

## IB Economics - External Assessment: PAPER 1

### GENERAL INFORMATION: Synopsis & Details

#### Structure:

- Paper 1 consists of three questions that come from **all units** of the syllabus.
- Students must answer **one question** of the choice of three.
- The questions are each subdivided into **two parts**.
- Part (a): Students must **analyze** an economic situation. (10 marks)
- Part (b): Students must **evaluate** an economic real-life example, and *also* provide a **judgment** of sound economic policy to address the situation. (15 marks)
- The exam starts with a five-minute reading period.
- **Duration**: 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- **Weighting**: 30% SL || 20% HL.

Source: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

#### General Synopsis



Assessment Objectives (AO) <i>The students are expected to demonstrate:</i>	Part (a)	Part (b)
<b>AO1:</b> Knowledge and Understanding (Define, Describe, List)	★	★
<b>AO2:</b> Application and Analysis (Analyze, Apply, Distinguish, Explain)	★	★
<b>AO3:</b> Synthesis and Evaluation (Discuss, Evaluate, Examine, Recommend, To what extent)		★
<b>AO4:</b> Use and Application of Appropriate Skills (Calculate, Construct, Determine, Draw, Identify, Solve)	★	★
<b>MARKS (maximum per paper)</b>	10	15
<b>MARKS for Paper 1</b>	25	

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## COMMAND TERMS & ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Command Term	Assessment Objective Level (AO)	Definition
Define	AO1	Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity.
Describe	AO1	Give a detailed account
List	AO1	Give a sequence of brief answers with no explanation.
Analyze	AO2	Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure.
Apply	AO2	Use an idea, equation, principle, theory, or law in relation to a given problem or issue.
Distinguish	AO2	Make clear the differences between two or more concepts or items.
Explain	AO2	Give a detailed account including reasons or causes.
Evaluate	AO3	Making an appraisal weighing up the strengths and limitations.
Discuss	AO3	Offer a considered and balanced review that includes a range of arguments, factors, or hypotheses. Opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence.
Examine	AO3	Consider an argument or concept in a way that uncovers the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue.
Recommend	AO3	Present an advisable course of action with appropriate supporting evidence/reason in relation to a given situation, problem, or issue.
To what extent	AO3	Consider the merits or otherwise of an argument or concept. Opinions and conclusions should be presented clearly and supported with appropriate evidence and sound argument.
Calculate	AO4	Obtain a numerical answer showing the relevant stages in the working.
Construct	AO4	Display information in a diagrammatic or logic form.
Determine	AO4	Obtain the only possible answer.
Draw	AO4	Represent by the means of a labeled, accurate diagram, or graph using a pencil. A ruler (straight edge) should be used for straight lines. Diagrams should be drawn to scale. Graphs should have points correctly plotted (if appropriate) and joined in a straight line or smooth curve.
Identify	AO4	Provide an answer from a number of possibilities.
Solve	AO4	Obtain the answer(s) using algebraic and/or numerical and/or graphical methods.

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# PAPER 1 || Part (a) IB MARK SCHEME (SL/HL)

Source: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

MARK	LEVEL DESCRIPTOR
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1 - 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response indicates <u>little</u> understanding of the specific demands of the question.</li> <li>Economic theory is <i>stated but it is not relevant</i>.</li> <li>Economic terms are <i>stated but they are not relevant</i>.</li> </ul>
3 - 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response indicates <u>some</u> understanding of the specific demands of the question.</li> <li>Relevant economic theory is <u>described</u>.</li> <li><u>Some</u> relevant economic terms are included.</li> </ul>
5 - 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response indicates understanding of the specific demands of the question, but these demands are only <u>partially</u> addressed.</li> <li>Relevant economic theory is <u>partly</u> explained.</li> <li><u>Some</u> relevant economic terms are used appropriately.</li> <li>Where appropriate, relevant diagram(s) are <i>included</i>.</li> </ul>
7 - 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <u>specific</u> demands of the question are <i>understood and addressed</i>.</li> <li>Relevant economic theory is <u>explained</u>.</li> <li>Relevant economic terms are <i>used mostly appropriately</i>.</li> <li>Where appropriate, relevant diagram(s) are <i>included and explained</i>.</li> </ul>
9 - 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <u>specific</u> demands of the question are <i>understood and addressed</i></li> <li>Relevant economic theory is <u>fully</u> explained.</li> <li>Relevant economic terms are <i>used appropriately throughout the response</i>.</li> <li>Where appropriate, relevant diagram(s) are <i>included and fully</i> explained</li> </ul>

# PAPER 1 || Part (b) IB MARK SCHEME (SL/HL)

Source: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

MARK	LEVEL DESCRIPTOR
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1 - 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response indicates <u>little</u> understanding of the specific demands of the question.</li> <li>Economic theory is <i>stated but it is not relevant</i></li> <li>Economic terms are <i>stated but they are not relevant</i>.</li> <li>The response contains <u>no evidence</u> of synthesis or evaluation.</li> <li>A real-world example(s) is <i>identified</i> but it is <u>irrelevant</u>.</li> </ul>
4 - 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response indicates <u>some</u> understanding of the specific demands of the question.</li> <li>Relevant economic theory is <u>described</u>.</li> <li><u>Some</u> relevant economic terms are included.</li> <li>The response contains evidence of <u>superficial</u> synthesis or evaluation.</li> <li>A relevant real-world example(s) is <u>identified</u>.</li> </ul>
7 - 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response indicates understanding of the specific demands of the question, but these demands are <u>only partially</u> addressed.</li> <li>Relevant economic theory is <u>partly</u> explained.</li> <li><u>Some</u> relevant economic terms are used appropriately.</li> <li>Where appropriate, relevant diagram(s) are <i>included</i>.</li> <li>The response contains evidence of <u>appropriate</u> synthesis or evaluation but <u>lacks balance</u>.</li> <li>A relevant real-world example(s) is <i>identified and partly</i> developed in the context of the question.</li> </ul>
10 - 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The specific demands of the question are <u>understood and addressed</u>.</li> <li>Relevant economic theory is <i>explained</i>.</li> <li>Relevant economic terms are used <u>mostly</u> appropriately.</li> <li>Where appropriate, relevant diagram(s) are <i>included and explained</i>.</li> <li>The response contains evidence of <u>appropriate</u> synthesis or evaluation that is <u>mostly</u> balanced.</li> <li>A relevant real-world example(s) is <i>identified and developed</i> in the context of the question.</li> </ul>
13 - 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The specific demands of the question are <u>understood and addressed</u>.</li> <li>Relevant economic theory is <u>fully</u> explained.</li> <li>Relevant economic terms are <i>used appropriately throughout</i> the response.</li> <li>Where appropriate, relevant diagram(s) are <i>included and fully</i> explained.</li> <li>The response contains evidence of <u>effective and balanced</u> synthesis or evaluation.</li> <li>A relevant real-world example(s) is <i>identified and fully</i> developed to support the argument.</li> </ul>

## - PAPER 1: CHECKLIST -

★ **Are you answering the question that is asked?**

*Be specific with the demands of the question and what it addresses!*

★ **Have you formulated a topic sentence for each part of your answer?**

*Be organized and effective - structure your answers making sure you have a strong topic sentence!*

★ **Are you utilizing specific economic terms, and defining them with precision?**

*Review and be prepared with your vocabulary. Specific and technical language will be evaluated!*

★ **Can you include one of the Nine Central Themes in your answer?**

*Strive to embed at least one of these themes to demonstrate deep understanding of the big picture!*

