



Advanced Higher
Course Assessment
Specification



Advanced Higher Economics Course Assessment Specification (C722 77)

Valid from August 2015

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Assessment Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Course outline

Course title:	Advanced Higher Economics
SCQF level:	7 (32 SCQF credit points)
Course code:	C722 77
Course assessment code:	X722 77

The purpose of the Course Assessment Specification is to ensure consistent and transparent assessment year on year. It describes the structure of the Course assessment and the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed.

Course assessment structure

Component 1 — question paper	80 marks
Component 2 — project	40 marks
Total marks	120 marks

This Course includes eight SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Assessment Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to assessment. Assessments have been designed to promote equal opportunities while maintaining the integrity of the qualification.

For guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled learners and/or those with additional support needs, please follow the link to the Assessment Arrangements web page: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/14977.html.

Guidance on inclusive approaches to delivery and assessment of this Course is provided in the *Course/Unit Support Notes*.

Assessment

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

Course assessment

SQA will produce and give instructions for the production and conduct of Course assessments based on the information provided in this document.

Added value

The purpose of the Course assessment is to assess added value of the Course as well as confirming attainment in the Course and providing a grade. The added value for the Course will address the key purposes and aims of the Course, as defined in the Course rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge, or application.

In this Course assessment, added value will focus on the following:

- ◆ challenge — requiring greater depth or extension of knowledge and/or skills
- ◆ application — requiring application of knowledge and/or skills in practical or theoretical contexts as appropriate

This added value consists of:

- ◆ analysing economic data and information from a range of sources to predict and explain economic consequences
- ◆ applying knowledge and understanding of complex economic concepts to current economic situations
- ◆ communicating economic reasoning and conclusions clearly and logically
- ◆ researching, analysing and evaluating a current economic issue to reach conclusions

Grading

Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

The Course assessment is graded A–D. The grade is determined on the basis of the total mark for all Course assessments together.

A learner's overall grade will be determined by their performance across the Course assessment.

Grade description for C

For the award of Grade C, learners will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will typically have demonstrated application of skills and knowledge and understanding of economic theories and concepts to effectively analyse, and suggest solutions for, current economic issues.

Grade description for A

For the award of Grade A, learners will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will have demonstrated the ability to consistently apply skills and knowledge and understanding of economic theories and concepts to effectively analyse, and provide solutions for, current economic issues, to a high level of performance.

Credit

To take account of the extended range of learning and teaching approaches, remediation, consolidation of learning and integration needed for preparation for external assessment, six SCQF credit points are available in Courses at National 5 and Higher, and eight SCQF credit points in Courses at Advanced Higher. These points will be awarded when a Grade D or better is achieved.

Structure and coverage of the Course assessment

The Course assessment will consist of two Components: a question paper and an assignment. The question paper will have three sections.

Component 1 — question paper

The purpose of this question paper is to address challenge and application. These will be assessed by drawing on, and by sampling, the skills, knowledge and understanding from across the Course. Learners will also be required to apply their knowledge and understanding of complex economic concepts and situations.

The question paper will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding by:

- ◆ analysing and explaining market structures and market interventions
- ◆ using diagrams to explain market structures and externalities
- ◆ analysing current national and global economic issues and the impact they can have on national and global economies
- ◆ evaluating the effectiveness of policies used to address current national and global economic issues
- ◆ interpreting economic information and communicating economic reasoning and conclusions with clarity

The question paper will have 80 marks and has three sections.

Section 1 will have 30 marks and will consist of a number of mandatory short-answer questions based on an item of stimulus material. The questions will be drawn from across the Course.

Section 2 will have 25 marks and will consist of a mandatory question based on economic theory.

Section 3 will have 25 marks and will consist of four optional questions. Each question will be based on a current economic issue. Candidates will answer one question only.

Component 2 — project

The purpose of this project is to address challenge and application by applying skills, knowledge and understanding from across the Course.

This project will have 40 marks.

This project will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to:

- ◆ select an appropriate current economic issue to research
- ◆ use suitable economic data/information, related to the context of the issue, from a range of sources
- ◆ apply in-depth knowledge and understanding of economic concepts and theories to explain, analyse and evaluate the issue
- ◆ reach valid conclusions based on evidence
- ◆ structure a detailed, well-informed report on the issue
- ◆ organise, present and reference findings using appropriate conventions

The mark allocation for the project will emphasise the assessment of skills.

For further details of the Course requirements, please see the 'Further mandatory information on Course coverage' section of this Course Assessment Specification.

Setting, conducting and marking of assessment

Question paper

This question paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. Learners will complete this in 2 hours 30 minutes.

Controlled assessment — project

This project is:

- ◆ set within SQA guidelines
- ◆ conducted under some supervision and control

Evidence will be submitted to SQA for external marking.

All marking will be quality assured by SQA.

Setting the project

Set within SQA guidelines.

Conducting the assessment

The project will be conducted under supervision and control to ensure that the work presented is the learner's own. Centres are responsible for ensuring the authentication of learners' work.

Guidelines regarding the time frame for completing the project will be provided by SQA.

Further mandatory information on Course coverage

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Advanced Higher Economics Course. Course assessment will involve sampling the skills, knowledge and understanding. This list of skills, knowledge and understanding also provides the basis for the assessment of Units of the Course.

When preparing learners for the Course assessment, please refer first to the 'Structure and coverage of the Course assessment' section.

Economic Markets: Structures and Intervention

Market structures	<p>Perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ underpinning assumptions ◆ short-run and long-run output and pricing decisions (including graphical representations) ◆ efficiency ◆ price discrimination in monopoly <p>Oligopoly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ underpinning assumptions ◆ kinked demand curve theory, collusion and price wars ◆ graphical representation
Market intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ legal monopoly: UK and EU competition policy, framework and effectiveness ◆ externalities: positive and negative externalities in production and consumption, including graphical representations ◆ government policies to correct externalities and their effectiveness

National and Global Economic Issues

National economic issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ economic indicators, pertaining to the previous two years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Gross Domestic Product (GDP) — inflation — unemployment — budgetary position — Sterling exchange rate — balance of payments ◆ framework, transmission and effectiveness of economic policies — monetary, fiscal, supply-side ◆ other current economic issues — eg developments in the property, oil and energy markets or other relevant issues ◆ impact of the ageing population on the UK economy
Global economic issues	<p>Global economic issues pertaining to the previous two years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ European Union and Eurozone ◆ developing economies ◆ emerging economies

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ role of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) in the global economy ◆ globalisation and trends in world trade
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Researching an Economic Issue

Current economic issue	<p>The issue chosen must be current.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ planning and time management skills ◆ analytical techniques ◆ research methods ◆ presentation of evidence ◆ draw valid conclusions ◆ referencing and bibliography
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Administrative information

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History of changes to Course Assessment Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
2.0	<p>Mark for Component 2 has been amended in the 'Course assessment structure' section.</p> <p>Wording has been changed in the 'Added value' section.</p> <p>In the 'Structure and coverage of Course assessment' section, changes have been made to the format and also the wording of the skills developed for the question paper and project.</p> <p>The duration of the question paper has changed and additional clarification has been given to the 'Setting, Conducting and Marking' section.</p> <p>Minor changes made to the content in the 'Further mandatory information on Course coverage' section for clarification.</p>	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2015

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Note: You are advised to check SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Course Specification.

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