

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidates have achieved the following marks for the findings, analysis and interpretation (Section 3) of the assignment.

Example 1 – excerpt

Purpose: ‘to explore the effect that the cost-of-living crisis has had on economic agents’

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** for this extract.

The topic is effect of the cost-of-living crisis, yet the finding is about corporate profits, with no link between the two.

The statement that increasing corporate profits means that there is less competition between firms is a non-sequitur and does not demonstrate a causal link. Also, there is no link between the finding (ie increasing corporate profits) and small firms going out of business.

Points leading from the original unrelated finding cannot gain marks.

If the candidate had given a finding about business failure, it could have led to marks for higher unemployment, lower consumer spending leading to lower profits.

Example 2 – excerpt

Purpose: ‘to investigate the effects of the recent UK strikes on individuals, firms, and the government in the UK’

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** for this extract.

The topic is the effect of UK strikes. The finding is that transport costs have risen. There may well be a link between strikes and transport costs (depending on who is on strike) but this finding does not link increased transport costs to the strikes. Therefore, saying that the strikes are causing higher costs for firms is not valid here.

Points leading from the original potentially false premise cannot gain marks.

If the candidate had given a finding about strikes causing increased costs, it could have led to marks for lower investment and growth.

Alternatively, the assignment title and purpose could have been changed to reflect the findings.

Example 3 – excerpt

Purpose: ‘to investigate the effects of the recent UK strikes on individuals, firms, and the government in the UK’

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for this extract.

The topic is the effect of UK strikes. The finding is that firms have concerns about inflation and energy prices. The candidate has not used the finding to make any analytical points.

However, the candidate gives and develops an accurate definition of inflation which gains all 3 available theory marks.

Candidates should ensure that they link their findings with the purpose of the report.

Example 4 – excerpt

Purpose: ‘to explore and enquire about the impact of the Ukraine Russia war and how it has impacted the UK economy and standards of living’

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** for this extract.

The candidate has inaccurately paraphrased the finding (which the original source gave as the UK has ‘spent £1.3bn in support of Ukraine in humanitarian aid and in military aid’) by merging the spending into ‘relief aid’. However, the point that the candidate is making about less spending being available in the UK is true, therefore both the finding and the analysis marks were given.

It is good practice for candidates to give each of their finding as a quote, this helps avoid inaccurate paraphrasing.

The candidate makes three theory points within the paragraph: a definition of occupational mobility, an example of opportunity cost, followed by a definition of opportunity cost, all of which gain marks.

The finding in the second paragraph does not come from the Express article, therefore is deemed to be unsourced and does not gain a mark.

It is recommended that candidates start each new finding with its source, even if the source is the same one as the previous paragraph.

Example 5 – excerpt

Purpose: ‘to explore and enquire about the impact of the Ukraine Russia war and how it has impacted the UK economy and standards of living’

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** for this extract.

The candidate has included a graph. The topic is the impact of the Ukraine Russia war. The graph shows changing oil prices. The candidate gives no link between the war and oil prices. Points coming from an unrelated finding do not gain marks.

If the candidate had described what was happening in the graph, for example by stating that the price of oil had risen sharply at the start of 2022 which coincided with the start of the war, this would link the finding to the topic.

The candidate then goes on to say that inflation has caused transport costs to rise. Given that the information in the graph shows changes in the oil prices, the point could be that high oil prices have caused inflation to rise, or that high oil prices have caused transport costs to rise.

Candidates should ensure that they take the reader through the various steps of their argument, so they avoid presenting leaps in logic or assumptions.

Example 6 – excerpt

Purpose: ‘to investigate how the rising energy prices are affecting the UK economy’

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** for this extract.

The candidate cites the London School of Economics as a source but does not give any details about it in the Research Sources section, or the appendix, therefore this is taken as an unsourced finding, which gains no marks.

The candidate says that having an inflation rate of 10% means that the UK is more vulnerable as 85% of households use gas boilers. The candidate goes on to say that people would be wary of using electricity. There is no source given for the rate of inflation or for the facts about gas boiler usage. There is no link between inflation and gas prices or gas boilers. The link between spending a lot [on gas] and being cautious of spending on electricity is not clear. The candidate therefore gains no marks.

Candidate should make sure that they reference their sources and are clear that their analysis matches their findings.

Example 7 – excerpt

Purpose: ‘to investigate the impacts of the exit from the EU on the UK’

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** for this extract.

Firstly, when looking at the original BBC source that the candidate cites, it does not say anything about raising taxes. This is therefore an unsourced finding and can gain no marks.

Secondly, the candidate gives no reference for ‘The Rate Inflation’ article which is quoted. This is an unsourced finding and can gain no marks.

Thirdly, the topic is the impact of Brexit. The findings are about taxes and inflation. However, the only reference to Brexit is to note that December 2022 is ‘post-Brexit’ which is not a causal link between taxes, inflation and Brexit therefore the candidate cannot gain marks.

Additionally, the theory about inflation and the speed of price changes is unclear and therefore cannot gain a mark.

At the end of the paragraph, the candidate makes a recommendation which is ineligible for marks in the FAI section of the report.

To avoid making recommendations in the FAI section, candidates could use the ‘find’ facility in Word to look for ‘should’ ‘must’, ‘need to’, ‘have to’, etc in their FAI section, as these phrases tend to indicate that a recommendation has been made.

Example 8 – excerpt

Purpose: ‘to investigate the impacts of the exit from the EU on the UK’

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for this extract.

The text beside the graph states that after Brexit the UK GDP decreased by 5.5%, however it is not possible to see that in the vertical bars. The background information of the report states that Brexit happened in January 2020, yet the right-hand bar for each group is 2016-2022 which encompasses both Brexit and Covid, so the rate of GDP cannot be attributed to Brexit.

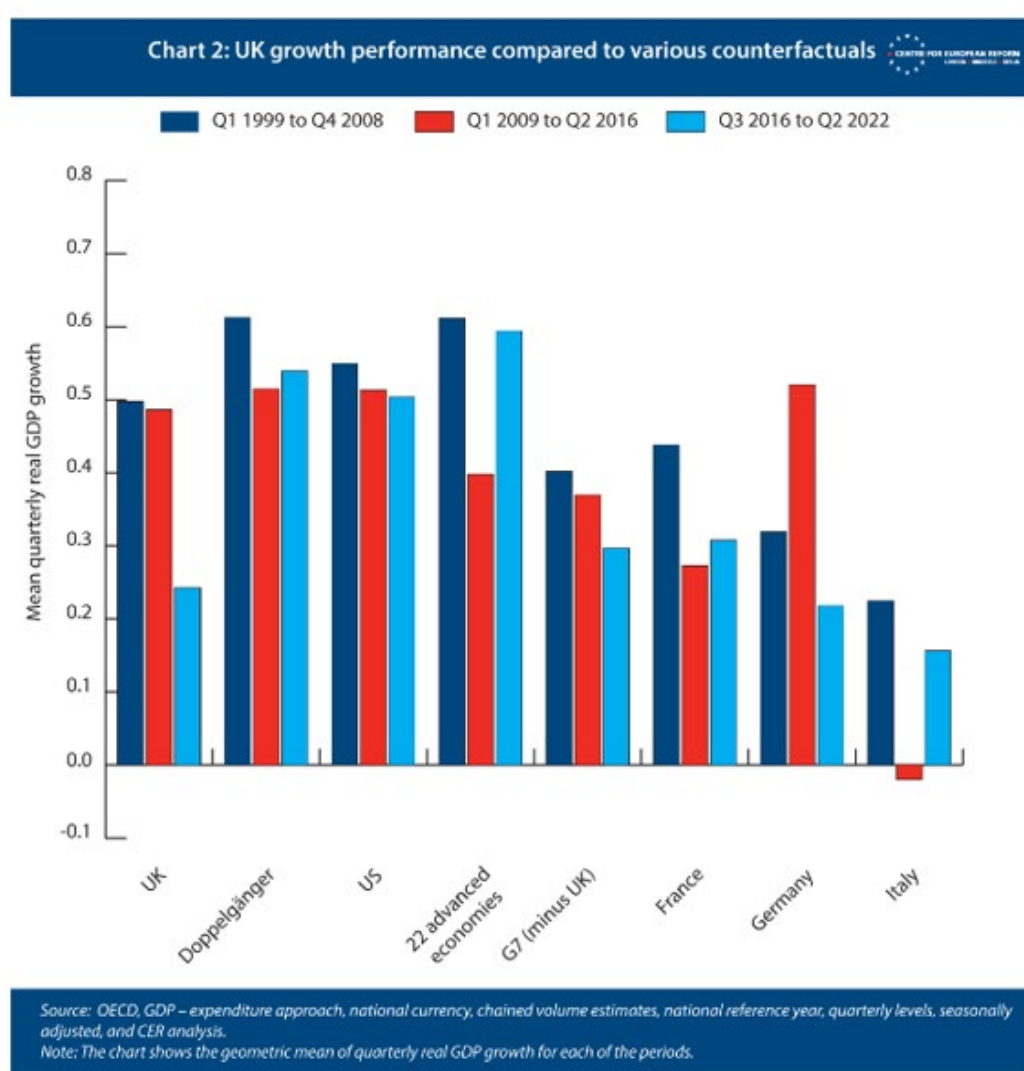
A finding mark was given for saying that the UK was growing less than some EU and worldwide countries.

The candidate attempts to make a point of analysis by saying that the UK economy is not growing at the same rate as other countries. However, this is just a paraphrase of their finding, so does not gain a mark.

The phrase ‘therefore businesses and workers country’s economy is shrinking’ does not make sense and therefore cannot gain marks. Candidates should proofread their work carefully before submitting it.

The original graph is shown below. Candidates should be aware that their reports are scanned in black and white which can make some graphs hard to read.

Candidates should ensure any graphs they use are large enough to be clearly readable, even if this takes up a lot of space, as marks cannot be awarded for information that is not clear.



Example 9 – excerpt

Purpose: ‘to answer the question of how UK firms/businesses have been affected by covid19’

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** for this extract.

The previous paragraph (not shown) was from [The impact of the coronavirus so far: the industries that struggled or recovered – Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#).

The two findings in this paragraph are from a different source ([An overview of workers who were furloughed in the UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)) and are therefore unsourced and cannot be awarded marks.

The candidate was awarded a mark for analysis of the first unsourced finding about business closures and furlough and one for analysis of the second unsourced finding about unemployment.

The candidate was awarded a theory mark for a correct definition of unemployment.

The third analysis point refers to the first unsourced finding about businesses closing (which takes this to the maximum of 2 analysis marks from one unsourced finding).

The fourth analysis point refers to the second unsourced finding about unemployment (which takes this to the maximum of 2 analysis marks from one unsourced finding, and the maximum of 4 analysis marks from unsourced findings in the FAI section).

Candidates should start each new finding with its source and finish their analysis from one finding before moving onto another.

Example 10 – excerpt

Purpose: ‘to discuss the causes of inflation and how it impacts the UK economy’

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for this extract.

The candidate has used Economics Help as their source. The source, Economics Help, has already done the analysis and therefore the candidate gains 1 mark for the whole page as a Finding.

Candidates should use this type of source as background reading, rather than findings.

Example 11 – excerpt

Purpose: ‘to see the economic impact of the oil and gas industry on the UK economy’

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for this extract.

The candidate gives a finding that the UK energy market is made up of 45% fossil fuels. The analysis that follows does not come from the finding and therefore cannot gain any analysis marks.

The candidate could have found information about alternative energy sources or information about oil and gas shortages to link to high energy prices or lack of supply for consumers.

Example 12 – excerpt

Purpose: ‘to investigate the affects the Russia VS Ukraine war has on the UK economy’

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** for this extract.

The topic is the effect of the Ukraine war on the UK economy. The candidate had previously stated that there was a ban on UK imports of Russian oil and that the cost of living in the UK had risen due to inflation caused by the Russia-Ukraine war. This makes the BBC News finding a repeat.

The candidate has listed 3 articles from the BBC in the appendices. The candidate has not specified which of the 3 articles they refer to in this excerpt. Candidates should always be clear about which source is used for each finding.

In addition, the finding from the Commons Library that the price of heating went up does not lead to an analysis point that people lived in freezing conditions in the winter. There is a step missing, or there is an additional finding missing.

By choosing a title of the effects of the Russia-Ukraine war, the candidate must constantly refer to the war as the cause of changes in the UK economy. If the candidate had changed their title to ‘The effect of high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis on the UK economy’ this would not be necessary, and the war could be given as one of the factors causing high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis.

Example 13 - excerpt

Purpose: 'to investigate how the cost-of-living crisis will affect Scottish households'

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this extract.

The candidate writes about 'the graph above'. However, there was no graph above, nor in the appendices. Fortunately, the candidate gave the information from the graph in words, so they could get a mark for the finding and a mark for interpretation of the finding.

Candidates should always proofread their work so that this type of error does not occur.