

Assessment

From short quiz to public exam

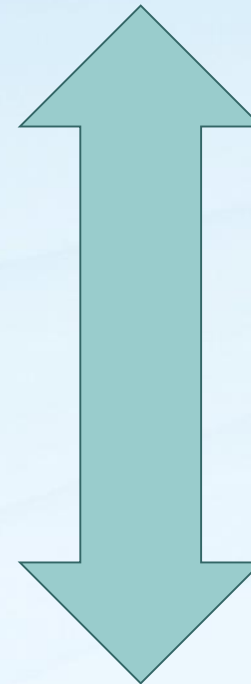
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香港考試及評核局
Hong Kong
Examinations and
Assessment Authority

Question setting

- Homework
- Short in-class quiz
- Mid-term test
- Year-end exam
- Mock exam
- DSE exam



Assessment
for learning

Assessment
of learning



DSE exam questions may not suit all purposes!

Limitation of public exam

- Many candidates (>10000) with diverse abilities
cannot be too easy or too difficult
- Many markers
answers have to be easier to standardise
- Time (and mark) limit
have to cover the whole curriculum, each topic can have very limited questions



Tips for question setting

- Some questions are more suitable for internal assessment:
 - Give TWO examples of ... (c.f. 2019 Q3)
easier to mark by a single teacher + test the misconception of students + can be discussed in class to facilitate learning

2019 Q3: Give **ONE** example of public corporation in Hong Kong.



Tips for question setting

- Some questions are more suitable for internal assessment:
 - State/Give **THREE** possible reasons ... (c.f. 2019 Q9b)
requires more thorough understanding and better preparation for students

2019 Q9b: Apart from Japanese cosmetic products, she starts to sell Korean cosmetic products on her website. To what type of expansion does this belong? Give **TWO** possible reasons for this type of expansion.

Tips for question setting

- Some questions are more suitable in internal assessment:
 - Explain **THREE** factors of ... (c.f.2018 Q4)
explanation revealing the depth of understanding of concepts and theories + train up students' writing skills

2018 Q4: Apart from the difference in education level, explain **TWO** factors that may lead to income inequality.

Tips for question setting

- Some questions are more suitable in internal assessment:
 - State/explain TWO economic concepts involved in ... (c.f. 2019 Q5)
A more open-end question can stimulate students' thinking and show any misconceptions + encourage weaker students to participate

2019 Q5: Wong's family and Chan's family live next door to each other. State ONE economic concept involved in each of following arrangements and explain why the arrangement is beneficial to both families.

(a) Mr Wong teaches the children from both families English while Mrs Chan teaches them Japanese.(3 marks)

Question words (I)

- Start from lower order thinking skills
e.g. define/state/give/suggest/which type
(w/o explanation) in S4
- Explain how: logical steps required, direction
required
- Explain, with N reasons, why: relevant
concept/theories + elaboration (applied to the case)
- Explain whether/ do you agree + explain
requires students to write down reason to support their
stand

Question words (I)

2019 Q10b: explain how the above change of the individual income tax system would affect the deflationary (output) gap in the short run.

2018 Q4: Apart from the difference in education level, explain TWO factors that may lead to income inequality.
(4 marks)

2019 Q9a: Are the short videos on social media websites public goods or private goods? Explain.(3 marks)

Question words (II)

- With the aid of an diagram, explain...
verbal (logical steps) and graphical answers
- Without the aid of a diagram ... only the verbal answer is expected
- Justify/defend a statement: support the statement with reason(s) or theories (Don't confuse with LS.)
- Discuss/Analyse (the effect of X on Y):
= What is the effect of X on Y? but more open-end and expect students to write a bit more

Question words (II)

2019 Q11b During non-holidays, there are a lot of empty seats on some trains of the High Speed Rail. With the aid of Figure 1, explain why the above situation may be inefficient. (4 marks)

2014 Q10e WITHOUT using a diagram, explain why the stock price of Goodbaby International increased after the information in Source 2 was published in newspapers. (4 marks)

2020 Q4c 'The continuous open market purchase of government bonds by the central bank is the cause of inflation in the economy.'
Justify the statement with reference to the classical quantity theory of money. (4 marks)



Question words (II)

2018 Q13a With reference to the above source, briefly discuss the possible effects of the change in composition of population on

(i) potential output and

(ii) fiscal balance

in the future. (5 marks)

2018 Q13b In view of the population projection in Hong Kong, politicians suggest the following measures:

(i) providing subsidy for firms to improve production technology

(ii) importing more workers

Analyse how each of the above two measures affects average labour productivity. (5 marks)

Question words (III)

- Evaluate a single issue/policy: discussion of some effects + judgement (in terms of Pros and Cons OR should/should not implement)
- Evaluate policy A and B in terms of X, Y and Z:
discussion + judgement (based on the discussion) e.g. in term of X, policy A is better than B.

Question words (III)

2013 Q8 Suppose a government is facing a budget deficit. Some politicians have proposed that the government should raise the income tax rate to reduce the budget deficit. Evaluate their proposal. (4 marks)

2015 Q8 The government is considering spending a certain sum of its budget surplus on the following two proposals:

Proposal 1: To extend the free education to 15 years

Proposal 2: To provide unemployment benefits

Evaluate the two proposals in terms of equality and the effect on aggregate output. (8 marks)

Tricks from a public exam setter:

- more open-ended questions vs more converging answer
- Explain whether \Leftrightarrow explain why it may be correct
- Explain whether \Leftrightarrow explain under what condition it is correct
- Explain whether \Leftrightarrow justify/defend



Tricks from public exam setter:

- Adjust the level of difficulty by ruling out some possible answers
 - Apart from _____, state TWO features...
 - From the viewpoint of employer/employee
 - Based on Source A, ...
 - Discuss the pros and cons of A **over B**
 - In terms of **concept A**, explain ...



Finetuning the paper

- hypothetical/theoretical vs real world
- Use of examples in the topic of classification (e.g. 2019 Q9a)
- complexity of sources
- Can a question of larger marks be broken down to sub-questions?
- Diagram drawing: provide the axis in the question? D? S? AD? LRAS? SRAS?



Finetuning the paper

2020 Q9 Ocean Park and Hong Kong Disneyland are the two large theme parks in Hong Kong.

(a) What is the market structure of the theme park industry in Hong Kong? List TWO features of this market structure. (3 marks)

The first hotel in Ocean Park was launched in 2018 while the second hotel and the water park were scheduled to be opened before 2021. It is expected that such infrastructure development can attract more tourists to stay longer in Hong Kong.

(b) Other things being equal, what will be the effects of the infrastructure development on Hong Kong's aggregate demand and long run aggregate supply in the future? How about on aggregate output? Explain your answers with the aid of a diagram. (8 marks)



Finetuning the paper

2020 Q9 (c) Instead of obtaining bank loans to finance the infrastructure development, it is suggested that Ocean Park can be listed in the stock market and issue shares to raise capital. State TWO advantages of issuing shares over obtaining loans from banks for raising capital. (2 marks)

(d) The contribution of the infrastructure development of Ocean Park to Hong Kong's GDP in 2019 could be smaller than the total amount invested in the two hotels and the water park. Explain why the statement may be correct with TWO reasons. (4 marks)



Data response Questions

- Origin: News commentary/Essay (SBA)
Issue enquiry with time constraint
- Backwash effect on daily teaching: more discussions of current issues (NOT a new requirement)
- Open-ended: e.g. 2020 income inequality argument (only rich people drive car v.s. tunnel toll is regressive in nature) (Real world cases are complex and can be analysed with different angles.)

2020 DRQ

11. Traffic congestion in the cross harbour tunnels during peak hours is a serious problem in Hong Kong. For simplicity, the discussions below only focus on two cross harbour tunnels in Hong Kong, namely the Cross-Harbour Tunnel (CHT 紅隧) and the Western Harbour Crossing (WHC 西隧).

Source A: Existing tunnel tolls for private cars

CHT (owned by the government)	\$20
WHC (owned by a private firm)	\$75

Source B: Traffic information during peak hours of the two tunnels

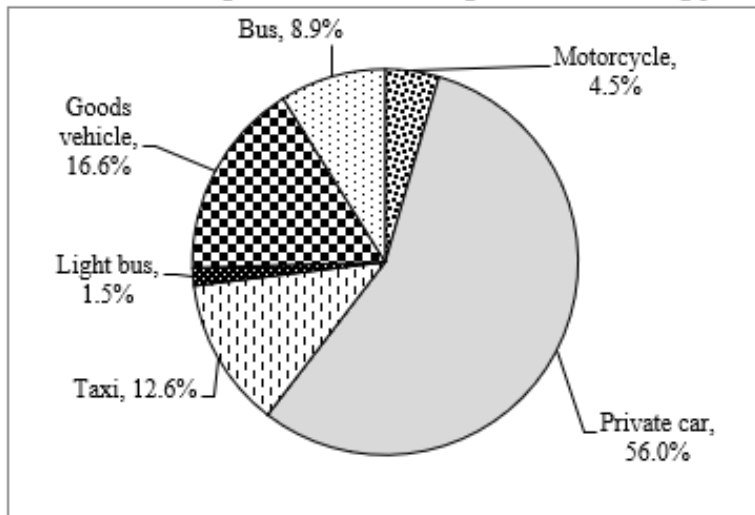
	Designed capacity per hour	Actual number per hour	Queue
CHT	2 600 (cars)	4 400-4 600 (cars)	1 500-3 000 (meter)
WHC	4 200 (cars)	3 600-3 800 (cars)	0 (meter)

Source C: An extract of a report on traffic congestion

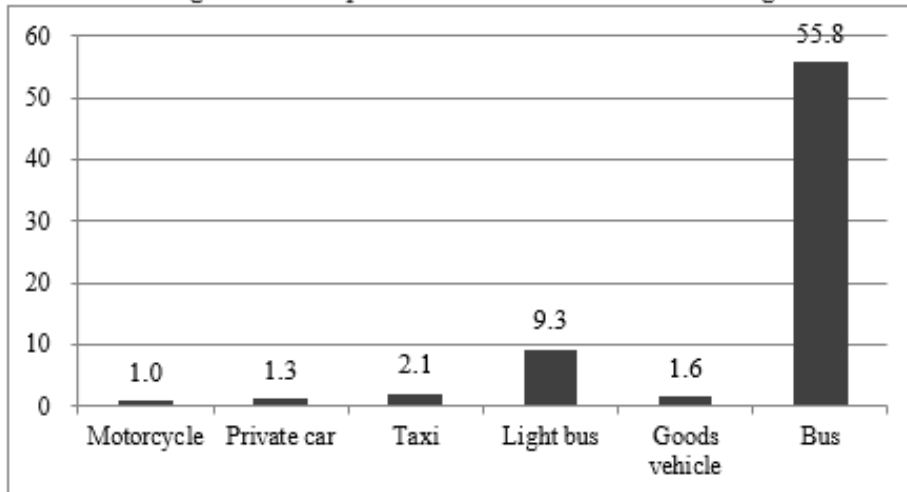
Traffic congestion not only affects individual drivers, but also results in inconvenience to society as a whole. Apart from the time wasted during congestion, people also need to allow extra time for the journey to cater for the uncertainty in travelling time. The stop-and-go traffic pattern during congestion increases the total operating costs of vehicles as more fuel would be consumed.

2020 DRQ

Source D: Percentage of vehicles crossing the harbour during peak hours (by types of vehicles)







Source E: Average number of persons in each vehicle when crossing the harbour during peak hours



2020 DRQ

Source F: Views on cross-harbour traffic in Hong Kong

<p>A politician</p> 	<p>Every citizen needs to travel across the harbour. An increase in tunnel tolls affects everyone, especially the low-income group.</p>
<p>A government official</p> 	<p>We cannot underestimate the difficulty in negotiating any adjustment in tunnel toll of WHC. The government has no right to object to the tolls set by WHC.</p>
<p>An environmentalist</p> 	<p>Reducing traffic congestion in cross harbour tunnels is only one tiny step. The root of the problem is that there are too many cars in Hong Kong.</p>
<p>A taxi driver</p> 	<p>Channeling traffic to the under-utilised WHC benefits every road user and this allows taxi drivers to have more businesses.</p>

2020 DRQ

- (a) Refer to Source A. State **ONE** advantage and **ONE** disadvantage of providing cross harbour services by a private firm instead of the government. (2 marks)
- (b) Refer to Source B. With the aid of a supply-demand diagram, explain the phenomenon in the CHT (紅隧) during peak hours. (4 marks)
- (c) Refer to Source C.
- (i) Explain, with **ONE** example, why there may be a divergence between private and social costs during traffic congestion. (3 marks)
- (ii) Explain why the situation in part (i) may result in inefficiency. (2 marks)
- (d) According to Sources D and E, explain why private cars may be regarded as one of the major sources of traffic congestion in the cross harbour tunnels. (2 marks)
(Assume that the number of persons using the cross harbour tunnels per day during peak hours is constant.)



2020 DRQ

For part (e), candidates are required to present their answers in an essay form. Criteria for marking will include the use of sources and economic theories, relevant content, logical presentation and clarity of expression.

- (e) Suppose there are two cross-harbour-tunnel-toll adjustment proposals to relieve the problem of congestion:

Proposal I	The government raises the toll of the CHT (紅隧) for private cars to \$75.
Proposal II	The toll of the WHC (西隧) for private cars is reduced to \$20.

With reference to the above sources and your own knowledge in Economics, discuss which proposal, proposal I or II, each of the following groups of stakeholders would prefer:

- the owners of the WHC company
- the politicians who are concerned about the income inequality in Hong Kong
- the government economists who are concerned about government revenue and/or expenditure
- **ONE** other group of stakeholders

(Hint: You may discuss the reasons why one group of stakeholders would prefer a certain proposal **OR** why that group would not prefer the other proposal.)

(14 marks)

- (f) Suggest **ONE** proposal, other than tunnel-toll adjustment, for relieving the traffic congestion problem. Briefly explain how your proposal works. (2 marks)

Data response Questions

- Real world issue: data *with heavy trimming*
- Some easy, floor questions: help students to understand the issue and browse the sources *test data interpretation skills*
- One essay question: economic analysis
for example: discuss effects on micro/macro variables
discuss effects on stakeholders
evaluate policy proposal (with respect to policy objectives/criteria)
- follow-up question(s): extension of the analysis in essay

Data response Questions

- Top-down approach: Study an issue and collect data and finally formula an economic analysis
- Bottom-up approach: draft the essay question first, and try to provide essential information to students by adding relevant sources (and asking simple floor questions)
- Do's and Don'ts
 - Do use simplified real world data (don't always use hypothetically data)
 - Do set questions with various length and marks (don't set a full-length for all test/exams for all forms)
 - Do allow a larger variety of answers in DRQ (don't set a strict marking schemes)
 - Do have sources in various forms (table/diagram/news)
 - Do awarding marks for creative and reasonable answers in DRQ
 - Do set an essay-style question (with/without too much data) for internal assessment

Final word: Setting Quality questions

- Question bank
- Reference
book/website/youtube/facebook
- Personal experience/first hand data

Saving ideas in your smartphone

Peer review to enhance the quality of the questions



Final word: resources from HKEAA

- Briefing seminar for live paper on Oct/Nov
- Examination Reports and Question Papers:
 - % of correct for MCQ
 - marking schemes (with remarks and footnotes)
 - **Candidates' performance**very useful source of common mistakes and misconceptions
- **Statistic report**

