IQM4008

LEVEL 4 · INDIVIDUAL OPEN-RESOURCE COURSEWORK

INTO QUALIFICATIONS

Microeconomics

Sample applied microeconomics case report: urban congestion and a peak access charge

Candidate assessment pack

Assessment
IQM4008 A1

Sample set
2026-S

Status
SAMPLE ASSESSMENT

Response length
1,200 words ±10%, excluding references

Total marks
50

AI condition
AIAS Level 2 planning only: brainstorming, outline and initial research planning; assessed analysis, evaluation and final report must be candidate-authored. Declare permitted use.

Release timing
at coursework release

About this sample assessment

Individual applied report assessing accurate microeconomic knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation using a contemporary case. Intended coverage: scarcity/incentives; demand and supply; externalities and welfare; market intervention; stakeholder effects; evidence-based economic communication. Source coverage authority: A1 case-based coursework assessed collectively across LO1-LO5.

Instructions for candidates

- Executive recommendation (about 100 words)
- Context and market-failure analysis (about 250)
- Stakeholder and welfare effects, with a diagram or calculation where useful (about 300)
- Policy evaluation and alternatives (about 350)
- Conclusion and limitations (about 100)
- References

Assessment context and task

Context: A fictional city, Northmere, has a congested central business district. In a typical weekday peak, 18,000 cars enter the centre; an average car carries 1.2 people. The city estimates each additional peak-period car trip causes £3.20 in delay, air-quality and noise costs borne by other road users and residents. A trial of a £4 peak access charge reduced car entries by 12% to 15,840. Bus travel increased 9%; the city spent £1.8m on bus priority and frequency during the trial. A local survey reports 62% of small retailers support lower congestion but 48% fear customers will avoid the centre.

The city is considering retaining the charge, exempting low-income essential users, and spending revenue on buses and walking/cycling routes. These figures are synthetic and supplied solely for this exercise.

Task: Write a 1,200-word report analysing Northmere's peak congestion as a microeconomic problem and advising the city council whether and how to retain the access charge. Explain the market failure and welfare effects; analyse effects on motorists, bus users, retailers, residents and the city; assess the charge and at least one alternative or complementary intervention; use the supplied figures accurately; acknowledge distributional and evidence limitations; reach a justified recommendation.

Required Sources And Data: Use only the supplied synthetic data for claims about Northmere. Candidates may use independently selected credible sources for general economic concepts and should reference them. No real city evidence should be presented as Northmere fact.

Prepare and submit your work

- One structured report with references, any relevant labelled diagram or data table, and an AI-use/no-use declaration; file type and filename to be set at controlled issue.
- Retain your planning notes, source-selection record and relevant working files. Complete at least one supervised progress checkpoint arranged by your centre. If asked, take part in a short verification discussion about your understanding, analytical choices and authorship. Any unresolved authenticity concern must be managed through the authorised academic regulations and centre route.