

9.3 Employment/unemployment

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 22 marks

Objective

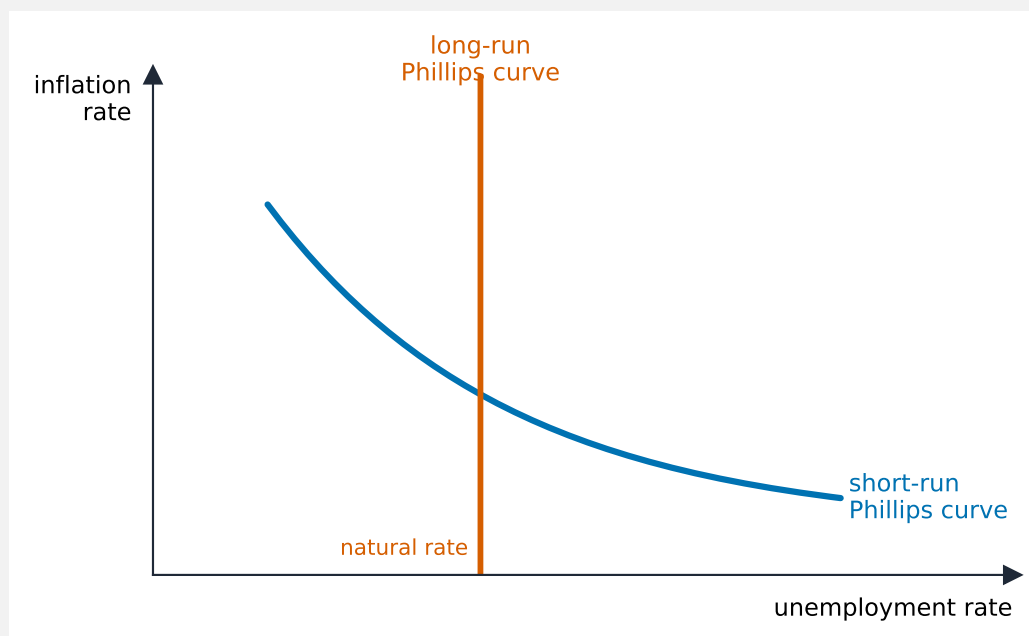
Build the skills to answer exam questions on **employment and unemployment** 就业与失业 at A Level —the **types** of unemployment, the **natural rate** 自然失业率, and the **Phillips curve** 菲利普斯曲线.

You must be able to:

- distinguish the types of unemployment and define the natural rate
- explain the short-run and long-run Phillips curve
- analyse the unemployment–inflation trade-off

1 Worked examples

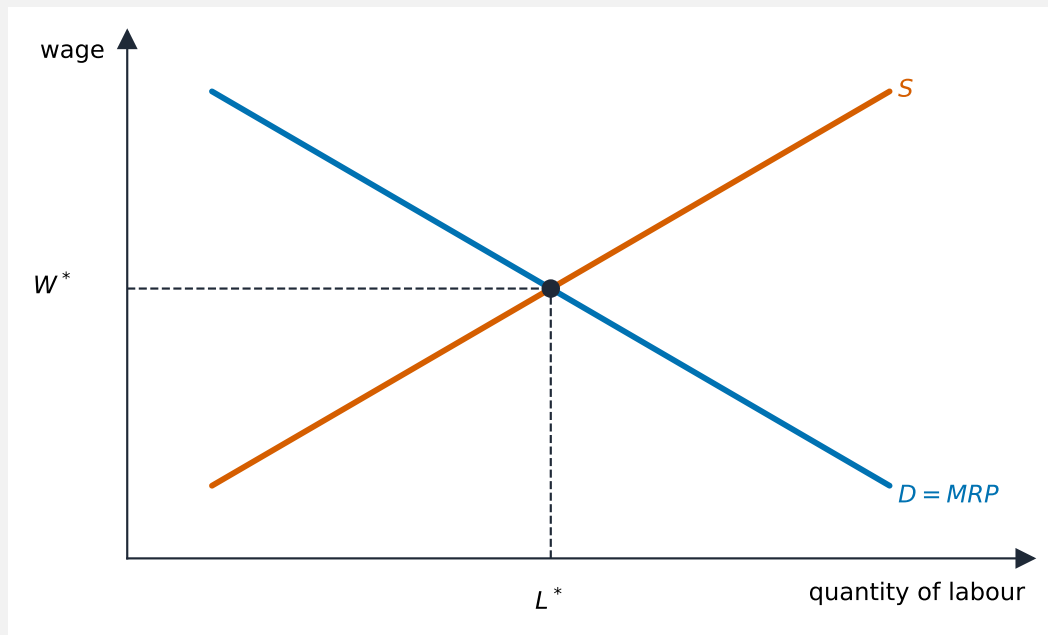
■ The Phillips curve



Short run: a trade-off; long run: vertical at the natural rate

- **Natural rate of unemployment** 自然失业率: what remains when the labour market is in balance (frictional + structural) —not removable by raising demand alone.
- **Short-run Phillips curve:** lower unemployment higher inflation (a trade-off).

- **Long-run Phillips curve:** vertical at the natural rate —no lasting trade-off once inflation is expected.



The natural rate is rooted in the labour market —frictional and structural unemployment at the equilibrium wage

Answer shapes: an **Explain [up to 8]** answer may use a Phillips diagram (AO3); **Discuss [12]** adds a judgement (AO4).

2 Practice

2.1 Define the term *natural rate of unemployment*. [2]

2.2 State what the **short-run** Phillips curve shows. [2]

2.3 State the shape of the **long-run** Phillips curve. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The long-run Phillips curve is: [1]

- **A** downward sloping
 - **B** upward sloping
 - **C** vertical at the natural rate of unemployment
 - **D** horizontal
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3.2 Explain the short-run trade-off between unemployment and inflation. [6]

3.3 Discuss whether a government can permanently reduce unemployment below the natural rate. [12]

4 Go further

You are now ready for the real exam questions on this subtopic. Open the **9.3 Employment/unemployment** past-paper sheet in the Library, or try these in **Practice mode**:

- 9708/33 N25 —Q19 (short-run Phillips curve)
- 9708/33 N25 —Q18 (unemployment)

Solutions

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

2.1 the rate of unemployment that remains when the labour market is in equilibrium —mainly frictional and structural unemployment (2 for a clear definition; 1 for a partial idea).

2.2 an inverse (trade-off) relationship between unemployment and inflation —lower unemployment comes with higher inflation (2 for a clear statement; 1 for a partial idea).

2.3 vertical (at the natural rate) (1).

3.1 C. The long-run Phillips curve is vertical at the natural rate.

3.2 [6] AO1 1 + AO3 up to 5 —to cut unemployment, a government raises aggregate demand → firms hire more, but stronger demand pushes up wages and prices → inflation rises → so in the short run lower unemployment is bought at the cost of higher inflation (a movement along the short-run Phillips curve).

3.3 [12] AO1/AO2/AO3 up to 8 + AO4 up to 4. **Short run:** raising demand can cut unemployment below the natural rate for a while. **Long run:** once workers expect higher inflation, they demand higher wages → unemployment returns to the natural rate while inflation stays high → the long-run Phillips curve is vertical. Judgement: demand policy cannot permanently lower unemployment below the natural rate; only supply-side policies that cut the natural rate (better skills, more flexible labour markets) can —it depends on tackling frictional and structural unemployment.