

Grade – Sample Commentary

Commentary 1

Criterion	Marks awarded	Marks available	Comments
A	3	3	The two diagrams are appropriate for the article, having relevant labels and meaningful titles. The explanations are focused on the diagrams, demonstrating clearly the different meanings of the curves and how the market and optimal outcomes differ.
B	2	2	Microeconomic terminology is used relevantly and correctly. There are implicit definitions of the crucial terms of negative externality of consumption, allocative efficiency, indirect tax, and subsidy.
C	3	3	There is effective analysis relating to the article. The relatively different impacts of taxes and subsidies (noted in the article) are convincingly explained in terms of different demand elasticities for junk foods as compared to fruit and vegetables.
D	3	3	Choice is used in a rather original way to discuss both the opportunity costs (including external costs) of the choices made and a discussion of whether choices can be assumed to be rational. It is suggested that government interference in “free” choice can be justified.
E	2	3	The evaluation is rather brief, probably being constrained by the limit on words. The regressive impact of indirect taxes is mentioned but was worthy of more consideration. Otherwise, the arguments tend to favour the government interference. Nonetheless, there is also consideration of the need for extra policies to promote the consumption of fruit and vegetables.
Total	13	14	