

Cambridge International Examinations

Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level

ECONOMICS 9708/22

Paper 2 Data Response and Essay

February/March 2016 1 hour 30 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Section A

Answer this question.

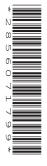
Brief answers only are required.

Section B

Answer any **one** question.

You may answer with reference to your own economy or other economies that you have studied where relevant to the question.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.



CAMBRIDGE

International Examinations

Section A

Answer this question.

The impact of changes in the world energy market

Extract 1: The growth of solar power

1

As technology continues to improve rapidly, solar power is now so cheap that it competes with oil. Around 29% of electricity generating capacity added in the United States (US) in 2013 came from solar power. The average price of solar power in the US has dropped from US\$6 per unit in 2010 to US\$2.59 per unit in 2014. It is expected that this fall will continue to US\$2.30 per unit by 2015 and US\$1.60 per unit by 2020. We have now entered an era of falling energy prices that must damage the producers of oil, gas and other fossil fuels.

Source: Daily Telegraph, 9 April 2014

US\$ per barrel 105 100 95 90 Feb Mar Apr May June Jul Aug Sept

Fig. 1: Crude Oil Prices, 2014

Source: Highcharts.com

© UCLES 2016 9708/22/F/M/16

Extract 2: Venezuela vulnerable to falling oil prices

	Content	removed	due 1	to co	pyright	restrictions
--	---------	---------	-------	-------	---------	--------------

- 1 (a) Compare the trend in the price of crude oil between April 2014 and June 2014 with that between June 2014 and September 2014. [2]
 - (b) Use a demand and supply diagram to show the change in the average price of a unit of solar power referred to in the article. [2]
 - (c) (i) What formula would you use to measure the relationship between the change in the price of solar power and the change in the demand for oil? [1]
 - (ii) What would you expect this measure to show in this case? Explain your answer. [3]
 - (d) In Venezuela the state-owned industry sells gasoline (petrol) at a price below the market price. Explain the likely economic effects if the price mechanism were allowed to operate without government interference in Venezuela. [6]
 - (e) Venezuela was facing a recession, high inflation and the government had problems in balancing its budget. Controls on foreign exchange and imports have been used to keep the exchange rate of Venezuela's currency, the bolivar, stable. Discuss whether a devaluation of the bolivar might be considered a 'dangerous step' or the solution to Venezuela's economic problems.

4

Section B

Answer one question.

- 2 (a) Explain, using examples, why the prices charged for merit goods and demerit goods in a free market do not reflect the value to consumers.
 [8]
 - (b) Discuss the effectiveness of subsidies and indirect taxes in ensuring that the correct prices for merit and demerit goods are charged in the market. [12]
- 3 (a) Explain two factors that are likely to make the supply of a product relatively price-inelastic.[8]
 - (b) Discuss the policies that governments might use to increase the price elasticity of supply of essential goods, and assess the likely effectiveness of such policies. [12]
- (a) Outline the components of aggregate demand and explain one cause of an increase and one cause of a decrease in aggregate demand in an economy.
 - (b) Compare **two** policies that may be considered to solve the problem of demand-pull inflation and evaluate which is likely to be the more effective. [12]

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge International Examinations Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cie.org.uk after the live examination series.

Cambridge International Examinations is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.

© UCLES 2016 9708/22/F/M/16