Economics and Management Interview Questions

1. Some Neoliberals say that poor people are poor because they are too lazy to work, what are your thoughts?
2. Does the welfare state trap people into poverty?
3. A new country is formed in Africa. They introduce a new currency. How does the international market value what it is worth?
4. Does a balance of trade deficit matter?
5. Can we really measure GDP?
6. Would it be feasible to have an economy entirely based on the service sector?
7. Are there too many people in the world?
8. Should governments intervene in the market?
9. What is the best way to win in the game of Monopoly? Is this possible in real life?
10. What is the difference between management and leadership?

General Interview Questions

1. What are your top three skills?
2. If you could meet anybody from history who would it be and why?
3. If you had to choose a new language to learn, which one would it be and how would you go about it?
4. What have you found most difficult at A Level and how did you overcome this?
5. Why are you here?
6. Tell me everything about you in 60 seconds.
7. Tell me about a news article you have read recently that you found interesting.
8. What do you think you could contribute to college life?
9. If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?
10. Which is more important – art or science?

2. A new country is formed in Africa. They introduce a new currency. How does the international market value what it is worth?

Example answer

"In Economics, value is determined by the market as a result of supply and demand. The international currency markets will determine the value of a new currency based on how much buyers are willing to pay to purchase the currency, and how much sellers are willing to accept. This will depend on many factors including the amount of the currency being traded on the market, the size and make up of the economy as well as the stability of the country.

Given that this is a brand new country without any history or tradition of financial institutions, there will be a high degree of risk associated with the financial future of the country. There may also be questions of the legitimacy and strength of the country and its government. Given that this is country has been carved out of an unstable region, it may have formed as a result of massive political upheaval or even armed conflict. This would result in significant uncertainty about the future of the country, including members of the international community not fully recognising the country. For example the independence of Kosovo was declared nearly a decade ago, however many countries do still not formally recognise the country.

Given these reasons it is highly likely that a new floating currency would initially be assigned a relatively low valuation by the market. There is also likely to be strong volatility in the exchange rate due to high levels of uncertainty, discouraging trade and foreign investment.

For these reasons, it would perhaps be wise for the government to decide not to let the new currency float until it strengthens its financial institutions and develops a tradition of economic strength and stability. A better option in the short term may be to peg the new currency to a major world currency such as the US Dollar in order to create a level of currency stability and a stable atmosphere to encourage foreign investment and trade. Foreign investors would then not need to worry about fluctuations in the currency markets.

A pegged currency also has its problems. The currency can't appreciate or depreciate along with the market and the central bank has less flexibility making changes to the direction of the economy. In order to defend a fixed exchange rate, a government may also have to utilize deflationary policies such as increasing taxes, which could potentially lead to job loss, unemployment and in extreme cases financial crises.