# IQM4009

**LEVEL 4 · INDIVIDUAL OPEN-RESOURCE COURSEWORK**

INTO QUALIFICATIONS

## Macroeconomics and Global Financial Systems

# Sample economic policy brief: regional rail electrification and productivity

## Candidate assessment pack

**Assessment**
IQM4009 A1

**Status**
SAMPLE ASSESSMENT

**Total marks**
50

**Release timing**
at coursework release

**Sample set**
2026-S

**Response length**
1,000 words ±10% (references excluded)

**AI condition**
AIAS Level 2 planning only; candidate independently authors analysis, evaluation and recommendation; acknowledge permitted use.

## About this sample assessment

Individual 1,000-word policy brief sampling macroeconomic context, short/long-run growth, aggregate demand/supply, policy instruments, productivity and sustainability. Source A1 coursework coverage is LO1-LO5 collectively; source mark scheme uses five criteria, 50 marks.

## Instructions for candidates

Weighting and permitted materials. This assessment contributes 30% of the module. The coursework is open-resource. Relevant qualitative and quantitative data, independently selected and read sources, and normal research and planning notes may be used. A calculator is not applicable.

Academic practice and authenticity. AIAS Level 2 planning applies. AI may support brainstorming, outlining and initial research; interpretation of stimulus and data, model selection and application, analysis, evaluation, conclusions and final writing must be completed independently. Evidence of planning, source selection and working files must be retained. At least one supervised progress checkpoint must be completed by the centre. A short verification discussion may be conducted where necessary, and unresolved authenticity concerns must be managed under the Academic Regulations.

- Title and executive recommendation
- Macroeconomic context and theory
- Short-run effects and evidence
- Long-run productivity and supply-side effects
- Risks, trade-offs and alternatives
- Recommendation
- References

## Assessment context and task

Context: The fictional UK region of Westmere proposes a five-year rail electrification and station-access programme. Synthetic planning estimates: public capital spending £420m over five years; expected construction employment averages 1,100 full-time-equivalent jobs during delivery; forecast journey time between the two largest towns falls 18 minutes; forecast annual passenger journeys rise from 8.0m to 9.2m by year five. The region currently has labour productivity 7% below the UK average. The electricity supply contract is forecast to be 70% renewable by year five, but grid upgrades may delay commissioning by up to 18 months.

The programme is funded by a fixed transport capital budget, so other projects may be deferred. These are exercise figures, not actual UK or regional statistics.

Task: Prepare a 1,000-word policy brief for the fictional regional transport committee. Analyse whether the programme is likely to support sustainable economic growth. Explain short-run demand, employment and import-leakage/multiplier effects; analyse long-run productive-capacity/productivity pathways; evaluate constraints, costs, distributional and environmental trade-offs and at least one alternative or complement; reach a justified recommendation using the supplied figures and credible macroeconomic concepts. Evaluate trade and global-financial-system channels. Explain conditionally how currency depreciation could raise imported capital-input costs and how tighter global funding could raise financing or opportunity costs if foreign borrowing were used; assess their relevance against the fixed budget and displaced projects. The case supplies no import-content, exchange-rate or borrowing evidence, so these are sensitivity channels, not observed effects.

Required Sources And Data: Provided facts are synthetic. Independent sources may be used for general macroeconomic theory or clearly identified UK context; do not treat Westmere estimates as official statistics.

## Prepare and submit your work

- Policy brief with suitable diagram/data presentation and references.