

ECONOMICS

SUBJECT 9158

Paper 2

GENERAL COMMENTS

Generally there was poor performance in answering question 1 as compared to question 2. The main reason being that they did not focus on the requirements of the questions and simply listed points from the text without explaining them.

COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1

Question 1 (a)i

Most candidates were able to answer the question though they failed to give accurate definition for excess demand.

Question 1 (a)ii

Candidates who failed to answer the question focused on the supply side and ignoring the demand side. The question was fairly done.

Question 1 (a)iii

Most candidates failed to draw the diagram illustrating how excess demand lead to an increase in the price of the commodity. Teachers should place emphasis on the interpretation of graphs.

Question 1 (b)

Half of the candidates were able to give the correct pattern of the oil price. Those who failed to answer the question were giving the detailed changes in prices instead of outlining the general pattern in oil price increases. Candidates should be encouraged to draw a line of best fit in order to determine the trend.

Question 1 (c)

Question was well done however candidates must be able to apply economic theory to the given data. Candidates must not reproduce information from the text but link it to economic theory.

Question 1 (d)

In general candidates failed to explain the effects of rising oil prices to the economy of Zimbabwe. Candidates were just listing points without fully explaining them. Some candidates were giving one sided answers that is the negative effects of oil prices and ignoring the positive effects. Teachers should encourage the pupils to apply evaluative skills when answering question 1(d).

QUESTION 2

Question 2 (a)i

Most candidates were able to define opportunity cost. It seems the concept is well understood by the majority of the candidates.

Question 2 (a)ii

Most candidates wrongly interpreted the question, instead of explaining why government units make choices. They explained the role of the government in the economy.

Question 2 (b)i

Most candidates were just listing points from the extract and failed to explain the reasons why government was in great support of the Jatropha Planting Programme.

Question 2 (b)ii

Majority of the candidates failed to explain the impact of investment in the economy (both in the short-run and long-run). Emphasis should be on the opportunity cost of investment.

Question 2 (c)

The question was fairly done, however candidates failed to explain the importance of fuel to the growth of the economy. They mistook Zimbabwe as an oil producing country.

Question 2 (d)

Most candidates failed to recognise that Zimbabwe is not in a position to export bio-diesel from Jatropha. Some candidates were just listing points without explaining the effects. Some candidates were giving one sided answers.

Generally performance was above average.