1.5 Specialisation, Division of Labour and the Functions of Money: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7136 · Calculators not allowed · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer all questions. Full sentences are required for the extended 12-mark question only. Allocation: 10 minutes. Short-answer questions require brief, focused responses.

1 Explain briefly, in the context of production, why increasing specialisation among workers may lead to economies of scale for a firm, without invoking cost curves explicitly.

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

2 State two possible social or welfare costs of rigid specialisation within an industry in a regional economy, such as a town dominated by one employer.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 State three disadvantages of specialisation for individual workers, referring to both skills and job satisfaction in a workplace context.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.5 Specialisation, Division of Labour and the Functions of Money: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

specialisation improves worker skill and speed, raising labour productivity	**B1**
higher productivity allows the firm to increase output using existing facilities more effectively, spreading fixed administrative overheads or capital across more units	**B1**
use of specialised machinery and streamlined processes becomes feasible, raising average output per unit of input	**B1**

Answer: Specialisation raises worker productivity and makes specialised machinery and streamlined processes feasible, so the firm can produce more output per unit of fixed resources and spread overheads across more units, achieving economies of scale.

Question 2

any one valid social or welfare cost, e.g. local unemployment if the dominant industry declines	**B1**
a second, different valid cost, e.g. loss of community skills diversity making local recovery slower, poverty, out-migration or loss of local services	**B1**

Answer: Local unemployment risk if the industry declines; loss of skills diversity slowing recovery.

Question 3

increased monotony or boredom leading to lower job satisfaction	**B1**
risk of deskilling, making workers less adaptable and more vulnerable to unemployment	**B1**
greater dependency on one particular task, increasing risk if demand for that task falls	**B1**

Answer: Monotony and lower job satisfaction; risk of deskilling and reduced adaptability; greater vulnerability if demand for the specialised task falls.

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