Economics
Internal Assessment

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Overview of the webinar

- Overview of the changes in the new syllabus

- Break down of assessment criteria

- Tips for maximising attainment

- Finding good articles

- Submitting the IA's

What is the purpose of the IA?

An opportunity to link theory with real world examples

Encourage students to read the news

Provide examples for students to draw on in their Paper 1 essays

Syllabus changes

No major changes to the nature of the work.

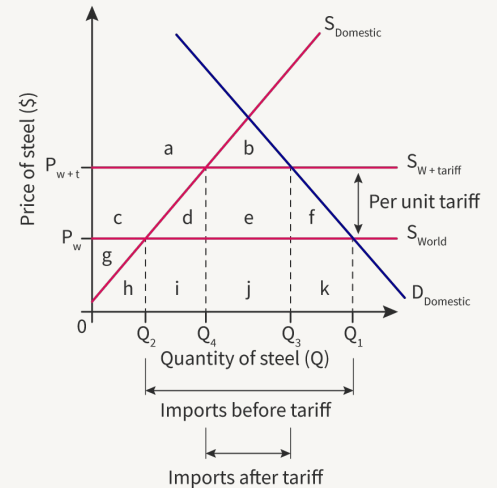Word counts now 800 words per commentary, rather than 750.

Some changes to the assessment criteria.

How marks are awarded

Criterion	Marks available	Requirements
A - Diagrams	3	Fully labelled, non generic diagrams with full explanations.
B - Terminology	2	Relevant terminology must be used correctly.
C - Application and analysis	3	Appropriate theories selected and analysed for the article.
D - Key concept	3	A key concept must be selected and its relevance explained.
E - Evaluation	3	Judgements must be presented and argued correctly.
F (for portfolio as a whole)	3	Presentation of portfolio meets all three requirements.

Criterion A - Diagrams

- Diagrams should be relevant to the article.

- Graphs showing data are not diagrams.

- Labels of diagrams should not be generic, ie Quantity of cars if the article is about the pollution from car emissions. If the article has numbers that can be used, that's great, but not a requirement.

- Explanation should refer to all labels. For example, don't label a tariff diagram A-K for surplus areas if only the tax revenue will be discussed.

- Incorrect labelling loses 2 marks instantly.

Criterion B - Terminology

- Students will not lose marks if they do not define terms.

- Definitions do help to demonstrate understanding but they are not required.

- Relevant terms must be used accurately.

Criterion C - Application and analysis

- Relevant theory is chosen for the article.

- For example, if the article discussed indirect taxation in the context of pollution, and students only discuss indirect taxation and not market failure then they can lose marks.

- The analysis must be correct.

Criterion D - Key concept

- A key concept must be selected for each article, and its relevance explained in full.

- A different key concept must be used for each article. Using the same key concept in all three commentaries will result in the loss of 6 marks.

Criterion E - Evaluation

- Students must discuss theory in a balanced way

- Examples of evaluation:

    - Advantages and disadvantages

    - Short and long term

    - Stakeholders

    - Prioritising arguments

- These arguments must be clearly contextualised, not merely standard evaluative points learned from textbooks.
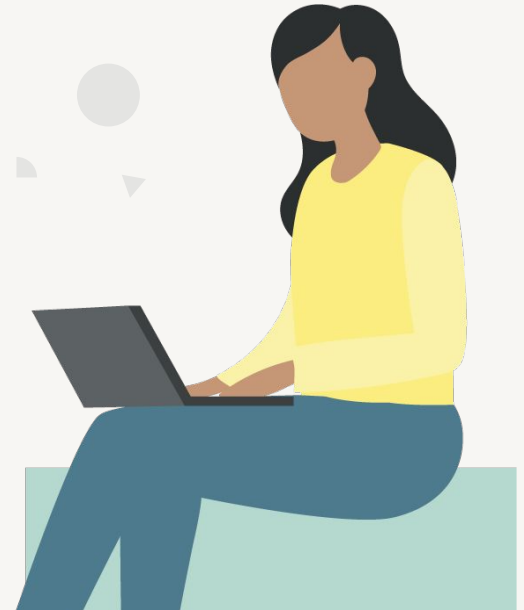
Criterion F - Portfolio requirements

One mark for each of the following:

- Each article is based on a different unit of the syllabus.

- Each article is taken from a different and appropriate source.

- Each article was published no earlier than one year before the writing of the commentary.
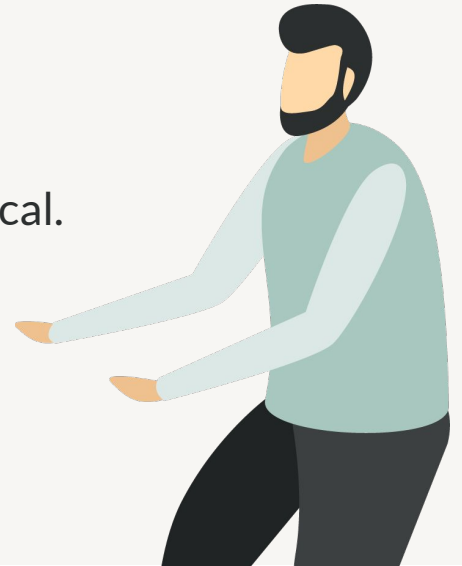
Advice for students when choosing articles

→ Articles shouldn't be too short or descriptive. For example, some announcements of employment statistics are so short that there isn't much present to analyse in terms of costs or causes.

→ Articles shouldn't be too long. Any longer than a full A4 page and relevant parts must be highlighted.

→ Should invite comment from the student, and give them a chance to make judgements. Articles discussing policies are ideal.

→ Avoid economics publications, as analysis present prevents students from offering their own.

Maximising marks for Crit C, D and E

→ The analysis and judgements must be contextualised.

→ Students must not be simply repeating the content of the article - examiners will have read the article - they need to be adding value themselves.

→ This is a similar problem in Literature and History subjects - students have a tendency to be narrative rather than analytical.

→ It is very difficult to get 3 marks for criterion E.

Making use of Kognity

- A whole chapter dedicated to the IA.

- Each subtopic has at least one case study to help promote the link between theory and real world scenarios.

- New investigations for each subtopic.

Submitting the IAs - what to include

	Requirement	Tips
Commentaries	3 articles included with 3 commentaries	Examiners will not follow hyperlinks, so text of article must be copied into commentary.
Word counts	Not required but extremely helpful	Examiners will not read past 800 words
Portfolio cover sheet	3CS cover sheet available from IB Portal. Must be submitted with portfolio.	Make sure the order listed on the 3CS is the same the order of the uploads.
Commentary cover sheets	Not required but helpful.	Makes marking crit F much easier.
Personal information	Personal codes only. No student, school, or teacher names, or candidate numbers.	