

Costs and benefits

CONTENTS

- Private, external and social costs
- Private, external and social benefits
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Concepts of Marginal private benefit, Marginal private cost, Marginal social benefit (MSB) and Marginal social cost (MSC)

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Private costs + External costs = Social costs

Private costs

The private costs are those costs that are paid for by someone who produces or consumes a good or service.

For example, the driver of a car pays for the insurance, road tax, petrol and the cost of purchasing the car.

2 External costs

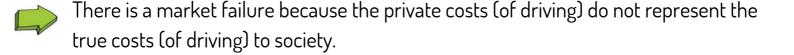
The external costs are the negative side-effects of production or consumption incurred by third parties, for which no compensation is paid.

For example, a car driver does not pay for the cost of the congestion and air pollution created when driving the car.

Social costs

The social costs are the total costs to society.

The true cost of a car journey is called the social cost.



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Private benefits + external benefits = Social benefits

Private benefit

The private benefits are those that accrue solely to the individual making the action.

When a person has a vaccination against tuberculosis, they receive the private benefit of being immune to the disease.

2 External benefit

External benefits are the positive side-effects of production or consumption incurred by third parties.

When a person has a vaccination against tuberculosis, other people are also protected from this highly contagious disease.

3 Social benefit

The social benefits of a decision are all of the benefits that accrue from that decision.

The true benefit of the vaccination is called the social benefit.



This is an example of market failure because there are external benefits to society of vaccination programmes. If vaccinations were left to the choice of individuals, they would be under-consumed, mainly due to the price that would be charged for them.

Cost-benefit analysis

Cost-benefit analysis is a technique used to help governments decide whether to go ahead with various projects such as a new motorway, a bypass, an underground line, a hospital, a health-care programme, a dam. and so on.

Stages



Identify all costs and benefits

The first stage is to identify all of the relevant costs and benefits arising out of any particular project.

- The private costs
- The private benefits
- The external costs
- The external benefits.

An issue with externalities is that it is difficult to put a cost upon it. How do you put a monetary value on air pollution?

2

Monetary value

The second stage involves putting a **monetary value** on the various costs and benefits.

3 Decision making

The results of the earlier stages are drawn together so that the outcome can be presented in a clear manner in order to aid decision making.

Concepts of Marginal private benefit, Marginal private cost, Marginal social benefit (MSB) and Marginal social cost (MSC)

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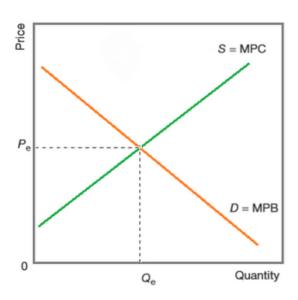
Marginal private benefit = Marginal private cost

The demand curve represents the benefits that consumers derive from consuming a good as measured by the prices they are willing to pay. For this reason, the demand curve is also known as the marginal private benefit (MPB) curve.

The supply curve shows the firm's costs of production; these are marginal costs, hence the supply curve is also known as the marginal private cost (MPC) curve.

Allocative efficiency (no externalities)

If there are no externalities present, then the best outcome is at price Pe and output Qe. Any variation from this optimum will be a situation of market failure or allocative inefficiency.



Social benefit maximisation which maximises the public interest or the welfare of the whole society occurs when:

Marginal social benefit (MSB) = Marginal social cost (MSC)

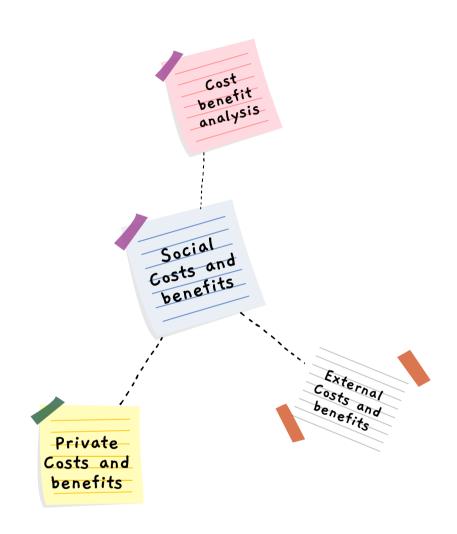
Social benefit is defined by the private benefit plus external benefit:

marginal social benefit (MSB) = marginal private benefit (MPB) + marginal external benefit (MEB)

Social cost is defined by the private cost plus external cost:

marginal social cost (MSC) = marginal private cost (MPC) + marginal external cost (MEC)





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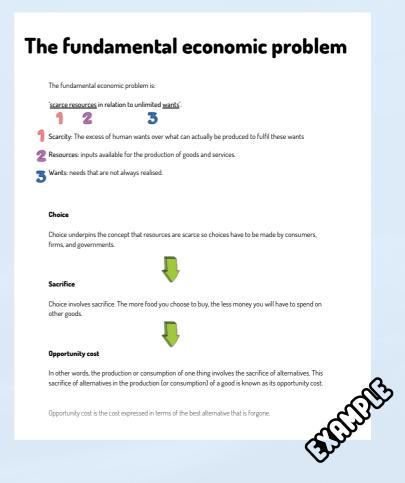
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Question

'Both the take-up rate and number of journeys per bus pass have been falling in recent years.'

Explain two factors which could lead to an increase in the demand for bus travel in the future.

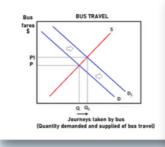
(10 marks)

Category: Demand and supply

AQA AS ECONOMICS November

Tip: Generally, AQA exam questions are accompaned by an extract (although we have not included in here for simplicity). To scare higher marks, refer book to the data (facts and figures) given in the extract, when writing your essayl. Note that in this question you are casked to "explain TVO factors". In this case, it's a good idea to break your essay into two parts: Factor 1 and factor 2. (8tep t: Define 'demand' in the introduction) Demand refers to both the willingness and the ability of customers to pay a given price to buy a good or service. There are several factors which could lead to an increase in the demand for bus travel in the future. (Step 2: Explain TWO factors which could increase the demand for bus travel.) We Factor 1: A change in tastes or social norms will increase the demand for bus travel. The count of the process of the proces

3. Tills



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Read the Requirements

Always read the requirement first as this enables you to focus on the detail of the question with the specific task in mind.

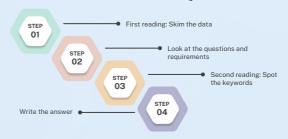
What is the point in reading a scenario if you don't know what you are looking for? If you don't read and understand the requirements carefully, then you will find that you are not actually answering the question. If you are not answering the question, then you are not earning marks.

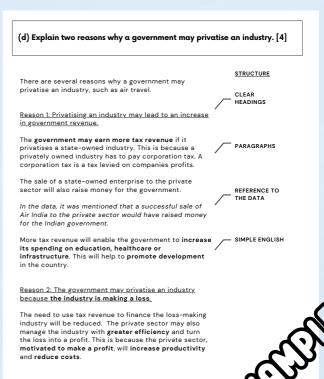
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STEPS TO ANSWER A DATA RESPONSE QUESTION





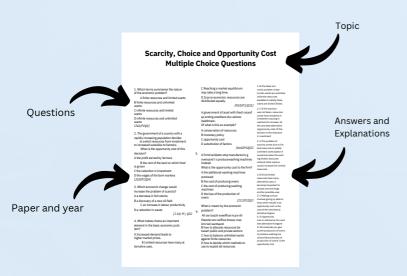


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02	Production Possibility Curves	
03	Classification Of Goods And Services	
04	The Price System And The Micro Economy	
05	Price Elasticity	
06	The Macro Economy	
07	International Trade	
80	Protectionism	
09	Exchange Rates	
10	Government Macro Intervention	

01	Economic Problems	O level
02	Factors of Production	topics
03	Economic Systems	
04	Demand, Supply and Equilibrium	
05	Perfect Competition and Monopoly	
06	Aims of Government and its Role	
07	Market Failure	
08	Public Expenditure vs Private Expenditur	
09	Banks and Stock Exchanges	
10	Labour Market	
11	Motives for Spending, Saving and Borrowing	
12	Different Types and Sizes of Firms	
13	Production, Costs, Revenues and Profits	

A level topics

01	Law of Diminishing Marginal Utility, Indifference Curves and Budget Lines.
02	Types of Cost, Revenue and Profit
03	Firms and Market Structures
04	Efficient resource allocation
05	Equity and Policies towards Income and Wealth Redistribution
06	Labour Market Forces
07	National Income Statistics
08	The Circular Flow of Income
09	Money Supply (theory)
10	Economic Growth, Economic Development and Sustainability
11	Government Macroeconomic Policy Aims







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Introducing Economics

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The basic economic problem
Scarcity, choice and opportunity cost
The Production Possibility Curve (PPC)
The economic problem
Economic systems



Basic economic ideas

Topics

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Economic systems

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Chapter 4

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