THE ORGANISATION IN ITS ENVIRONMENT

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THE ORGANISATION IN ITS ENVIRONMENT

Business in the Mixed Economy

J. Harvey

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Contents

Preface

ix

PART I THE ORGANISATION IN ITS ENVIRONMENT: A PROFILE

1	BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT	
I	Production for wants	3
II	The material standard of living	11
III	The firm and its environment	16
2	THE POPULATION AS CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS	
I	The growth of population	20
II	The implications of changes in the size of the population	23
III	The age distribution of the population	28
IV	The industrial distribution of the working population	30
V	The geographical distribution of the population	32
3	THE BACKGROUND TO BUSINESS ACTIVITY: THE PROBLEM OF SCARCITY	
I	The economic problem	35
II	Economic systems	36
III	The market economy	37
IV	The command economy	39
V	Britain's mixed economy	41

PART II THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UK

4	THE PROBLEM OF GOVERNMENT	
I	Introduction	47
II	Parliament	51
5	THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ADMINISTRATION	
I	The Cabinet	59
II	Government departments	60
III	The Civil Service	66
6	THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK	
I	The nature and role of law	71
II	The need for courts of justice	72
III	Criminal jurisdiction	73
IV	Civil jurisdiction	75
V	Administrative justice	77

vi Contents

VI	Arbitration	80
VII	Forms of firms' legal liability	80
VIII	Making contracts	82

PART III THE MARKET ECONOMY

7	THE OPERATION OF THE FREE MARKET	
I	Markets	91
II	Forces determining price	96
III	The determination of price: market-clearing	102
IV	Changes in the conditions of demand and supply	103
V	The functions of price in the free market	105
VI	Further applications	108
8	THE FIRM AND ITS CUSTOMERS	
I	The role of the firm	111
II	What to produce: marketing strategy	113
III	Elasticity of demand	117
IV	The distribution of goods to the consumer	121
V	Consumer protection	128
9	HOW TO PRODUCE: GENERAL PRINCIPLES	
I	The division of labour	131
II	The advantages of large-scale production	133
III	The size of firms	135
IV	The functional organisation of the firm	139
V	Combining resources	144
VI	The costs of production	148
10	THE FIRM'S OUTPUT: HOW MUCH TO PRODUCE	
I	Output under perfect competition	154
II	Elasticity of supply	160
III	Monopoly	163
IV	Monopolistic competition	172
V	Oligopoly, and pricing in practice	173
11	LABOUR	
I	The nature of the labour force	176
II	Determination of the rate of pay	177
III	Trade unions and collective bargaining	185
IV	Worker protection	193
12	OCCUPYING PREMISES	
I	The location of the business	197
II	Determination of the cost of land	200
III	Obligations of the occupiers of premises	203
13	CAPITAL: ITS SOURCES AND EMPLOYMENT	
I	The firm's need for liquid capital	206
II	Money markets	209

III	The capital market	213
IV	The Stock Exchange	215
V	Methods of financing a company	219
VI	Investment in fixed capital	222
VII	Industrial property	226
VIII	The responsibilities of an organisation to those who contribute capital	227
IX	Insolvency	230

PART IV THE PUBLIC SECTOR

14	THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES THROUGH THE PUBLIC SECTOR	
I	Introduction	235
II	The government department	236
III	Local authorities	240
IV	The nationalised industries	250
V	Other quasi-government bodies	257

PART V GOVERNMENT STABILISATION POLICY

15	GOVERNMENT DIRECTION OF THE ECONOMY	
I	Introduction	261
II	Measuring the national income	261
16	CYCLICAL FLUCTUATIONS IN INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT	
I	The nature of unemployment	272
II	The link between spending and production	275
III	Reasons for changes in aggregate demand	277
IV	Consumption and saving	278
V	Investment spending	282
VI	The control of cyclical unemployment	284
17	BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
I	The nature of the problem	289
II	Government policy	290
18	CURRENCY STABILITY	
I	The effects of inflation	295
II	Measuring changes in the general level of prices	296
III	Money	298
IV	The creation of credit	299
V	Bank lending policy	302
VI	Controlling the supply of money	305
19	THE REDISTRIBUTION OF INCOME	
I	Government expenditure	309
II	The modern approach to taxation	310
III	The structure of taxation	315

viii Contents

20	INTERNATIONAL TRADE	
	I	Why international trade? 320
	II	Pattern of UK overseas trade 323
	III	Free trade and protection 327
	IV	The balance of payments 331
	V	Balance of payments problems 338
	VI	International institutions 339
	VII	The European Economic Community 340
21	THE COMMUNITY AND ORGANISATIONS	
	I	A review 348
	II	Influencing organisations 348
	<i>Index</i>	350

Preface

The primary aim of this book is to provide a basic text covering 'The Organisation in its Environment', the common core modules 3 and 4 of the Business Education Council (BEC) National Awards. It could also be used as an introduction to Higher National Awards courses.

Because the syllabus draws on a number of disciplines – in particular economics, government and politics, and law – a textbook can adopt alternative approaches. First, it could take the learning objectives of the BEC syllabus, dealing with each in turn. The weakness of this is that it might simply describe topics in a rather unrelated way. Second, it can give a bird's-eye view of how the UK is organised to provide the goods and services required by the community, explaining principles, suggesting reasons and provoking thought, but at the same time seeking to integrate the syllabus topics within the broad structure. The latter is the method adopted by this book. But, to reassure teachers and students that the learning objectives are covered, the relevant chapters are indicated on page x.

The 'organisation' is interpreted widely, covering firms in the private sector and government departments, the nationalised industries, local authorities and other quasi-government bodies in the public sector. While such organisations may differ in structure and objectives, all are engaged in some form of production and the book shows how they are interrelated through this.

Nevertheless, their particular operations are so complex that rarely can their policies be explained by reference to a single section of the text. Thus the real task of analysing real-life situations and of integrating modules and the general and learning objectives is reserved for the exercises and projects provided in the accompanying workbook. In short, the textbook should be regarded primarily as the basic tool-kit which can be used to unravel the actual problems facing all organisations.

At all times, the needs of beginners have been kept uppermost. As far as possible, the formal disciplines of economics, government, law, etc., have been avoided. Nevertheless, especially when a topic falls mainly within the field of economics, some elementary theory to show how analysis can proceed has been introduced. This has two main advantages: first, there is nothing so practical as sound theory; second, should the student wish to proceed later to a more formal study of economics, his thinking will already have been directed along the right lines.

In conclusion I would like to thank my two editors, Nick Brealey and John Winckler, for their enthusiasm, encouragement and hard work, without which this book could not have been possible.

Coverage of learning objectives

<i>Learning objective</i>	<i>Relevant chapters</i>	<i>Learning objective</i>	<i>Relevant chapters</i>
A 1	1	F 1	7, 8
2	1, 14	2	7, 10
3	1	3	8
4	1	4	8
5	1	5	8
B 1	1, 8	G 1	8
2	1, 8, 14	2	14
3	3, 5, 9	3	7
C 1	1, 4	4	7
2	1, 11	5	8
3	2, 3	H 1	20
D 1	2	2	20
2	2	3	20
3	2	4	20
4	2	J 1	6
5	2	2	6
E 1	3	3	6
2	3	4	6
3	9	5	4, 5, 6
4	9	6	4, 6
5	9	K 1	4, 5, 14
6	10	2	6, 14
7	12	3	18
8	11	4	20
9	12, 13	L 1	3, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
10	13	2	18
11	13	3	15
12	12	4	1, 17
13	12	M 1	4, 5, 11, 16
14	12	2	4, 16
15	13	N 1	4, 5, 6
16	12	2	5, 6
17	11	3	5, 6
18	11	P 1	5, 16, 17
19	11	Q 1	4, 21
20	12, 13		
21	11, 12, 13		