

6.1 Economic issues

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 16 marks

Objective

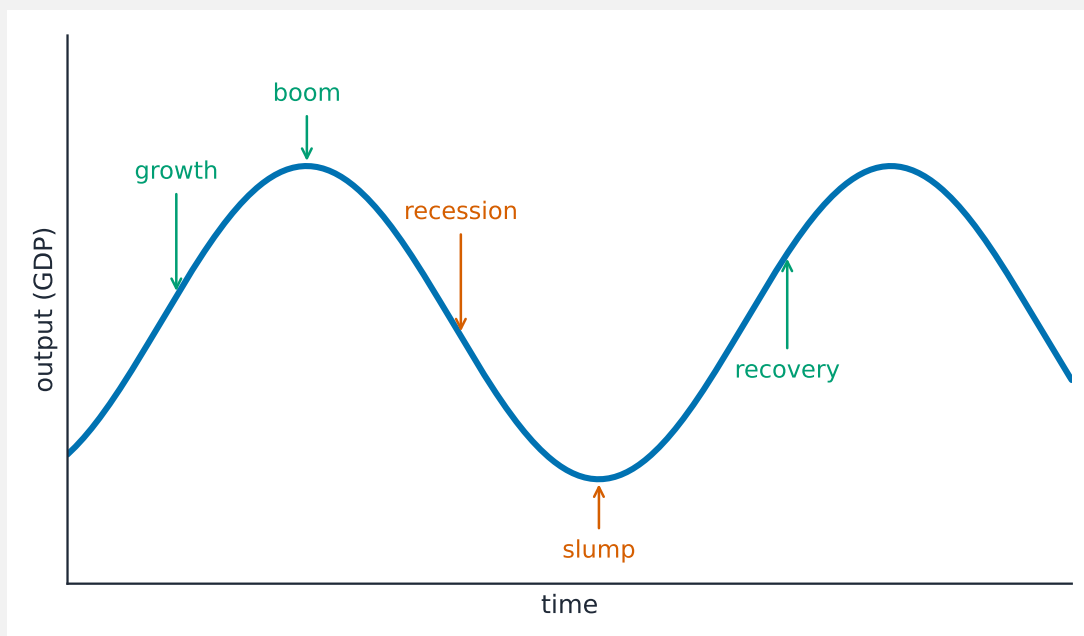
Build the skills to answer exam questions on **economic issues** 经济问题—the **business cycle** 经济周期, and how **taxation**, **interest rates**, **inflation**, **unemployment** and **exchange rates** 税收、利率、通货膨胀、失业、汇率 affect business.

You must be able to:

- describe the stages of the business cycle
- explain how each economic factor affects a business
- analyse how a business should respond to economic change

1 Worked examples

■ The business cycle and economic factors



External influences are outside the business's control

- **Cycle:** growth 增长 → boom 繁荣 → recession 衰退 → slump 萧条 → recovery 复苏.
- **Higher taxes** → less spending, lower profit. **Higher interest rates** → dearer loans, less investment and spending.

- **Inflation** 通货膨胀 → higher costs. **High unemployment** → lower sales but easier hiring.

Answer shapes: K + App + An + Ev (a justified judgement, for "do you think" questions).

2 Practice

2.1 State the five stages of the business cycle. [2]

2.2 State one effect on a business of a rise in interest rates. [2]

2.3 Define the term *inflation*. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Identify two ways a business might respond to a recession. [2]

3.2 Explain two effects on a business of a rise in interest rates. [6]

3.3 Do you think a recession is always bad for every business? Justify your answer. [6]

4 Go further

You are now ready for the real exam questions on this subtopic. Open the **6.1 Economic issues** past-paper sheet in the Library, or try these in **Practice mode**:

- 0450/13 N25 —Q3 (economic issues)
- 0450/11 J25 —Q2 (interest rates / the economy)
- 0450/21 J25 —Q4 (economic change, case study)

Solutions

IGCSE Business answers are marked by **level of response**: award **K** knowledge, **App** application, **An** analysis and **Ev** a justified judgement.

2.1 growth, boom, recession, slump, recovery (2 for all five; 1 for a partial list).

2.2 any one developed effect: loans become dearer so firms invest less; customers borrow and spend less, so sales fall (2 for a developed effect; 1 for a basic one).

2.3 a general, sustained rise in prices (2 for a clear definition; 1 for a partial idea).

3.1 any two of: cut costs; lower prices; sell cheaper products; reduce staff (1 + 1).

3.2 [6] For **each** of two effects: K 1 + An up to 2 —e.g. *dearer borrowing*: a firm with loans pays more interest → lower profit, and it may delay buying new machines. *Lower customer spending*: customers' loans cost more → they spend less → the firm's sales fall. Maximum 3 each.

3.3 [6] Both sides + judgement. **Bad for most**: lower spending means falling sales and profit, and some firms close. **Not always**: sellers of cheap, essential goods (e.g. budget supermarkets) may gain as customers switch to them. **Judgement (Ev)**: a recession harms most businesses, but those selling cheap necessities can do well —so it depends on what the business sells.