**Unit 11 & Unit 12: Exam Technique**

**State/identify questions**

* Simply **state** your knowledge
* Make sure your points are **totally different (i.e. they are discrete)**

**Explain/Describe questions**

* **Apply** your knowledge to answer the question in the **CONTEXT** of each scenario (i.e. the item or ‘story’)
* **Develop** your points in **full** and in line with the **CONTEXT** (use linking words like ‘because’, ‘so’, ‘also’, ‘therefore’, ‘as a result’, ‘this means’)
* Ensure your points are **logical** (i.e. they make sense and apply to the characters or situation from the context item)
* Make sure your ideas/reasons are **totally different** (i.e. they are discrete) – don’t repeat or reverse your first point!

**Essay questions- Introduction Analysis and evaluation Final Judgement**

* **Introduction**
	+ Include a **mini-judgement** where you answer the question directly
* **Analysis and evaluation**
	+ After the introduction **examine in detail** the relevant issues in **CONTEXT** picking out the benefits and drawbacks
	+ **Balance your argument** by covering all options/solutions
	+ Each paragraph should involve **logical chains of argument** where one point develops into the next
	+ **Look beyond the data provided** i.e. predicting possible outcomes or effects of decisions on the characters given their circumstances
	+ Analyse how the person or people in the story are likely to be affected in both the **short-term** and also in the **long-term**
	+ **Implications of the personal life** cycle i.e. likely income, spending/saving choices, milestones, preparations for the next stage
	+ **Wider economic effects** or issues such as recessions & unemployment, economic growth & employment, leaving the EU, Global Warming
	+ **Possible externalities** such as the positive and negative effect of decisions on third parties e.g. the effect on friends, family, the local, community, businesses, suppliers and the government resulting from buying a house, going to university, eating healthily, being made redundant etc
* **Final Judgement**
	+ Each judgement made should be based on that scenario and should be a genuine attempt to reach a **justified decision** (i.e. you should back-up your argument). Higher level judgements can be arrived at from a number of routes; these could include:
		- Making a **clear judgement** as to which side of any argument was stronger and why
		- Highlighting a **key factor** in making the decision and justifying why this is the key factor
		- **Relating any decision back** to the character(s) within the scenario
		- Bringing in **new wider issues** which could affect your decision i.e. future employment opportunities, externalities (see above)
		- **Don’t simply repeat** what has been said previously

**General Advice**

* **Answer the set question** and not something else
* For the **essay questions** the examiners are looking for your answer to be **structured** – it is not a mark-per-relevant point (see previous structure and exam marks schemes)
* Use **separate paragraphs** for each part of your essay
* **Watch the clock** - ensure you spend no more than 1 minute per mark on state and explain type questions, leaving a little extra time for the 3 essay-type questions
* Use technical **economic terms** throughout your answers
* Use **key words** to signal to the examiner that you are analysing and evaluating; such as
	+ Benefits/advantages
	+ Drawbacks/disadvantages
	+ The most important point/factor is…
	+ The cause of this….
	+ The effect of this….
	+ However
	+ Hence
	+ Nevertheless
	+ Although
	+ It is likely that
	+ The tendency is
	+ In retrospect / With the benefit of hindsight
	+ On the other hand
	+ In the short run …….. but in the long run
	+ It depends what we mean by
	+ It depends upon
	+ The context suggests that
* **IMPORTANT!** – For Unit 12’s section on Poverty and Global Warming examiners are expecting to see **lots of evidence from your own research**, such as **real world examples** of causes, effects, solutions and ethical considerations of both Poverty in the UK and Global Warming from around the world

**REMEMBER, THE CASE STUDY IS YOUR FRIEND!**

* The CASE STUDY has all the information you need give high quality answers to nearly all questions – SO USE IT
* Remember that the skill of application opens the door to achieve good analysis and access the highest levels of evaluation