

Distribution of

DSE Exam Questions and Exam Strategies

文憑試題目分佈表及應試策略

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1. Basic Economic Concepts | 1, 2, 3 (7.5%) | 1, 2 (5%) | 1, 2*, 3, 4 (7.8%) | 1, 2, 3 (6.7%) |
| 2. Firms and Production | 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 (17.5%) | 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (17.5%) | 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (15.6%) | 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 23 (15.6%) |
| 3. Market and Price | 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 (17.5%) | 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 (17.5%) | 12, 13, 14, 15*, 16, 21* (11.1%) | 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19* (18.9%) |
| 4. Competition and Market Structure | 18 (2.5%) | 17 (2.5%) | 17 (2.2%) | 20 (2.2%) |
| 5. Efficiency, Equity and the Role of Government | 19, 20, 21 (7.5%) | 18, 19, 20 (7.5%) | 15*, 18, 19, 20, 21*, 22, 23 (13.3%) | 17, 19*, 21, 22 (7.8%) |
| 6. Measurement of Economic Performance | 22, 23, 24 (7.5%) | 21, 22 (5%) | 24, 25, 26 (6.7%) | 24, 25 (4.4%) |
| 7. National Income Determination and Price Level | 25, 26 (5%) | 23, 24*, 30* (5%) | 27, 28, 29, 34 (8.9%) | 26, 27, 37 (6.7%) |
| 8. Money and Banking | 27, 28, 29, 30 (10%) | 25, 26, 27, 30* (11.25%) | 30, 31, 33 (6.7%) | 28, 29, 30, 32, 35 (11.1%) |
| 9. Macroeconomic Problems and Policies | 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 (15%) | 24*, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 (23.75%) | 2*, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 (16.7%) | 31, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39 (13.3%) |
| 10. International Trade and Finance | 37, 38, 39, 40 (10%) | 37, 38, 39, 40 (10%) | 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 (11.1%) | 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 (13.3%) |

* 題目涉及多於一個課題

括號內數字為每一課題的題目佔當年全部 MCQ 題目的百分比。由於四捨五入，10 個課題的總和不一定等於 100%。

題目分佈

- 自 2014 年起，經濟科卷一的 MCQ 由 40 題增至 45 題。全卷的作答時候仍維持為 1 小時。
- 課題 1 至 5 一般歸類為「微觀經濟學 (Microeconomics)」，而課題 6 至 10 一般歸類為「宏觀經濟學 (Macroeconomics)」。概括而言，卷一頭半部分為微觀經濟學題目，後半部分則為宏觀經濟學題目；兩者比例約各佔一半。
- 在微觀經濟學中，較多考問 Firms and Production 和 Market and Price 的課題；在宏觀經濟學中，較多考問 National Income Determination and Price Level、Money and Banking 和 Macroeconomic Problems and Policies 的課題。
- 而近乎每年都會有考核的內容包括：
 - 成本 (Cost)
 - 三個基本經濟問題 (Three basic economic problems)
 - 供需模型 (Demand-supply model)
 - GDP 的量度 (Measurement of GDP)
 - 總供需模型 (ASAD model)
 - 信貸創造 (Credit creation)

備戰策略

- 即使題目大致分為微觀經濟學和宏觀經濟學兩大類，在溫習時，需要了解每個課題與其他課題的互通概念，因為近年開始會同時考核微觀經濟學和宏觀經濟學的概念（例如 2020 年 Q3）。
- 近年有部分題目會直接問及基本概念的定義，例如 2021 年 Q14；也會考核以往比較少出現的概念，例如 2021 年 Q40。在溫習時，宜牢記所有基本概念，不應選擇性地只記部分「可能常考」的概念。
- 卷一 MCQ 題目往往設計不同情景，考核同一套推論或思考方法。因此考生需要了解經濟科的推論或思考方法，例如處理供需模型的題目時，應了解如何從供需曲線得出價格、數量等變量的過程，從而推論出正確答案；不應只把試卷的「正確答案」（例如「價格會下降」）背誦了事，因為若題目的資料有改變，答案也會隨之改變。

Weaknesses in Answering MCQ

MCQ弱項大解構

本環節列出考生 6 大弱項，並剖析誤選答案的原因及其解決方法。

MC 弱項 1：解讀圖中訊息 📊

MC 弱項 2：數理運算 🧮

MC 弱項 3：概念應用 🧠

MC 弱項 4：時事知識 📰

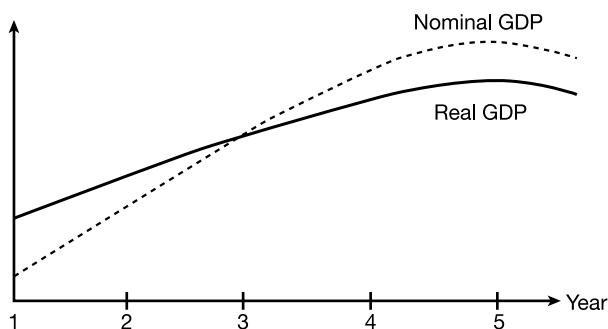
MC 弱項 5：審題粗略 📖

MC 弱項 6：辨識關鍵詞 🗨️

MC 弱項 1：解讀圖中訊息

1. The following diagram shows the gross domestic product (GDP) of Country A.

DSE 2016 Q34 DSE 2018 Q37 DSE 2020 Q26 DSE 2021 Q38



Which of the following statements about Country A is correct?

- A. The price level increased continuously between Year 1 and Year 5.
- B. Deflation occurred before Year 3.
- C. The actual inflation rate is equal to the expected inflation rate in Year 5.
- D. The nominal GDP has been increasing since Year 1.

應試秘技 1 名義 GDP (nominal GDP) vs. 實質 GDP (real GDP)

$$\text{名義 GDP} = \text{實質 GDP} \times \frac{\text{當年物價指數}}{\text{基年物價指數}}$$

(假設基年物價指數為 1)，名義 GDP = 實質 GDP × 當年物價指數。因此，名義 GDP 的變動百分比 ≈ 實質 GDP 的變動百分比 + 當年物價指數的變動百分比。

當名義 GDP 線的斜率大於實質 GDP 線的斜率，便代表當年物價指數上升，即通脹率為正值。

第 1 至 5 年期間，名義 GDP 線的斜率均大於實質 GDP 線的斜率，反映價格水平持續上升。

選項 A 是正確答案。選項 B 並不正確。

題目沒有提供預期通脹率，選項 C 並不正確。

自第 5 年起，名義 GDP 開始下跌，所以選項 D 並不正確



診斷

考生往往未能運用圖中資料、與題目相關的理論和方程式，來理解通脹率、名義產出增長率及失業率等數字的變動。



藥方

運用圖中資料（例如線的斜率）、與題目相關的理論和方程式來解讀圖表表達的訊息。

典型MC 解題示例 1

Carmen could spend a Sunday's afternoon on one of the following activities: studying in the library, going to the beach or joining her aunt's birthday party. Suppose the activity Carmen dislikes most is studying in the library and the activity that she likes most is joining her aunt's birthday party.

參考自 DSE 2018 Q3 DSE 2021 Q3

Which of the following would lead to a change in the opportunity cost of joining her aunt's birthday party?

- Those who join the birthday party would be given a \$50 coupon.
- The typhoon signal No.8 is hoisted by the Observatory and Carmen could not go to the beach.
- It is too noisy in the library and Carmen could not focus on studying.
- The library would close earlier on Sunday afternoon.

Answer: B

解題 步驟

- 理解機會成本改變的原因是被放棄的最佳選項改變。
- 分析選項 A 是否正確。
 - 這只會影響被選擇的選項的價值，不會影響機會成本。→ 選項 A ✗
- 分析選項 B 是否正確。
 - 嘉文參加姨母的生日派對的機會成本是沙灘嬉戲（即被放棄的選項中價值最高的一項）(highest-valued option forgone)。然而，天文台懸掛 8 號風球卻導致沙灘嬉戲的選項不再存在，所以參加姨母的生日派對的機會成本變為到圖書館溫習。→ 選項 B ✓
- 分析選項 C 是否正確。
 - 到圖書館溫習不是被放棄的選項中價值最高的一項。→ 選項 C ✗
- 分析選項 D 是否正確。
 - 到圖書館溫習不是被放棄的選項中價值最高的一項。→ 選項 D ✗

✗ 常見誤解

有考生誤以為獲贈 \$50 禮券可降低嘉文參加生日派對的機會成本。然而，到沙灘嬉戲才是參加生日派對的機會成本。

✓ 正確理解

天文台懸掛 8 號風球導致到沙灘嬉戲的價值降至零。參加姨母的生日派對的機會成本因而下降。

實戰題

Choose the **BEST** answer for each question.

Scarcity, choice and cost

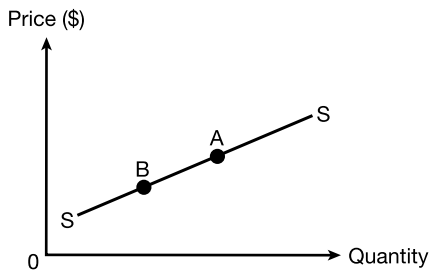
○：挑戰題
 題目針對以下弱項：
 🧠：概念應用 📝：審題粗略
 📰：時事知識 💬：辨識關鍵詞

1. After the COVID-19 outbreak, many businesses set up their telecommunications systems so that communication is still possible. Suppose people can now choose between online meetings and face-to-face meetings. DSE 2021 Q4
- Which of the following would be the **LEAST** important factor for managers of businesses to choose between online meetings and face-to-face meetings?
- A. The risk of contracting COVID-19 when conducting meeting
 B. Businesses' cost of setting up the telecommunications systems
 C. Effectiveness of communication for both types of meeting
 D. Travel cost incurred if face-to-face meetings are chosen
2. Scarcity exists because _____ . DSE PP Q1
- (1) the supply of resources is fixed
 (2) resources are limited
 (3) people's wants are unlimited
- A. (2) only
 B. (1) and (2) only
 C. (2) and (3) only
 D. (1), (2) and (3)
3. Which of the following is **INCORRECT**?
- A. Due to scarcity, we must make choices.
 B. Choice implies the existence of scarcity.
 C. The richest people in the world have to make choices.
 D. If there are no choices, cost still exists.
4. Which of the following statements about interest is correct? DSE 2017 Q2
- (1) Without money, interest still exists.
 (2) Without inflation, interest still exists.
 (3) Without scarcity, interest still exists.
- A. (1) and (2) only
 B. (1) and (3) only
 C. (2) and (3) only
 D. (1), (2) and (3)
5. When _____, opportunity cost does **NOT** exist.
- A. Betty issues a disc of Japanese songs instead of a Korean disc
 B. Ming learns music during leisure time
 C. Peter gives up taking part in a movie due to sickness
 D. Paul decides to be the host of a television programme

11. SS is the supply curve of outpatient services of private clinics in Hong Kong.

Which of the following reasons can best explain the change of the equilibrium position in the market of outpatient services of private clinics from A to B?

DSE 2019 Q17



- A. All private clinics provided a free body check services for their patient.
- B. The government removed the subsidies on the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme.
- C. The Hospital Authority greatly raised the price of outpatient services of public hospitals.
- D. There is an outbreak of a new type of seasonal influenza in the community.
12. Which of the following are the **LEAST** possible reasons for an increase in demand for Chinese medicine doctors?
- A. The government establishes a Chinese medical school which could train more doctors.
- B. Patients are more confident on Chinese medicine doctors.
- C. The price of Western medicine is rising.
- D. More customers believe that taking Chinese medicine can prevent diseases.

13. Which of the following situations will result in a decrease in the demand for Korean fashion?

- A. The price of Korean fashion increases.
- B. The trend of Korean fashion is replaced by that of other countries.
- C. Japanese fashion shops raise the price.
- D. The income of consumers increases and Korean fashion is a superior good.

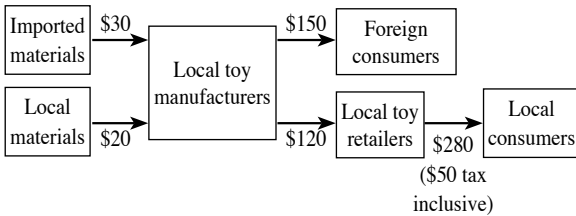
14. Which of the following can explain the following changes in the demand schedule of a certain type of air-conditioner?

| Price (\$) | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|
| Original quantity demanded (unit) | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 | 50 |
| New quantity demanded (unit) | 100 | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 |

- A. The air-conditioner becomes cheaper.
- B. Hong Kong enters winter.
- C. The price of electric fans increases.
- D. The income of people generally increases.
15. Which of the following will reduce the consumers' demand for sports shoes?
- A. The time used for queueing for the sports shoes is longer than expected.
- B. More sports shoes are available for sale.
- C. Sports shoes are more expensive.
- D. The seller invited Olympic Gold medalists to promote sports shoes.

22. The following diagram shows a production chain of toy in Country A.

DSE 2017 Q25

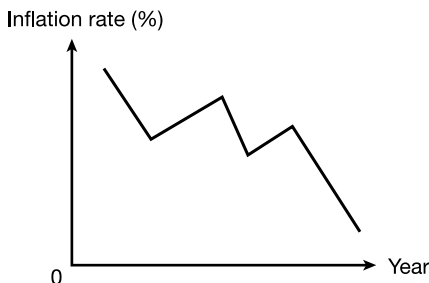


The contribution of the local toy manufacturers and local toy retailers on Country A's GDP at factor cost are _____ and _____ respectively.

- A. \$190 ... \$110
 B. \$190 ... \$160
 C. \$220 ... \$110
 D. \$220 ... \$160

General price level and unemployment

23. The figure shows the information about the inflation rate of a country:



The above figure shows that _____ in the country.

- A. there is deflation
 B. the inflation rate keeps increasing
 C. the general price level keeps decreasing
 D. the growth rate of the general price level keeps decreasing

24. Which of the following could best reflect the changes in residents' cost of living?

- A. Composite Consumer Price Index
 B. The government's fiscal surplus
 C. GDP deflator
 D. Export price index

25. The table below shows the data of an economy in 2015.

| | Number of people |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Total population | 1 500 000 |
| Employed population | 808 000 |
| Underemployed population | 202 000 |
| Unemployed population | 50 400 |

How many people were in the labour force in 2015?

- A. 252 400 C. 1 010 000
 B. 858 400 D. 1 060 400

26. If the employed population of a country increases, which of the following would **NOT** lead to an increase in the unemployment rate?

- (1) The unemployed population remains unchanged.
 (2) The percentage increase in the unemployed population is higher than the percentage increase in the labour force.
 (3) The percentage increase in the unemployed population is lower than the percentage increase in the labour force.

- A. (1) and (2) only
 B. (1) and (3) only
 C. (2) and (3) only
 D. (1), (2) and (3)

34. Which of the following will reduce the unemployment rate of a country?

(DSE 2016 Q25)

- (1) Some unemployed workers give up job searching.
 - (2) Some factories move to other countries.
 - (3) The government cuts unemployment benefits.
- A. (1) and (2) only
 B. (1) and (3) only
 C. (2) and (3) only
 D. (1), (2) and (3)

Taxation

35. The taxable income of Mr Chan is \$100 000 and the taxable income of Mr Lee is \$500 000.

(DSE 2020 Q41)

Suppose the government proposes the following income tax calculation methods:

| | Amount of income tax |
|-----------|---|
| Method I | Taxable income below \$250 000: 8.25% of taxable income; Otherwise: 16.5% of taxable income |
| Method II | 20% of taxable income, maximum \$80 000 |

Mr Chan would prefer _____ while Mr Lee would prefer _____.

- A. method I ... method I
 B. method I ... method II
 C. method II ... method I
 D. method II ... method II

36. Which of the following are Hong Kong's indirect taxes?

(DSE 2015 Q34)

- (1) General sales tax
 - (2) Stamp duties
 - (3) Air passenger departure tax
- A. (1) and (2) only
 B. (1) and (3) only
 C. (2) and (3) only
 D. (1), (2) and (3)

37. Which of the following are Hong Kong's direct taxes?

(DSE 2015 Q34)

- (1) Property tax
 - (2) Profits tax
 - (3) Dividend tax
- A. (1) and (2) only
 B. (1) and (3) only
 C. (2) and (3) only
 D. (1), (2) and (3)

38. Hong Kong's motor vehicles first registration tax is _____.

- A. a direct tax and a proportional tax
 B. a direct tax and a progressive tax
 C. an indirect tax and a proportional tax
 D. an indirect tax and a regressive tax

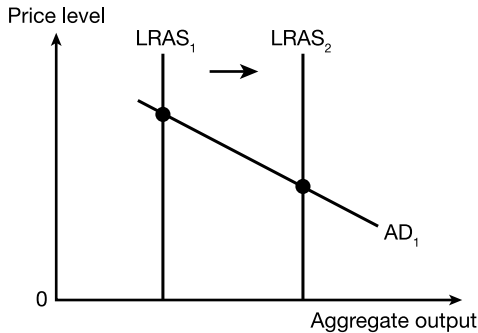
39. Which of the following are direct taxes?

- (1) Salaries tax
 - (2) Sales tax
 - (3) Betting duty
 - (4) Profits tax
- A. (1) and (2) only
 B. (1) and (4) only
 C. (2) and (3) only
 D. (3) and (4) only

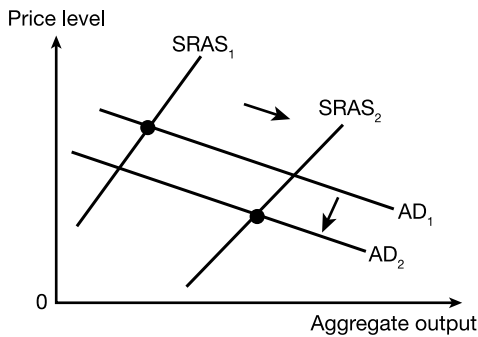
DSE 2019 Q41

Which of the following AD-AS diagrams could most likely show the effect on aggregate output caused by the above two policies?

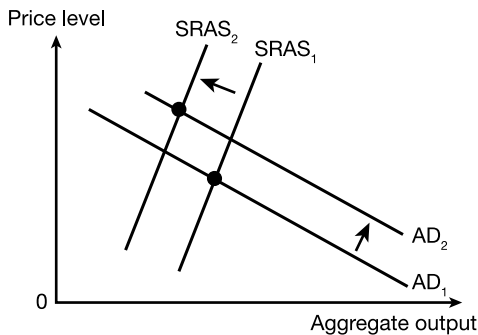
A.



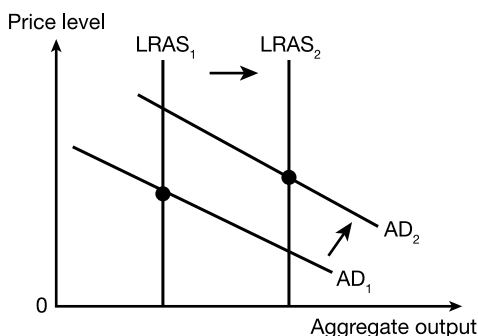
B.



C.



D.



95. Study the following table.

| Policy I | Policy II | Policy III |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an open market sale of government bonds • a drop in the required reserve ratio | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a drop in the required reserve ratio • a rise in the profits tax rate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a rise in the profits tax rate • an open market sale of government bonds |

Which of the policies in the above table is/are contractionary?

- A. Policy I only
- B. Policy II only
- C. Policy III only
- D. Policy II and Policy III only

96. Which of the following is an advantage of raising indirect taxes?

- A. Narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor
- B. A lower administrative fee compared to direct taxes
- C. Relieving inflationary pressure
- D. A change in consumers' consumption pattern by the government

97. Which of the following may affect long-run aggregate supply?

- (1) Imposing a general sales tax
 - (2) Increasing transfer payments
 - (3) Increasing the progressivity of salaries tax
- A. (1) and (2) only
 - B. (1) and (3) only
 - C. (2) and (3) only
 - D. (1), (2) and (3)

題解指引

Chapter 1 Basic Economic Concepts

1. **B**
 The cost of setting up the telecommunications systems has already been incurred. The cost cannot be recovered no matter which type of meeting is chosen. Therefore, it is irrelevant for decision making.
2. **C**
 (1): The existence of scarcity is not related to whether the supply of resources is fixed. If the fixed resources are enough to satisfy all the people's wants, there is no scarcity.
 (2), (3): The condition for the existence of scarcity is limited resources are not enough to satisfy people's unlimited wants.
3. **D**
 When people have to make choices, cost will exist. Conversely, if there are no choices, there is no cost.
 A: The existence of scarcity implies that people have to satisfy a maximum number of wants under limited resources.
 B: The existence of scarcity implies that people have to make choices among the options.
 C: The richest people still have to face the scarcity problem.
4. **A**
 (1): Even in a barter system, interest still exists in terms of goods.
 (2): Even without inflation, interest still exists as compensation to lender for delayed consumption.
 (3): Without scarcity, interest does not exist as there are sufficient resources to satisfy people at any moment. Hence, people do not need to make an intertemporal choice.
5. **C**
 This is because Peter has no other choices due to sickness. He could only give up the job so opportunity cost does not exist for his behaviour.
 A, B, D: In their choices, they need to give up the options with the highest value. Therefore, opportunity cost exists.
6. **C**
 The opportunity cost for buying the concert tickets of BOP is the disc of BOP. If there are flaws in the disc of BOP, it would reduce the value for Tom to buy the disc. Therefore, Tom's opportunity cost for buying BOP's concert tickets decreases.
 A: It does not affect the opportunity cost of buying BOP's concert tickets. It only increases the opportunity cost of watching the concert of BOP.
 B: This option is not the highest-valued option forgone.
 D: The value of watching BOP's concert increases.
7. **B**
 If she chooses to study in Taiwan, she will give up the option of studying the degree programme in mainland.
 (1): If the graduates of the mainland programme have better job prospects, she will give up better job prospects for studying in Taiwan. It increases the opportunity cost of choosing to study in Taiwan.
 (2): If the qualification of the Taiwan programme may not be recognised in Hong Kong, it only lowers the value of studying degree programme in Taiwan, not the cost.
 (3): The waiving of the accommodation fee of the first year studying the degree programme in the mainland increases the net value of studying the programme in the mainland. This increases the cost of studying in Taiwan as the net value of the highest-valued option forgone increases.

87. A

The equilibrium price is \$100 and the equilibrium quantity is 22 units after imposing a per-unit tax.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Price (\$) | 80 | 85 | 90 | 95 | 100 |
| Quantity demanded (unit) | 30 | 28 | 26 | 24 | 22 |
| Quantity supplied (unit) | 18 | 22 | 26 | 30 | 34 |
| Quantity supplied after tax (unit) | - | - | - | 18 | 22 |

Total revenue = \$100 × 22 = \$2 200

Total tax revenue = \$15 × 22 = \$330

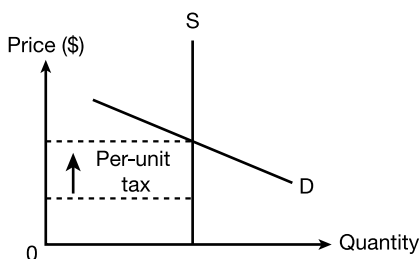
Total revenue (exclusive of tax) = \$2 200 - \$330 = \$1 870

88. A

- (1): If the government cancels the per-unit tax on unleaded gasoline, the supply will increase and the supply curve will shift downward.
- (2): The price will remain unchanged as the demand is perfectly elastic. The quantity transacted will increase.
- (3): The demand curve is horizontal as the demand is perfectly elastic. Therefore, the price would not change when the supply increases.
- (4): Since the price remains unchanged and the quantity transacted increases, the total revenue will increase.

89. D

If the supply is perfectly inelastic, the seller has to bear all tax burdens.



90. C

After the imposition of tax, the market supply schedule will have the below change:

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Price (\$) | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18 |
| Quantity demanded (unit) | 32 | 28 | 24 | 20 | 16 | 12 |
| Quantity supplied (unit) | 16 | 20 | 24 | 28 | 32 | 36 |
| Quantity supplied after tax (unit) | - | - | 16 | 20 | 24 | 28 |

The price is \$14 and quantity transacted is 20 units after the imposition of the per-unit tax.

The consumers' tax burden is \$40 [= (\$14 - \$12) × 20].

91. B

The equilibrium price is \$18 and the equilibrium quantity is 140 units after a \$3 per-unit tax is imposed.

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Price (\$) | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 15 |
| Quantity demanded (unit) | 100 | 120 | 140 | 160 | 180 | 200 |
| Quantity supplied (unit) | 190 | 180 | 170 | 160 | 150 | 140 |
| Quantity supplied after tax (unit) | 160 | 150 | 140 | - | - | - |

- (1): The total revenue decreases from \$2 720 to \$2 520 after the price has increased from \$17 to \$18. It means the percentage increase in price is smaller than the percentage decrease in quantity transacted. Therefore, the demand is elastic.
- (2): Consumers' tax burden: \$1 × 140 = \$140
Producers' tax burden: \$2 × 140 = \$280
The producers' tax burden is greater than that of consumers, which means the elasticity of supply is smaller than the elasticity of demand.
- (3): Original total revenue: \$17 × 160 = \$2 720
Total revenue (exclusive of tax): \$15 × 140 = \$2 100