

Economics - Recommendations for Students

1. I think students may need to read questions more carefully at times and read exactly what is being asked.
2. Students should not have time to do an extra question. They would be far better served putting their time into their four best questions and getting the best possible score than rushing in order to get a fifth question done. This does not pay off or make any sense.
3. Students should attempt all questions in section A when they are worth 25 % of their exam.
4. Students need to have plenty of practice of exam questions and how to layout their answers and write headings and space out their points.
5. Students need to practise drawing diagrams more carefully and learn how to use them to explain a current circumstance, particularly in micro economics: a movement along a curve versus a shift in a curve and the factors that cause both
6. Then need to be careful about choosing headings for points and explain them properly: what does the point of 'origin' or 'time gap' between consumption mean in the law of DMU and how does it affect marginal utility; what does 'related goods' mean in discussing factors that affect supply- they must be related to production not to demand.
7. They need to read newspapers and keep abreast of current news items/debates in economics, particularly in macro economics.
8. Take more notice of what is being asked in the questions and work on development. Students are losing marks as they are not giving reasons why their answers relate to the questions asked. This will pick up a lot more marks particularly in the macro questions.
9. Always be able to have an answer to the "Why?" in your explanation responses even if it doesn't explicitly ask for it. Try not to repeat the same idea, phrase or concept across the same answer.
10. Pupils need to accept that studying economics must go along with an interest in the general topic backed up by some attempt at making themselves au fait with the real world (Macro) especially at Higher Level.
11. Don't rely on a few topics or else Section A will catch you out. Make sure to answer in detail and back up each answer with another line of explanation or an example to get the full development marks. Practice actually writing out sample answers and don't think because you learned off a chapter that you can write a good answer.
12. Read Section A questions in full....eg Section A question 1- many students appeared did not appear to read the reference to the Irish Government and so lost marks needlessly.
Label Diagrams accurately particularly the ones that you might consider "simple". A significant number of omissions are made on the most basic graphs.
13. Never give one two word answers to a question, unless true or false; YES/ NO type answer required. Practice diagrams and calculations. Read question fully- don't assume the question will always follow the same format as previous ones. Try and answer all Section A questions. Practice starting a new question on a new page.
14. If question states apply your answer to a particular point, this must be done.
15. Revise all topics, do not leave out any of the course
 - Choose questions carefully
 - Read question carefully and stick to what is asked
 - Avoid one word answers or headings, state and explain each point
 - Use real life examples where possible
 - Practice answering past paper questions
 - Ensure clear, labelled diagrams where appropriate
 - Start a new question on a new page.