

3.3 The marketing mix

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 29 marks

KEY WORDS promotion 促销 • marketing mix 营销组合 • place 渠道
 • product life cycle 产品生命周期 • penetration pricing 渗透定价

Objective

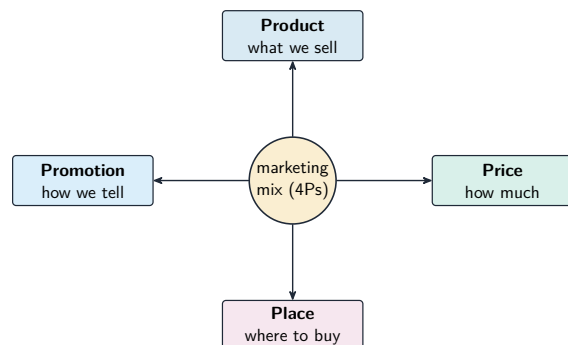
Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **marketing mix** 营销组合 — the **4Ps** (**product**, **price**, **place**, **promotion** 产品、价格、渠道、促销), the **product life cycle** 产品生命周期, pricing strategies, and **promotion** 促销.

You must be able to:

- name the 4Ps and explain how they work together
- describe the product life cycle and extension strategies
- analyse pricing and promotion choices and evaluate the mix for a product

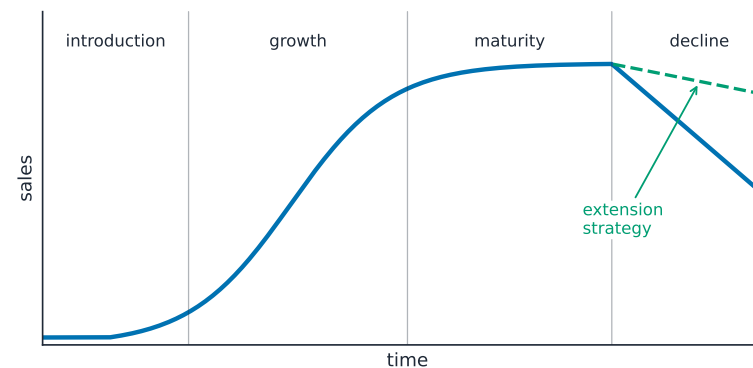
1 Worked examples

■ The 4Ps and the product life cycle



Product, Price, Place and Promotion must work together (integration)

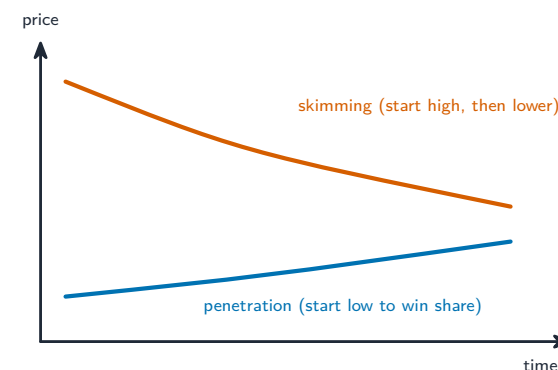
- **Life cycle:** introduction → growth → maturity → decline; **extension strategies** (new packaging, new uses, new markets) hold up sales in maturity.



introduction → growth → maturity → decline (sales over time)

The product life cycle and an extension strategy

- **Pricing:** *penetration* (low price to win share), *skimming* (high price for a new product, then lower), *cost-plus* (margin added to cost).



Two launch pricing strategies over time: penetration vs skimming

- **Promotion:** *above-the-line* (mass-media advertising) and *below-the-line* (targeted: discounts, samples, direct mail).

Answer shapes: an **Evaluate** [12] on “the most important P” must weigh the Ps

against each other and decide *for this product and market*.

2 Practice

2.1 State what the **4Ps** of the marketing mix stand for. [2]

2.2 Define the term *penetration pricing*. [2]

2.3 State the four stages of the product life cycle, in order. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Explain one reason a business might use **price skimming** for a new product. [3]

3.2 Analyse two **extension strategies** a business could use to keep sales of a product high. [8]

3.3 A firm is launching a new smartphone. Evaluate which element of the marketing mix (the 4Ps) is most important to its success. [12]

Solutions

Business answers are marked by **level of response** against the assessment objectives: award **AO1** knowledge, **AO2** application, **AO3** analysis and **AO4** evaluation.

2.1 Product, Price, Place, Promotion (2 for all four; 1 for two or three).

2.2 setting a low price to enter a market and win market share quickly (2 for a clear definition; 1 for a partial idea).

2.3 introduction, growth, maturity, decline (2 for all four in order; 1 for a partial list).

3.1 [3] **AO1** 1 — state a reason (the product is new/unique; to recover development costs; to signal high quality). **AO2** up to 2 — develop it, e.g. early buyers will pay a high price for a new phone → high revenue per unit while there is little competition → development costs recovered quickly (2 developed / 1 limited).

3.2 [8] For **each** of two strategies: **AO1** 1 + **AO2** 1 + **AO3** up to 2. Example chains — *new uses/markets*: selling the product to a new group → reaches buyers it did not have → sales rise again. *Restyling/new packaging*: a fresh look attracts attention → existing customers re-buy and new ones try it → maturity is extended. Maximum 4 per strategy, 8 total.

3.3 [12] **AO1** 2 / **AO2** 2 / **AO3** 2 / **AO4** up to 6. Argue for more than one P: *product* (a phone must work well and stand out), *price* (skimming vs penetration affects sales and image), *promotion* (a crowded market needs strong advertising), *place* (must be easy to buy). Judgement: for a new smartphone the Ps must be **integrated**, but product quality and promotion often matter most at launch — the answer depends on the competition and the target customer.