

Conclusion(s)/recommendation(s)

Candidate 1

Topic – what have been the main economic impacts of covid 19 on the UK economy?

Conclusions/Recommendations

I conclude that the Covid 19 pandemic had a huge effect on the UK Economy, inflation fell below the government's target of 2% CPI, **this is because my evidence shows that** aggregate monetary demand in the economy fell during the lockdowns.

I conclude that the Covid 19 pandemic had a huge effect on the UK Economy, the unemployment rate rose from around 4% to around 5% in the first year of the pandemic, **this is because my evidence shows that** many businesses had to lay off staff in order to cut costs and maintain profit margins during the pandemic.

I conclude that the Covid 19 pandemic had a huge effect on the UK Economy, government borrowing rose significantly during the pandemic, which lead to the national debt **rising this is because my evidence shows that** there was a significant increase in the need for spending in the NHS and the government supported many businesses throughout the pandemic and the government borrowed almost £300bn to help cover the extra costs of the pandemic.

I recommend that the government are more prepared in the future, with enough personal protective equipment stored, **this means that** it will prevent them from overspending again during an unprecedented event such as a pandemic, this will save them money in the future and prevent another shortage.

I recommend that the government decrease borrowing to stop national debt increasing so much, **this will mean that** debt repayments will stop rising so fast which will save the government some money as debt repayments are going to start rising as base rates start to rise.

Candidate 2

Topic – to what extent will the bank of England raising interest rates further impact the UK economy?

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I conclude increase of interest rates should overall have positive effect on the economy in tackling high inflation and growth of prices in. Because evidence shows consumers are less likely to spend money on goods/services when interest rates are high, therefore keeps prices from increasing quickly due to fall in levels of aggregate demand, a result of reduced consumption.

I conclude high interest rates have benefits and draw backs to the economy. As my evidence showed that firms are less likely to invest in more capital or new premises while interest rates are high. Reducing economic growth, slowing down inflation. However lack of economic growth could result in increase in unemployment as firms are not receiving as much demand, therefore do not need their full work force.

I recommend that the government does not continue to increase the interest rates further. My evidence suggests larger increases will result in consumers losing confidence as they have experienced a reduction of disposable income due to increased rates of payments.

I recommend that interest rates are not high for a long period. I found firms may need to reduce size of workforce by making some employees redundant, which will increase the government's costs as more people require welfare benefits. If rates become lower these people may be able to find work as firms experiencing an increase in demand as interest rates fall, requiring them to increase supply.

Candidate 3

Topic – what has been the impact of minimum alcohol pricing on the Scottish economy?

Conclusions/Recommendations

My first conclusion that I can make is that the introduction of minimum unit pricing has had an overall positive impact on the individual. The main positive introduction of minimum unit pricing has seen a fall in the number of alcohol-related deaths in Scotland. There has been a 10% fall in the number of alcohol-related deaths signalling that minimum unit pricing has been having an impact. This suggests that minimum unit pricing has been having a positive impact on the individual and that it also benefits the Government as they don't have to spend as much on health due to the drop in alcohol-related health issues.

I can also conclude that the reduced sales of cheaper alcohol will have a negative effect on the firms. The introduction of minimum unit pricing on alcohol will limit the individuals buying power as the price would have increased, this means that firms will lose profit that they had before minimum unit pricing. This could potentially have a negative effect on the Scottish Government as firms could be less likely to invest in the Scottish economy as a result of the fall in profits.

I can recommend that the minimum unit price should be raised from 50p to 65p due to the fact that Scotland still has the highest alcohol death rate in the UK. Raising the minimum price of a unit of alcohol would help reduce alcohol-related health problems, as an increase to the minimum unit price would reduce

individuals buying power for cheaper alcohol and would also benefit the Scottish government as it would help bring down alcohol-related crime and health issues.

I can also recommend that the Scottish Government use advertising to educate individuals on the danger of binge drinking cheap alcohols. Education could potentially help the Government as it could lower hospital admissions related to alcohol. This would benefit the individual as it would help improve their health due to a possible reduction in binge drinking.

Finally I can also recommend that the Scottish Government should increase tax on drinks companies. A tax would lead to an increase in the price of alcohol without needing to increase the minimum unit price. The additional revenue from the tax would benefit the Government as it allows them to spend more money on other things such as education and transport.