

Past-paper walk-through

Workers ■ 3.3

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 0455/11 N25 Q12 ■ 1 mark
- 0455/11 N25 Q13 ■ 1 mark
- 0455/12 N25 Q12 ■ 1 mark
- 0455/13 N25 Q11 ■ 1 mark
- 0455/11 J25 Q1 ■ 1 mark
- 0455/11 J25 Q13 ■ 1 mark
- 0455/12 J25 Q2 ■ 1 mark
- 0455/13 J25 Q11 ■ 1 mark
- 0455/22 J25 Q4 ■ 20 marks
- 0455/21 N24 Q2 ■ 20 marks

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 12

0455/11 N25 ■ Q12 ■ 1 mark

12 The wages of school teachers are rising.

What is **least** likely to be the cause of this?

- A** decreased membership of teaching trade unions
- B** increased awareness among parents about the importance of education
- C** more restrictions on the immigration of teachers from other countries
- D** the opening of new schools by the government

Solution 12

Answer: **A**

Why

- Teachers' wages rise if demand for teachers rises or supply falls.
- Stronger unions, better outside options or higher qualifications required would all raise pay.
- *Decreased* union membership would weaken bargaining power, so it works the other way.

Question 13

0455/11 N25 ■ Q13 ■ 1 mark

13 What is a feature of every trade union?

- A** members are unskilled workers
- B** members use collective bargaining
- C** members work for the same employer

D members work in the same industry

Solution 13

Answer: **B**

Why

- A trade union bargains for its members as a group rather than individually.
- That collective bargaining is what every union does.
- Members need not be unskilled, nor all work for one employer – many unions span an industry.

Question 12

0455/12 N25 ■ Q12 ■ 1 mark

- 12** In which occupations do wages tend to be lowest?
- A** in those where the work is dangerous
 - B** in those where there is an excess supply of labour
 - C** in those where workers belong to trade unions
 - D** in those where workers need long training

Solution 12

Answer: **B**

Why

- Wages are set by the demand for and supply of that particular labour.
- An excess supply of workers pushes the wage down.
- Dangerous or highly skilled work usually pays *more*, to compensate or because supply is limited.

Question 11

0455/13 N25 ■ Q11 ■ 1 mark

11 Worker X earns less than worker Y.

What is most likely to be true of worker X?

- A** They have a longer period of training than worker Y.
- B** They have a longer working day than worker Y.
- C** They have skills that are more in demand than worker Y.

- D** They have weaker bargaining power than worker Y.

Solution 11

Answer: **D**

Why

- Wages reflect the demand for and supply of that kind of labour.
- A worker earning less is likely to be less skilled or in more plentiful supply.
- *Longer* training would raise pay, not lower it.

Question 1

0455/11 J25 ■ Q1 ■ 1 mark

- 1** What is likely to increase the occupational mobility of labour?
- A** increasing entry requirements to professions
 - B** increasing retraining of workers
 - C** introducing job specialisation
 - D** introducing subsidised transport

Solution 1

Answer: **B**

Why

- Occupational mobility is how easily workers move between different *types* of job.
- Retraining gives workers the skills another occupation requires.
- Raising entry requirements would make moving between professions harder, not easier.

Question 13

0455/11 J25 ■ Q13 ■ 1 mark

13 What is a function of a trade union?

- A** to negotiate workers' contracts
- B** to promote workers to more responsible jobs
- C** to recruit workers for the firm
- D** to supervise the workers in the firm

Solution 13

Answer: **A**

Why

- A trade union represents its members collectively.
- Its central function is bargaining over pay and conditions with the employer.
- Recruiting and promoting workers are management functions, not union ones.

Question 2

0455/12 J25 ■ Q2 ■ 1 mark

- 2** Sanjay, a coal miner, became unemployed when the only local mine closed. He lives in a village near family and friends and would like to stay in the same village.

What is the cause of Sanjay's occupational immobility?

- A** a desire to live near family and friends
- B** no relevant skills
- C** the cost of travelling for work
- D** unaffordable housing

Solution 2

Answer: **B**

Why

- Geographical immobility is being unable to move to where the jobs are.
- Sanjay wants to stay near family and friends, so he will not relocate.
- That is geographical, not occupational, immobility – his skills are not the barrier here.

Question 11

0455/13 J25 ■ Q11 ■ 1 mark

- 11** What is a non-wage factor influencing an individual's choice of occupation?
- A** the availability of overtime work
 - B** the hourly rate of pay
 - C** the opportunity to get a financial bonus
 - D** the risk of unemployment

Solution 11

Answer: **D**

Why

- A non-wage factor is anything about a job other than the pay itself.
- Job satisfaction, working conditions, holidays, status and location all count.
- Overtime rates and the hourly rate are both forms of pay, so they are wage factors.

Question 4

0455/22 J25 ■ Q4 ■ 20 marks

4 In 2022, more than a quarter of a million workers, including doctors, left Sri Lanka to work in other countries. This was largely due to economic problems, including an inflation rate of 50% and a concern that unemployment might rise. The Sri Lankan Government increased direct taxation. It also encouraged some public sector workers to work abroad temporarily. People who work abroad often send money home to relatives.

- (a) Identify two types of unemployment. [2]
 - (b) Explain two ways that money received from relatives working abroad could raise their families' living standards. [4]
 - (c) Analyse how an increase in direct taxation could increase unemployment. [6]
 - (d) Discuss whether or not a doctor would benefit from working in another country. [8]
- (a)** (a) Identify two types of unemployment. [2] **[2]**

Question 4

- (b)** (b) Explain two ways that money received from relatives working abroad could raise their families' living standards. [4] **[4]**
- (c)** (c) Analyse how an increase in direct taxation could increase unemployment. [6] **[6]**
- (d)** (d) Discuss whether or not a doctor would benefit from working in another country. [8] **[8]**

Solution 4

(a) Mark scheme

- Identify two types of unemployment.
- Two from:
- Frictional (1) structural (1) cyclical / demand deficient ①
- 2 If more than two types given, consider the first three.
- Also accept voluntary unemployment, involuntary
- unemployment, seasonal, classical, casual, regional,
- technological. Accept demand-deficient as an alternative to
- cyclical.

Solution 4

(b) Mark scheme

- Explain two ways that money received from relatives
- working abroad could raise their families' living
- standards.
- Logical explanation which might include:
- Could spend more on food / buy more products / buy more
- basic necessities have higher purchasing power / more
- income / could increase overall spending (1) reduce poverty
- (1).

Solution 4

- Could spend more on better quality food (1) improve
- nutrition / improve health (1).
- Could spend money on education / training (1) increase
- earning potential / wages (1).
- Could spend on healthcare (1) raise life expectancy (1).
- Could spend on housing (1) reduce illness (1).
- May be able to afford luxuries (1) e.g. may be able to afford
- a holiday / car (1).
- Could set up a small business (1) which could earn them an
- income 1

Solution 4

- Could pay off debts / reduce need to borrow / reduce cost of
- borrowing (1) reduce stress (1).
- Could save more (1) earn interest / pay for e.g.
- healthcare/education of children in the future (1)
- Could work fewer hours / fewer jobs (1) less stress (1).
- 4 One mark each for each of two ways identified and one
- mark each for each of two explanations.
- If more than two ways given, consider the first three.
- No marks for why the money received may be large due to
- e.g. lower tax rates abroad, high exchange rate.

Solution 4

- 0455/22
- May/June 2025
- Mark
- Guidance

Solution 4

(c) Mark scheme

- Analyse how an increase in direct taxation could
- increase unemployment.
- Coherent analysis which might include:
 - ■
- (Increase in) (personal) income tax (1) (increase in) tax
- on wealth (1) would reduce disposable income /
- purchasing power / money available / the amount of
- their wages they can keep (1) reduce consumer

Solution 4

- spending (1) lower total demand (1) lower demand for
- workers (1) as demand for workers depends on demand
- for goods and services / derived demand (1) increase
- cyclical unemployment (1).
- ■
- Reduce incentive to work / encourage workers to leave
- their jobs (1) may now rely on unemployment benefit /
- as may receive more from unemployment benefit than
- from a now lower paid job (1) increase
- frictional/voluntary unemployment (1).

Solution 4

- ■
- (Increase in) corporation (corporate income) tax (1) will
- reduce the amount of profit that can be kept / reduce
- profit (1) firms may reduce output / reduce economic
- growth / may cause a recession / reduce supply / less
- incentive to expand (1) reduce investment (1) result in
- cyclical unemployment (1) may reduce employment to
- cut costs (to maintain profit) (1).
- 6
- 0455/22

Solution 4

- May/June 2025
- Mark
- Guidance

Solution 4

(d) Mark scheme

- Discuss whether or not a doctor would benefit from
- working in another country.
- In assessing each answer, use the table opposite.
- Why they might:
 - ■
 - may be higher paid, higher living standards
 - ■
 - may benefit from lower inflation

Solution 4

- ■
- may benefit from lower taxes
- ■
- may be more chances of gaining a job or gaining a
- promoted post
- ■
- may have better working conditions
- ■
- may have more fringe benefits
- ■

Solution 4

- may gain new skills and experience
- ■
- may be safer environment
- ■
- may be able to send money home to family
- ■
- may provide better opportunities for their children.
- Why they might not:
 - ■
- may have longer working hours

Solution 4

- ■
- may have less holidays
- ■
- may have less job security
- ■
- may miss friends / relatives
- ■
- may face discrimination
- ■
- may face language problems/ cultural differences.

Solution 4

- 8 Maximum of 4 marks if discussing working in another city
- rather than country.
- Level
- Description
- 3
- A reasoned discussion which accurately
- examines both sides of the economic
- argument, making use of economic
- information and clear and logical
- analysis to evaluate economic issues

Solution 4

- and situations. One side of the argument
- may have more depth than the other, but
- overall both sides of the argument are
- considered and developed. There is
- thoughtful evaluation of economic
- concepts, terminology, information
- and/or data appropriate to the question.
- The discussion may also point out the
- possible uncertainties of alternative
- decisions and outcomes.

Solution 4

- 6–8
- 2
- A reasoned discussion which makes use
- of economic information and clear
- analysis to evaluate economic issues
- and situations. The answer may lack
- some depth and development may be
- one-sided. There is relevant use of
- economic concepts, terminology,
- information and data appropriate to the

Solution 4

- question.
- 3–5
- 0455/22
- May/June 2025
- Mark
- Guidance
- Level
- Description
- 1
- There is a simple attempt at using

Solution 4

- economic definitions and terminology.
- Some reference may be made to
- economic theory, with occasional
- understanding.
- 1–2
- 0
- A mark of zero should be awarded for no
- creditable content.
- 0
- 0455/22

Solution 4

- May/June 2025
- Mark
- Guidance

Question 2

0455/21 N24 ■ Q2 ■ 20 marks

2 Unemployment in the United Kingdom (UK) fell in December 2021 to 4.1%. Market forces would usually mean that wages would increase due to this lower unemployment. However, workers' living standards did not increase. New international trade deals were not made fast enough to offset the decreasing trade between the UK and the European Union.

- (a) Identify two ways of measuring unemployment. [2]
 - (b) Explain two factors that could influence living standards, apart from unemployment rates. [4]
 - (c) Analyse how market forces can increase wages. [6]
 - (d) Discuss whether or not free trade between countries increases economic growth. [8]
- (a)** (a) Identify two ways of measuring unemployment. [2] **[2]**

Question 2

- (b)** (b) Explain two factors that could influence living standards, apart from unemployment rates. [4] [4]
- (c)** (c) Analyse how market forces can increase wages. [6] [6]
- (d)** (d) Discuss whether or not free trade between countries increases economic growth. [8] [8]

Solution 2

(a)

Mark scheme

- Identify two ways of measuring unemployment.
- claimant count (1)
- (labour force) survey (1)
- 2

Solution 2

(b) Mark scheme

- Explain two factors that could influence living standards
- apart from unemployment rates.
- Logical explanation which might include:
 - ■
 - income / wage levels (1) higher wages allow people to
 - afford more goods and services (1)
 - ■
 - education (1) high education levels lead greater skills

Solution 2

- and to better paid jobs / lead to high human
- development index (1)
- ■
- health standards / healthcare (1) high health standards
- lead to better enjoyment of life / less illness / better well-
- being (1)
- ■
- cost of living / inflation rate (1) affecting purchasing
- power (1)
- ■

Solution 2

- working hours (1) lower working hours gives more
- leisure time (1)
- ■
- hygiene / sanitation (1) good water quality prevents
- diseases (1)
- ■
- environmental standards (1) e.g. pollution reduces
- quality of life (1)
- ■
- availability of public / merit goods (1) e.g. street

Solution 2

- lights / parks (1)
- ■
- crime rates (1) low crime rates improve safety / quality of
- life (1)
- 4 One mark for each factor identified and one mark for each
- explanation.
- Accept arguments which describe reasons for either
- low / high living standards.
- Accept answers that give HDI (1) with reference to either
- GDP per head, education or health.

Solution 2

- 0455/21
- October/November 2024
- Mark
- Guidance

Solution 2

(c) Mark scheme

- Analyse how market forces can increase wages.
- Coherent analysis which might include:
 - ■
- an increase in demand (1) for labour (1) may increase
- wages if the demand for a product increases (1) i.e.
- derived demand (1), there will be an increase in
- demand for workers producing that product (1) for
- example, if price of substitutes such as robots

Solution 2

- increases, there will be an increase in the demand for
- human labour (1)
- ■
- a decrease in supply (1) of labour (1) may increase
- wages if it is caused by a decrease in the labour force
- (1) or a decrease in number of people qualified / having
- skills in that occupation (1).
- 6 Reward, but do not expect, answers that analyse this
- question using elasticity of demand and supply.
- 0455/21

Solution 2

- October/November 2024
- Mark
- Guidance

Solution 2

(d) Mark scheme

- Discuss whether or not free trade will increase
- economic growth.
- In assessing each answer, use the table opposite.
- Why it might:
 - ■
 - may enable countries to specialise on what they are
 - best at producing
 - ■

Solution 2

- higher competition may increase productivity and lower
- costs of production, increasing demand for their
- products
- ■
- may enable firms to buy raw materials and capital
- goods at a lower price
- ■
- may give firms access to larger markets, enabling them
- to expand output.
- Why it might not:

Solution 2

- ■
- may prevent infant industry from growing
- ■
- may speed up the closure of declining industries
- ■
- may replace domestic output with imports
- ■
- may reduce tax revenue
- ■
- firms may gain monopoly power and may restrict output

Solution 2

- ■
- firms may engage in unfair competition e.g. dumping.
- 8
- Level
- Description
- 3
- A reasoned discussion which
- accurately examines both sides of
- the economic argument, making
- use of economic information and

Solution 2

- clear and logical analysis to
- evaluate economic issues and
- situations. One side of the
- argument may have more depth
- than the other, but overall both
- sides of the argument are
- considered and developed. There
- is thoughtful evaluation of
- economic concepts, terminology,
- information and / or data

Solution 2

- appropriate to the question. The
- discussion may also point out the
- possible uncertainties of
- alternative decisions and
- outcomes.
- 6–8
- 0455/21
- October/November 2024
- Mark
- Guidance

Solution 2

- 2
- A reasoned discussion which
- makes use of economic
- information and clear analysis to
- evaluate economic issues and
- situations. The answer may lack
- some depth and development may
- be one-sided. There is relevant
- use of economic concepts,
- terminology, information and data

Solution 2

- appropriate to the question.
- 3–5
- 1
- There is a simple attempt at using
- economic definitions and
- terminology. Some reference may
- be made to economic theory, with
- occasional understanding.
- 1–2
- 0

Solution 2

- A mark of zero should be awarded
- for no creditable content.
- 0
- 0455/21
- October/November 2024
- Mark
- Guidance