

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS RESEARCH PROJECT MARKING CRITERIA

These marking criteria have been devised to provide teachers with a framework within which to assess project work in Agricultural Economics.

The practical/project work merits 80 marks, representing 20% of the total mark for the subject (Rules and Programme for Secondary Schools). The scale of the project should reflect the marks available.

The general headings under which the practical work is to be assessed are: Aim of project; Method employed; Records; Evaluation of records – economic principles; and Implications of principles as evidenced by projects. **The candidate should be aware of each criterion and the work undertaken should reflect the marks allocated to each section.**

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

AIM OF PROJECT

The aim is the stated object of the exercise, i.e. what the candidate hopes will be achieved by the project. The aim of the project should be clear and should be related specifically to some aspect(s) of the syllabus. A clear single statement or a brief paragraph setting out the aim(s) will suffice.

Clarity (making a clear statement or set of statements): 5 marks

Relevance (relating the aim(s) to aspect(s) of the syllabus): 5 marks

METHOD EMPLOYED

The candidate should make a considered choice of method for the project. This should be reflected in the main body of the work. There should be evidence of planning and background research. This should show how the candidate arrived at the method chosen. There should be a clear link between the aim(s) of the project and the method chosen. Where the project involves desk research, a bibliography should be furnished. Various information gathering techniques might be employed. Sources of information should be identified (Published statistics; reference books; newspapers; questionnaires; interviews; surveys; library research; visits to companies; farms; farming bodies; internet; etc.). Genuine research must be carried out

Steps Involved in Arriving at Method(s): 5 marks

Suitability of Method(s) in Relation to Stated Aim(s): 5 marks

RECORDS

Records must be present. They may include one or more of the following: copies of letters; completed questionnaires; national statistics; survey results; maps; photos; graphics; accounting records (for farm accounts option); records of interviews, etc. Tape or video recordings and computer files are acceptable as records provided their content is reflected in the main document. There may be selective use of transcription and published materials. **It should be noted that, in the case of a project involving desk research, a candidate might be tested in the oral examination on familiarity with materials cited.**

Records (that a reasonable volume of suitable material is present): 10 marks

Quality of Records (how relevant the content is): 10 marks

Accessibility (order of presentation; organisation of records): 10 marks

EVALUATION OF RECORDS – ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES

Reference should be made to economic principles or concepts when evaluating the records presented. These may include: demand and supply; forces that influence agricultural prices; the allocation of resources within agriculture; factor price formation, etc. Candidates should be able to critically evaluate the records and should show a clear knowledge of underlying economic concepts. Managerial economic concepts may also be included, especially for evaluation of farm accounts e.g., costing ; return on capital ; diminishing returns to scale ; etc.

Economic Principles: 5 marks

Linking of Records to Economic Principles: 5 marks

Critical Evaluation (overall judgement): 5 marks

IMPLICATIONS OF PRINCIPLES AS EVIDENCED BY PROJECT(S)

Candidates should be able to interpret the information and make appropriate recommendations based on that interpretation. The specific aim(s) of the project should be achieved and the analysis of results/outcomes of the investigation should be compared against the stated aim(s). There should be evidence of development, analysis and interpretation of information. The outcome of the research and how it relates to the aim(s) of the project should be evaluated.

Interpretation of Information: 5 marks

Recommendation(s): 5 marks

Link With Stated Aim(s): 5 marks.

DISCLOSURE OF MARKS

Teachers should under no circumstances disclose the marks awarded to any candidate. This is because the mark that you award may not be the final mark which the candidate receives. The final mark awarded is at the determination of the Agricultural Economics Monitor and your marks may be moderated up or down arising from the monitoring process. In these circumstances, providing information to candidates about the marks that you believe their work merits could be very misleading. The final mark (i.e. the monitored mark) will be accessible to candidates under Data Protection legislation after the release of the provisional examination results. You should note that as the teachers' assessment of the marks to be awarded were provided to the SEC by way of an opinion they will not be disclosed to candidates. This is in line with data protection legislation.