FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

1st SEMESTER 2017

ASSIGNMENT 1

PRINCIPLES OF TRANSPORT ECONOMICS

PTE511S
Dear Distance students

Congratulations on completing Assignment 1 for this semester. Thank you for the effort that you put into it. I am aware of the difficult circumstances under which you are trying to further your careers and dreams. It takes a real committed person to jostle work and studies at the same time. You are real role models for the youth across all the spheres of life who are either coming from very difficult disadvantaged background or those who think it is not possible to work and study at the same time or those due to other stumbling blocks cannot study fulltime.

For those of you who has managed to score above 70% excellent work, but there is still room for improvement. For those of you who has score between 50% and 70 % well done, but you still have to work a little harder to improve on your grades. It does not mean it is the end of the road for you if you have not achieve 50%, if you qualify for the examination, try to work harder to obtain a final mark of 50% or more.

You are all serious with your studies and that is why despite the difficulty in studying through distance because you are working you are still making commendable attempts at improving you educational levels. This is no mean feat. This is quite remarkable and commendable and speaks volumes of your characters. I am aware that you have been working hard and sweating on your first assignment and that some of you are now hard at work on your second assignment.

However I have noticed some points which require attention after having marked your assignments. We will now go through some of the irregularities as well as great points I found whilst marking your assignments. I trust that you will take these critics and comments positively and that you will from now on learn to apply them in all the areas of your studies that still need to be tackled.

**Reading the Questions, Understanding and Answering:**

I believe that some of you did not really read the questions and as such missed the point of discussion. As a result, you lost marks because your answers did not really address the question at hand. There were those who tried to take points in the study guide and put it in their own words but unfortunately just missed the point or went out of topic. And on the other hand, some copied directly from the book and other internet sources and did not even use proper in-text referencing. This is plagiarism and is not acceptable in academics.

**Spelling and Grammar:**
As Bachelor Students, by now, you should have learned that reading is important. You are not only to read when you are given assignments, but all the time. By reading, I'm referring to educational material which will enhance your grammar, spelling and intellect. Those who typed your assignments, you had an opportunity to use your computers grammar and spelling buttons. Some of you just “ignored” this tool which is so freely provided. Those who hand-wrote your assignments, you had the opportunity of making use of a dictionary. No matter how little time you have, it is just proper and courteous to read through your work and correct mistakes before submitting. It is also important to note at the same time that spelling and grammar check does not correct all your mistakes, because if a word is correct but written in the wrong tense, the computer cannot pick this up. Reading your work before submitting will assist you to avoid these pitfalls.

**Overall Comments:**

There are some students who displayed a wealth of knowledge, while others just copied what was written in the book. The idea is not to re-write the study guide, but to use it as a “guide”. You are expected to read other books in order to get a better understanding of the topic and to broaden your knowledge as well. Yet you are not required to ignore the study guide and just write what you think is correct, But the main point is to read and understand, take notes of the key words and combine sources and put it in your own words.

Secondly, it is vital that you pay attention to the marks allocated to each question. Now, it doesn’t mean you just write, no, you must learn to answer the questions and provide concrete facts which can win you marks.

Learn to back up your statement with evidence. Why do you say that? Don’t just make statements because at times what you say is not really fact.

Learn the meaning of the terms used in your question papers. Discuss, Explain, graphically illustrate etc. If you are asked to discuss, the reader expects you to challenge them with your discussions. Yet if the question says graphically illustrate and explain, you are required to draw a graph and explain what it represents. Learn to group your thoughts together and write in chronological order. Avoid repetitions and assumptions. Most importantly, don’t lose focus of what you want to say.

I hope that you will take time to go through these pointers and that they will be of help not only for this assignments, but for all your other work too.
Here are some tips for your future studies:

1) Make sure you have all the required prescribed material before the official start of the academic year. Order the books from a book store (Book Den in Windhoek has all the prescribed books and your study guide contains the other relevant material)

2) Make sure you have the prescribed study guide from COLL and make use of it.

3) Follow the course outline and start reading the prescribed material. If you do not have an outline or guide start reading anyway. The sooner you have “digested” the texts the better.

4) If possible read wider than the required texts. If you can, read up as much as possible on the required texts. Feel free to browse the web, but remember not all sites are reliable and many are not suitable as academic references (Wikipedia)

5) NEVER copy or paraphrase directly from any source or your workbook. This is plagiarism and you can be severely penalised.

6) Always quote your sources at the end of your assignment.

7) NUST uses the APA method of referencing. Find out about it or contact the NUST library. They have copies available. You can also look on the internet.

8) In answering questions always remember the lecturers want to see what you know not what others know, so give answers which show your own authentic response. Your response should be shaped by your reading of the text and about the text but present your answers in such a way that they reflect your own ideas and your wording of other people’s ideas.

**Questions specific comments**

PLEASE NOTE: MARKS WERE NOT ONLY AWARDED FOR PRESENTING THE CORRECT ANSWER. STUDENTS WERE EXPECTED TO PRESENT THEIR UNDERSTANDING THROUGH EXAMPLES RELATED TO NAMIBIA OR AFRICA AS WELL AS ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SOURCES (REFERENCING).

**QUESTION 1**

1.1 What does it meant by “transport is a derived demand”? (5 marks)

Students answered this question fairly however, majority of the students only displayed the understanding of derived demand but failed to relate it to the transport discipline.

**Possible answers:**
The demand for Transport is called derived demand because, Transport service is not demanded for its own sake but, the demand for transport is derived from other needs.

Example: Because a Transport Economics student needs to be at NUST for vacation school, he/she take a taxi from home to the NUST. In this case, the demand for transport was derived from the need to be at NUST for vacation school.

1.2 With aid of examples, explain the difference between macro and micro economics?

This was a very straight forward question which should have been answered with greater accuracy than was. Students answered this question fairly; however, the majority have failed to give examples macro and micro economics.

Microeconomics deals with questions such as what determine the demand of a particular journey or the demand of a particular mode of transport. What may happen to the level congestion if a road pricing system is introduced? Questions of this nature tends to deal with individual units within the economy or certain sector of the economy such as the transport sector, rather than the economy as whole. Macroeconomics on the other hand is the field of study that concerns the whole economy, hence would examine issues such as level of inflation, the level of unemployment or the size of the balance of payments.

QUESTION 2

2.1 Table 1 below shows the number of trips that passengers using the municipality buses in Windhoek will demand in a month at different prices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price N$</th>
<th>Number of trips demanded per month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.1.1 Use the data in the table to sketch the demand curve for public transport service provided by municipality of Windhoek and explain the shape of this curve? (5 marks)

Students answered this question fairly, only that some of the students did not have the same interval between two points especially with the number of trips. Some students also lost marks because they only drew the graph without explaining what the graph shows.

Hints:

- Price must be on the y-axis because it is the independent variable while number of trips on the x-axis
- Make sure you choose your intervals correctly. Example number of trips starting from 10, 20, 30,40,50,60 etc.

2.1.2 If the income level of passengers falls, use a diagram to explain how this might affect the demand for transport services provided by Municipality of Windhoek? (10 marks)
Unit 2 page 30-32 in your study guide will give you more understanding on how changes in income level influence the demand of goods and services.

**QUESTION 3**

3.2 **Define intermodal Transport and discuss what caused the sudden growth of multimodal transport?** (10 marks)

The United Nations Economic council (2000) defined Intermodal transport as the movement of goods in one and the same loading unit or road vehicle, which use successively two or more modes of transport without handling the goods themselves in changing modes.

Multimodal transport means the carriage of goods by at least two different modes of transport on the basis of a multimodal transport contract from a place in one country at which the goods are taken in charge by the multimodal transport operator to a place designated for delivery situated in a different country (Song and Panayides, 2012).

Understanding the two terms students were expected to discuss why they think multimodal transportation is important.

3.3 **The introduction of the maritime container has solved many problems. What were these problems, and how were they solved?** (10 marks)

The question was answered fairly however some Students did not read or understand the question properly, as a result they ended up discussing the important of containerisation. Nevertheless majority did fair.

Students were expected to point out the problems encountered in maritime shipping before the use of containers and further discuss how the invention or use of container solved such problems.

Please feel free to contact me should you have further questions or concerns.

Best regards
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