & A Level Economics exams have shown a range of areas where improvement would be helpful. These areas of improvement tend to centre around the assessment objectives (AOs) of the course and we have addressed these AOs in a series of exercises and activities.

- AO1 Knowledge and understanding
- AO2 Analysis
- AO3 Evaluation

Skills Exercises make use of examination questions and include worksheets to help skills development and incorporate suggested teaching approaches, such as discussion, structured support and writing in sequence. They do not attempt to cover all possible aspects of the examinations, only those problem areas which have presented consistently over time.

How will these skills be developed?

Skills Exercises aim to help learners develop skills in:

- using knowledge and understanding to answer examination questions
- using the context given in the examination to make answers relevant
- developing skills of analysis – including understanding analysis, identifying analysis and developing analysis skills
- building evaluation skills – including understanding limitations and imperfections, separating analysis and evaluation and making reasoned conclusions.

Skills Exercises provide suggestions so you can have confidence that the materials you prepare and use in the classroom are building skills and resilience in your learners. This document should be used alongside the other teaching and learning resources provided on the [School Support Hub](#).

AO1 Knowledge and understanding

Exercise 1: Key terms and definitions

The skill of knowledge and understanding requires learners to show knowledge of the syllabus content as well as recalling facts and definitions. AO1 Knowledge and understanding requires learners to:

- Show knowledge of syllabus content, recalling facts, formulae and definitions.
- Demonstrate understanding of syllabus content, giving appropriate explanations and examples.
- Apply knowledge and understanding to economic information using written, numerical and diagrammatic forms.

Activity 1: Economic terms

There are some economic terms that look similar, and learners tend to confuse one with another. Understanding these terms and using them in the right context is essential to demonstrate knowledge and understanding.

Give learners **Worksheet 1: Economic terms** and ask them to define the terms. Go through the worksheet with learners to check they understand what is required of the task. For this activity learners may work individually, in pairs or groups.

Use **Worksheet 1: Economic terms answers** and ask learners to peer assess each other's work. Lead a class discussion to ensure understanding of the terms and definitions. Ensure any misconceptions are addressed.

Extension activity: challenge learners to apply the terms to the correct context.

Exercise 2: Understanding formulas

The skill of knowledge and understanding requires learners to demonstrate knowledge of the syllabus content, recalling facts, formulas, and definitions.

Activity 1: Formulae

Give learners **Worksheet 2: Formulae** and ask them to provide the correct formula for each economic term. Go through the worksheet with learners to check they understand what is required of the task. For this activity learners may work individually, in pairs or groups.

Use **Worksheet 2: Formulae answers** and ask learners to peer assess each other's work. Lead a class discussion to ensure understanding. Ensure any misconceptions are addressed.

Exercise 3: Understanding and explaining syllabus content

The skill of knowledge and understanding requires learners to demonstrate understanding of the syllabus content, giving appropriate explanations and examples.

Activity 1: Identifying correct and incorrect statements

Give learners **Worksheet 3: Identifying correct and incorrect statements**.

Learners identify which statements are correct and which are incorrect, explaining their choice in each case. Go through the worksheet with learners to check they understand what is required of the task. For this activity learners may work individually, in pairs or groups.

Use **Worksheet 3: Identifying correct and incorrect statements answers** and ask learners to peer assess each other's work. Lead a class discussion to embed learners' knowledge and understanding of the syllabus content. Ensure any misconceptions are addressed.

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