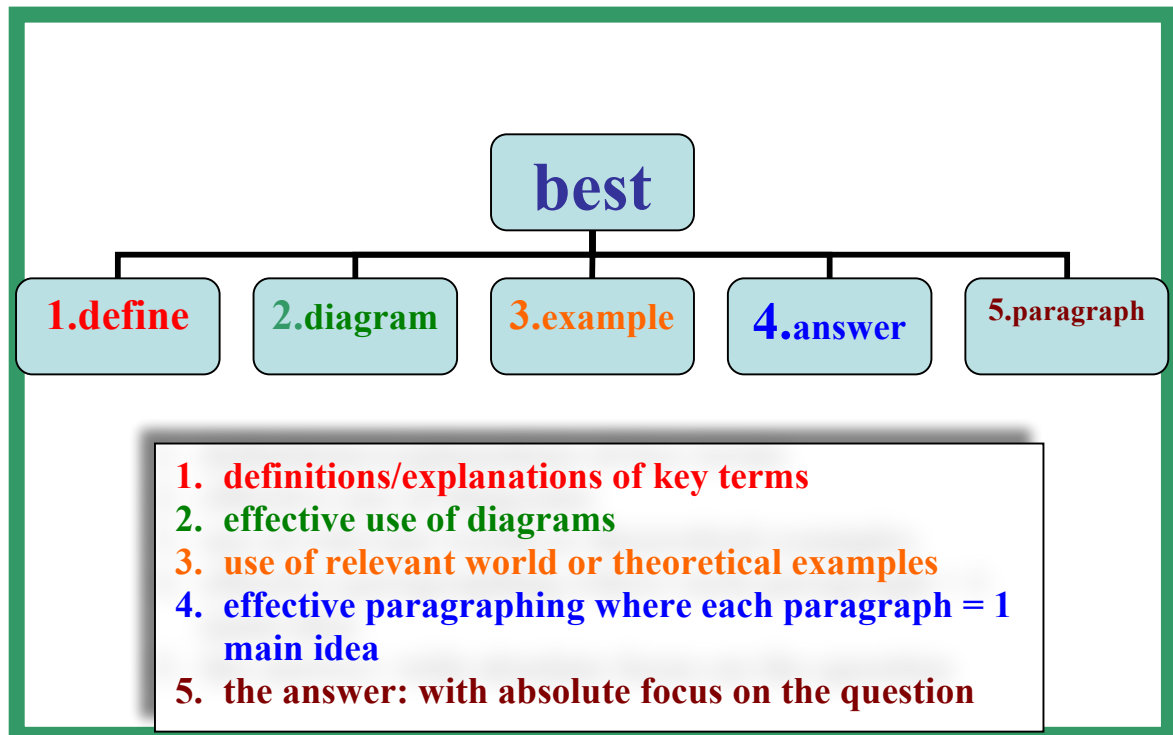


Assessment Guides: how to write 'best' answers

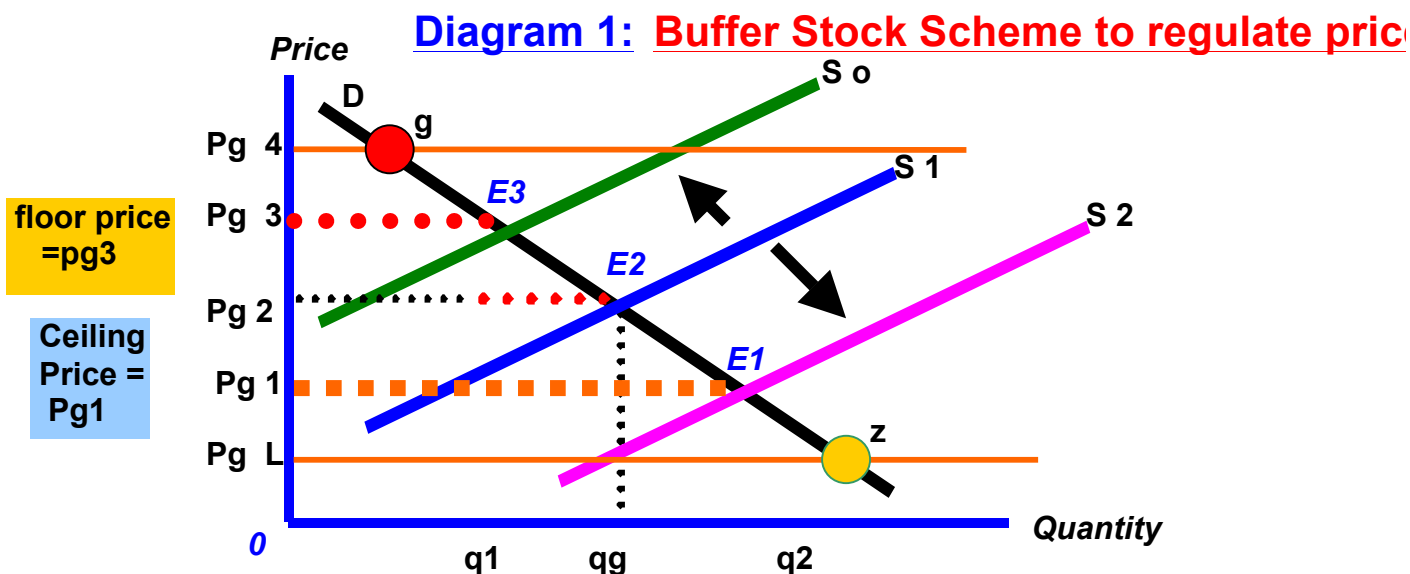


1. define key terms that appear in the question or that you use in your answer.

- Use appropriate text to show that you understand the key term.
- Must not be a formal textbook definition
- You may want to quote from any data that is provided to you to highlight your understanding here (i.b. data response paper 2 sl and data response paper 3 hl)
- 40% of marks here!!!!

3. use of relevant world or theoretical examples

- “quote” from any sources provided to you. This is critical in data response questions and helps to demonstrate your understanding
- if you are writing a long /short essay then try to provide from memory any relevant real world example or theoretical example that you know



2. How to use diagrams effectively: Text of answer to the following question:

IB Questions: May 05 SL 1 Q1

- Explain how a buffer stock system might be used to stabilize agricultural prices (10 marks)
- Discuss the view that intervention in agricultural markets causes more problems than it solves. (15 marks)

Part (a) sample answer/excerpt

A buffer stock system is often used to stabilize prices in agricultural markets as a result of pressure from farmers and consumers organizations to avoid large fluctuations in incomes for farmers and price for consumers. It requires intervention by government to adjust the quantity in the market and thereby affect the market price so that the equilibrium is between **pg1** and **pg3** in **diagram 1**. This shows how such a system could be used. If the market experiences a glut due to excess supply caused by a bumper harvest then supply may shift (supply shock) and equilibrium price could be low at point **z** or **pgL**. The government then intervenes and buys the product until such a quantity is bought so that equilibrium price returns to the range i.e **e1 – e3** that was agreed by the stakeholders, in this case government and farmers.

Diagram Tips:

- title must be detailed and include the words 'to show'. Number the diagram
- all key points on diagram must be labeled

Diagram Tips:

- refer to exact points in the diagram from the paragraph/text of answer
- may be drawn in pencil
- underline the title clearly

4. effective paragraphing

- Use "abc" plan for writing
- First sentence(s) of a paragraph have the key information e.g key part of the answer
- Have the answer before you write
- 1 paragraph = 1 main part of answer/significant idea

5. answer the question

- Does the question ask you to?

Explain?
Show?
Examine?
Identify?
Outline?
Compare?
Analyse?
Define?
Construct?
Describe?
Discuss?
Evaluate?

Identify key words in the question!!!

- Use key words in the question when writing your answer
- Follow your abc outline. Or simply use a paragraph plan (p1,p2p3 to briefly plan how your answer will be produced)
- Timing : divide the time available by the number of marks
- Only diagrams can be in pencil

Evaluation in economics: a key skill

4 approaches:

1. Advantages / disadvantages
2. Stakeholders
3. Prioritize
4. Long term/short term

Examples:

1. Evaluate the market system of resource allocation: use 'advantages + disadvantages' approach here
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the market market system: use 'stakeholders' here e.g. consumer + producer surplus
3. Evaluate the main causes of unemployment: use 'prioritize' here to rank the key causes i.e which cause is most prevalent
4. Evaluate how a government manages an economy: use 'short run + long run' here to focus on the importance of how objectives change over time!

NB Evaluate means you make a decision. Your answer must show that you favour one approach or another! E.g. advantages > disadvantages