

New
A Level
Economics

CONTESTABILITY

BOXING

Teacher Instructions

The aim of this resource is to stimulate discussion and analysis of markets with regards to how 'contestable' they may be. The students will apply the characteristics of market contestability to 6 markets and assess which of those characteristics apply most to each market.

The resource uses the Powerpoint file 'Contestability Boxing.pptm'. Ensure that you enable 'macros' when prompted.

Before starting, edit the tables on slide 4 to fit your needs (see next slide for editing instructions). Print out a 'Boxing ring template' (page 4) for each student or pair and a set of characteristic cards (page 5) for each student.

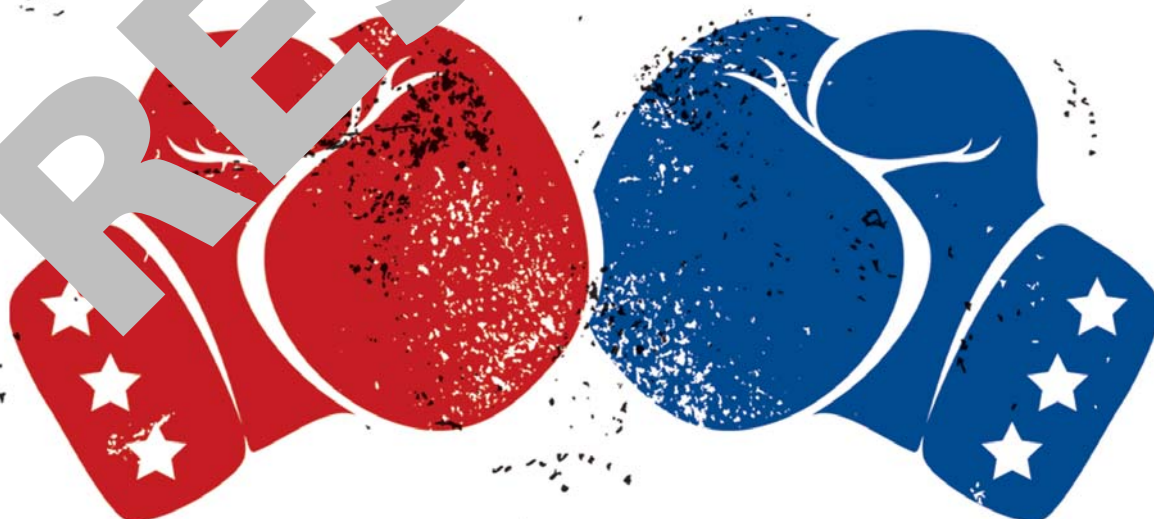
Run the slideshow from slide 1 and click on 'Click to start'. Explain the purpose of the activity and hand out the boxing ring template and characteristic card to each student or pair.

Click on 'Click to start'. The next slide shows the first market to be considered. Click on 'Click to continue' to start the 3 minute timer.

The students have 3 minutes to place their cards on the template. They think the characteristic when applied to the market on show would make that market is highly contestable then they should place the card on the 3 dark red boxes. If they are not quite so contestable characteristics then place them on the light red boxes. If the characteristic would make the market highly incontestable they can place the cards in the dark blue boxes (and light blue for only marginally incontestable). A single characteristic can only go on the light blue square.

Once time is up ask for student responses and discussion. Reveal the teacher solution by clicking on 'Click here for answers'. Discuss how your own answer contradicts or supports the student responses.

Repeat this with the other 5 markets.



Contestability Boxing

You can edit the characteristics, chosen markets and their level of contestability using the tables on slide 4.

The blue table is for characteristics. You must have 7 characteristics but they can be altered in this table.

Input the markets that you want to analyse in column 2 of the red table. For each market, allocate a square number for each characteristic that will show your answer on the boxing ring. The number for each square is coded using the diagram in the top right hand corner of slide 4. So, if you think that characteristic 1 should be in square 12, input the number 12 in the column headed 'Characteristic 1' in the red table.

For each market, also add an 'outcome' in the final column of the red table. There can be outcomes such as 'highly contestable' or simply 'contestable' or 'incontestable'.

On completion ensure that you run the slideshow from slide 1 - this will update all of the other slides including the 'results' slide 7 and 8.



HIGHLY

UNCONTESTABLE

BOXING RING TEMPLATE

For each market that is listed on the screen place your characteristics on the ring to the left.

If you think that the characteristic makes the market highly contestable then place in the dark red squares. If you think the market is partially contestable place them in the light red squares. Likewise place the characteristics in the dark or light red squares if you think the characteristics make the market incontestable. If the characteristic is neutral place in the neutral square.

to justify your answer!



***** Absence of sunk costs	***** Low consumer loyalty	***** Little regulations	***** Easy access to technology for production	***** Perfect information for supplier	***** Easy access to raw materials	***** Access to skilled labour
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CHARACTERISTICS

Cut out a set of cards for each student (or team).