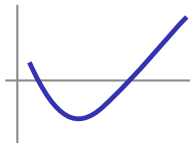


International Economic Issues

A-Level Economics ■ Topic 11

A-Level Economics



What we will cover

- 1 Correcting an imbalance
- 2 The J-curve
- 3 Measuring exchange rates
- 4 Growth vs development
- 5 Comparing countries
- 6 Globalisation



the world as one market

1

Balance of payments

Correcting an imbalance

expenditure-reducing

支出减少

cut demand → fewer imports

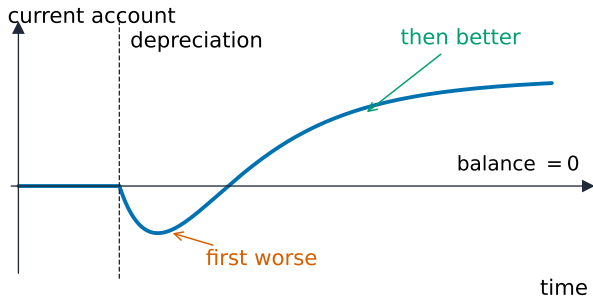
expenditure-switching

支出转换

lower exchange rate
→ home goods

The **Marshall–Lerner condition** 马歇尔勒纳条件: a lower rate helps only if
 $PED_{\text{exports}} + PED_{\text{imports}} > 1$.

The J-curve



The **J-curve effect** J 曲线效应: just after a **depreciation** 贬值, the current account first gets **worse** (imports cost more at once), then **improves** as trade volumes adjust.

J-curve: after depreciation, CA first worse then better

2

Exchange rates

Measuring exchange rates

An **exchange rate** 汇率 is the price of one currency in terms of another – and there is more than one way to measure it:

nominal

名义汇率 –
the everyday
market rate

real

实际汇率 –
adjusted
for prices

trade-weighted

贸易加权汇率 –
average vs all partners

Floating: **appreciation** 升值/**depreciation** 贬值. Fixed: deliberate
reevaluation 法定升值/**devaluation** 法定贬值.

Three ways to measure one exchange rate

Nominal exchange rate

The **nominal exchange rate** 名义汇率 is the everyday market rate between two currencies – the number on the board at the bank.

Real exchange rate

The **real exchange rate** 实际汇率 adjusts that for the difference in prices between the two countries, so it shows true competitiveness.

Trade-weighted

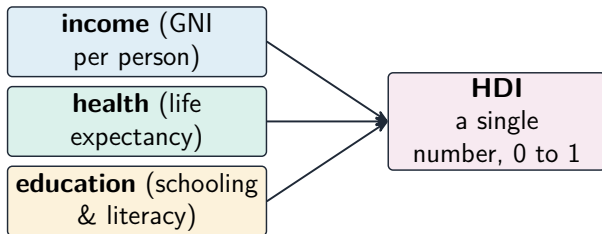
The **trade-weighted exchange rate** 贸易加权汇率, also called the **effective exchange rate** 有效汇率, averages a currency against **all** its partners, weighted by how much trade is done with each.

A currency can rise against the dollar and fall on the trade-weighted measure at the same time – which is why an exam answer must say *which* rate it means.

3

Development

Growth vs development and the HDI



Growth 经济增长 is more income; **development** 经济发展 is wider – health, education & freedom. The **Human**

Development

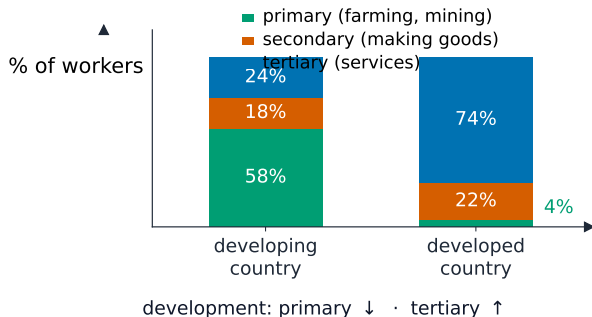
Index 人类发展指数 (HDI) rolls income, **life expectancy** 预期寿命 & education into one number (0–1).

Growth is not development

economic growth 经济增长	a rise in real output – one number, and it says nothing about who received it
economic development 经济发展	a rise in welfare and freedom : health, education, and choice
why they differ	an oil discovery can raise GDP sharply while schooling, health and inequality are unchanged or worse
the HDI 人类发展指数	income, life expectancy and education combined into one index
education measured as	mean and expected years of schooling 受教育年限
other signs	access to clean water, doctors per person, and mobile-phone and internet use

Growth is a **means**; development is the **end**. Every question comparing two countries wants that distinction made explicitly.

Comparing countries



A **developed** 发达国家 vs a **developing** 发展中国家 country differ in income, birth rate & life expectancy.

As a country develops, workers shift **primary** 第一产业 → **secondary** 第二产业 → **tertiary** 第三产业.

Developed and developing, and where the work is

Developed country

A **developed country** 发达国家 has high income per person, low birth rate, high life expectancy and a small share of workers in farming.

Developing country

A **developing country** 发展中国家 has lower income, often high population growth, lower life expectancy and a large farming workforce.

Employment structure

The **employment structure** 就业结构 shifts as a country develops: out of the **primary sector** 第一产业 (farming, mining), into the **secondary sector** 第二产业 (making goods), and later into the **tertiary sector** 第三产业 (services).

Standard of living

Development is about the **standard of living** 生活水平 – health, education and freedom of choice – not income alone.

The sector shares are a development measure in their own right: a stacked bar tells you roughly where a country sits before you look at any income figure.

What actually shapes a country's development

savings and investment	without domestic saving, investment must be borrowed or attracted from abroad
education and health	the productivity of the workforce, and how long it stays productive
infrastructure 基础设施	roads, ports, power, broadband – what every other activity rests on
stable government and law	contracts enforced and property secure, or nobody invests for the long term
access to world markets	landlocked, or facing tariff walls, and the export route closes
the visible marker	the share of workers in farming : small in a developed economy, large in a developing one

None of these acts alone, which is why single-cause explanations of poverty fail. Name at least two and say how they reinforce each other.

4

Globalisation

Relationships between countries

trade – raises income, but volatile primary-export prices

aid 援助 & **debt 债务** – fund development, but risk dependency & repayment drain

FDI 外国直接投资 – money, jobs, technology, but profits may flow abroad

migration 移民 – eases unemployment & sends **remittances 侨汇**, but can drain skills

How rich and poor countries are linked

trade	opens markets and raises income – but a country dependent on one commodity is exposed to its world price
aid 援助	can fund schools and roads – but it may create dependency , or be wasted or diverted
FDI 外国直接投资	foreign direct investment : a multinational corporation 跨国公司 brings money, jobs and technology – but profits leave the country
debt	borrowing funds development – until repayments exceed what development earns
migration	remittances are a major income source – against the loss of the skilled workers who sent them

Every link has a good and a bad side, and the exam always wants both. An answer with only the benefits caps at the description band.

Globalisation



Globalisation 全球化 ties economies together; countries join a **trade bloc** 贸易集团 (e.g. the EU).

- + lower prices, faster growth, larger markets
- – lost jobs, wider gaps, more pollution

Globalisation: what it is, and what it does

globalisation 全球化

growing links between countries – in trade, money, technology and people – so the world acts more like **one market**

a trade bloc 贸易集团

a group trading freely among themselves, like the European Union – free inside, common barriers outside

the gains

faster growth, technology transfer, and poorer countries able to **industrialise**

the costs

the gap between rich and poor can **widen**, and powerful multinationals may avoid tax and dodge **protectionism** 贸易保护主义 rules

and

cultural and environmental effects that no trade statistic records

Globalisation raises **total** world output while distributing it unevenly. Both halves of that sentence are needed for the evaluation mark.

What drives globalisation

Cheaper links

Falling transport and communication costs: a container ship and a fibre-optic cable both shrink distance.

Free trade

Free trade 自由贸易 agreements and lower tariffs let goods cross borders with less friction.

Mobile capital

Investment moves to wherever it earns most, so production is split across countries rather than done in one.

The result

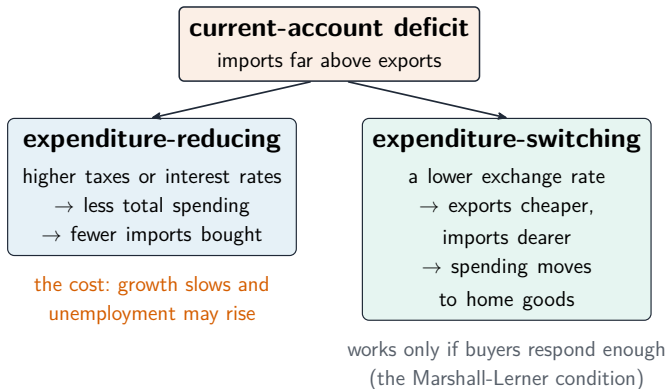
The world acts more like **one market** – in trade, money, technology and people.

Name a cause, then a consequence, then who bears it. “The world is more connected” on its own earns nothing.

Benefits and costs

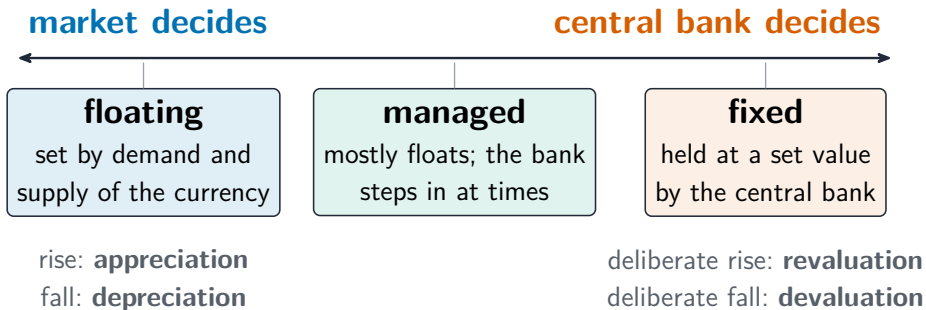
Globalisation helps developed and developing economies in different ways, but the gains are not shared evenly, which is why it remains so argued about.

Correcting a balance of payments imbalance



Two routes out of a deficit: spend less overall, or switch spending to home goods

The three systems



The three exchange-rate systems, and the words for a rise or fall in each

The three exchange-rate systems

Floating

A **floating exchange rate** 浮动汇率 is set by the demand for and supply of the currency. A rise is an **appreciation** 升值, a fall a **depreciation** 贬值.

Fixed

A **fixed exchange rate** 固定汇率 is held at a set value by the central bank. A deliberate rise is a **revaluation** 法定升值, a deliberate fall a **devaluation** 法定贬值.

Managed

A **managed exchange rate** 管理浮动汇率 mostly floats, with the central bank stepping in at times – most real-world currencies sit here.

Why the words matter

Use appreciation/depreciation for a market move, revaluation/devaluation for a policy decision. The examiner reads the choice as evidence you know the system.

One line from “the market decides” to “the central bank decides”: floating, managed, fixed.

Economic development

growth
more income

development
income + health
+ education + freedom

Do not confuse the two. A country can **grow without developing** much, if the extra income goes to a few people. Development means rising incomes **plus** better health, more schooling and more freedom – which is why the HDI combines all three.

Exam tips

- Distinguish **expenditure-reducing** from **expenditure-switching** policies for a deficit.
- Explain the **Marshall-Lerner condition** ($PED_x + PED_m > 1$) and the **J-curve** (the deficit worsens before it improves).
- Compare development with the **HDI** (income, education, health), not GDP alone.
- Evaluate **globalisation** with its winners and losers (growth and choice versus inequality and instability).

5

Recap

Worked example – Marshall-Lerner

After a depreciation, $PED_X = 0.6$ and $PED_M = 0.7$. Will the current account improve?

- Marshall-Lerner: a depreciation improves the current account only if $PED_X + PED_M > 1$.
- $0.6 + 0.7 = 1.3 > 1 \Rightarrow$ **yes, it improves.**
- Exports are cheaper abroad and imports dearer at home, and demand responds **enough** overall.
- In the **short** run demand is inelastic, so it worsens first: the **J-curve**.

Add the two elasticities and compare with 1. Sum $\leq 1 \Rightarrow$ the higher import prices outweigh the extra export volume and the account **worsens**.

Topic 11 – key takeaways

1

J-curve

depreciation: worse first, then better

2

Exchange rates

nominal, real, trade-weighted

3

Development

HDI: income, health & education

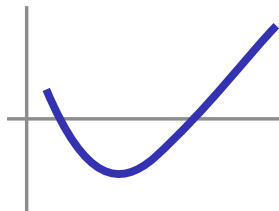
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Globalisation

ties economies – gains shared unevenly

Check yourself

- 1 Just after a depreciation, the J-curve first does what?
- 2 Which rate adjusts for prices between countries?
- 3 Name the three parts of the HDI.
- 4 Workers shift from primary to which sectors as a country develops?



Answers 1. gets worse 2. the real exchange rate 3. income, health, education
4. secondary then tertiary