

Part A: Explain (10 marks)

25 minutes to write your answer.

4 minutes planning

Part B: Evaluate (15 marks)

40 minutes to write your answer.

6 minutes planning time

Webnote 992

How to organise an exam essay in economics? (SI and HI paper 1)

Plan to Explain

PLAN to explain:

Keep it simple! Use an outline to plan your paragraphs but only focus on explaining. This is a dictionary + diagram-based type of question + you must show that you can answer the question with the appropriate factual information. Focus on the key words in the question.

PLAN (P1-P2-P3) to Explain

Make a simple paragraph plan (4 minutes)
Time for answer = 25 minutes.

- Paragraph 1 (P1) Define key terms and Show you can connect the key terms to the question
- In P2 explain (using diagrams where appropriate) these key terms in some detail and with examples explain the answer.
- P3 Make sure you answer the question 'exactly'. See best answers opposite.

Follow the Plan: Read the Plan again while answering the question and make sure you follow your plan. Make changes if you remember something new during the exam.

REMEMBER USE EXAMPLES! In part (B) it should be brief but a real world example(s).

9 Key Concepts

1. Scarcity
2. choice/Opportunity cost
3. efficiency
4. equity
5. Sustainability
6. Change
7. Interdependence
8. Intervention
9. economic well being

PLAN to Evaluate:

Keep it simple! Use an outline to plan your paragraphs. You must define in this part of the answer also but you must also take a multi perspective approach (evaluate) and the plan must contain the answer. Note for effective 'evaluation' you must make a decision. Which argument is most important? You must practice essay writing. 1st sentence in the paragraph is key as is the last sentence. Try using shorter sentences. This reduces confusion that may occur if sentences are too long. **BE SURE TO USE YOUR PLAN TO GUIDE ANSWER!**

Answerability: 2 Writing Tips

PLAN (P1-P2-P3-P4) to Evaluate

Make a paragraph plan (6 minutes)

Time for answer = 40 minutes.

- Paragraph 1 (P1) Define key terms and Show you can connect the key terms to the question. Short paragraph 4-6 lines.
- In P2/3/4 evaluate (using diagrams where appropriate) these key terms in some detail and with examples. When explaining diagram start like this: "This analysis commences at point E1 and take the reader through any subsequent changes (to E2...etc) you are highlighting as the analysis progresses
- P5 Conclusion: make a clear decision showing which of the factors you have considered are most significant. Focus on the exact words in the question (consider using words from the question in your conclusion). This paragraph is also 4-6 lines and includes a clear decision/answer.

2 KEY TIPS when evaluating:

1. Use Real world examples
2. Where relevant to the QUESTION refer to any of the 9 Key concepts ABOVE. These are useful for effective evaluation.

4 ways to Evaluate:

Economics uses these approaches most commonly: (USE 2 OR 3 APPROACHES)

- (1) Advantages versus Disadvantages
- (2) Stakeholders
- (3) Long Run versus Short Run
- (4) Prioritize + suggest best solution

Select the best (1-4 above) type of evaluation.

You can use more than one type of evaluation in your answer e.g. Refer to key stakeholders+ refer to short and long run differences.

7 Tips for Best Answers in Economics:

1. Define +/- explain key economic terms
2. Diagrams used expertly connecting text of answer to diagram
3. Use examples-required for part (b). Diagrams provide examples but try and provide real world examples where appropriate. Collect examples over time in your note taking. Try and use your IA or even your extended essay if relevant.
4. Answer. Stay focused on the question.
5. Plan your answer. Plan your Paragraphs. Separate your answer into clear paragraphs. Each paragraph connects with the question.
6. Start your diagram analysis like this: "This analysis commences at point x where..."
7. Make sure the 1st sentence in each paragraph clearly states your point/argument.

Plan builds answerability