



**KVS – PGT**

**Economics**

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# 1 CHAPTER

# Balance of Payments & Foreign Exchange

## Balance of Payments: Meaning, Nature and Significance

### 1. Introduction: Balance of Payments in Open Economy

In a modern **open economy**, no nation can remain economically isolated. Countries continuously engage in:

- International trade
- Capital movements
- Transfer of income and services

The **Balance of Payments (BOP)** is the systematic record of all such economic transactions between a country and the rest of the world. It occupies a **central position in international economics**, serving as a mirror of a nation's external economic relations.

**For KVS PGT Economics, this topic is conceptually sensitive because:**

- Students often confuse BOP with Balance of Trade
- Questions test *interpretation*, not mere definitions

### 2. Meaning of Balance of Payments

- The **Balance of Payments** is a **systematic record of all economic transactions** between the residents of a country and the rest of the world during a given period, usually one financial year.

**Key elements of this definition:**

- Systematic → follows accounting principles
- Economic transactions → only those involving value transfer
- Residents → individuals, firms, and government
- Given period → time-bound accounting

Thus, BOP is **not a balance in the ordinary sense**, but a **statement of accounts**.

### 3. Nature of Balance of Payments

#### 3.1 BOP as a Flow Concept

Balance of Payments records:

- Transactions over a period of time
- Not stock or accumulated wealth

Hence, it is a **flow concept**, unlike foreign exchange reserves, which are stock.

#### 3.2 BOP as a Double Entry Accounting Statement

**Every international transaction has:**

- A credit entry
- A debit entry

**For example:**

- Export of goods → credit
- Receipt of foreign currency → debit

Therefore, **BOP always balances arithmetically**, even when there is a deficit or surplus in accounts.

### 3.3 BOP as a Comprehensive Statement

**BOP includes:**

- Visible items (goods)
- Invisible items (services, transfers)
- Capital flows

Hence, it presents a **complete picture of external economic relations**.

## 4. Balance of Payments vs Balance of Trade

- This distinction is extremely important for examinations.

Basis	Balance of Trade	Balance of Payments
Scope	Trade in goods only	All economic transactions
Nature	Partial	Comprehensive
Components	Exports & imports of goods	Goods, services, transfers, capital
Analytical Value	Limited	Extensive

Balance of Trade is only a **part of BOP**, not a substitute.

## 5. Components Perspective (Introductory Insight)

Although detailed components will be discussed in the next part, conceptually:

- BOP is divided into **Current Account** and **Capital Account**
- Each account reflects a different aspect of external transactions

Understanding this structure is essential before analysing surplus or deficit.

## 6. Importance of Balance of Payments

### 6.1 Indicator of Economic Strength

**A country with:**

- Stable BOP
- Strong export performance
- Sustainable capital inflows
- Is considered **externally strong**.

**Persistent BOP deficits indicate:**

- Structural weaknesses
- Dependence on foreign capital

### 6.2 Role in Economic Policy Formulation

**Governments use BOP data to:**

- Frame trade policy
- Regulate imports and exports
- Manage foreign exchange reserves

Monetary and fiscal policies are often adjusted in response to BOP trends.

### 6.3 Basis of Exchange Rate Decisions

**Exchange rate stability depends heavily on:**

- BOP position
- Foreign exchange availability

Central banks intervene in foreign exchange markets based on BOP signals.

### 6.4 Importance in International Lending & Creditworthiness

**International institutions assess:**

- Loan eligibility
- Debt sustainability

On the basis of BOP performance.

### 6.5 Planning and Development Perspective

**For developing economies:**

- BOP constraints limit growth
- Export promotion becomes essential

Thus, BOP is a **constraint as well as a guide** for development planning.

## 7. BOP as a Diagnostic Tool

**Economists use BOP to diagnose:**

- Inflationary pressures
- Import dependence
- Export competitiveness
- Capital flow volatility

**It helps identify whether imbalance is:**

- Cyclical
- Secular
- Structural

## 8. Conceptual Errors to Avoid (Exam Focus)

- Treating BOP deficit as accounting imbalance
- Confusing BOP deficit with trade deficit
- Assuming BOP deficit is always harmful
- Ignoring capital account role

Most exam errors arise from **conceptual misunderstanding**, not lack of facts.

## 9. Teaching Relevance for KVS PGT

**For classroom instruction:**

- BOP links domestic economy with global economy
- Enhances understanding of globalization
- Builds base for exchange rate determination

Clear conceptual teaching prevents rote memorisation and confusion.

## Components of Balance of Payments Account

### 1. Introduction: Why Components of BOP Matter

- While the Balance of Payments presents a **comprehensive record of external transactions**, its real analytical value lies in its **components**. These components help economists and policymakers understand **where imbalances originate**, whether from trade, services, income flows, or capital movements.

For **KVS PGT Economics**, most higher-order questions are framed not on the definition of BOP, but on:

- Interpretation of **current vs capital account**
- Identification of **sources of deficit or surplus**
- Conceptual classification of transactions

Hence, a **structural understanding** of BOP components is indispensable.

### 2. Accounting Framework of Balance of Payments

The BOP account is broadly divided into:

- Current Account
- Capital Account

This division is based on:

- Nature of transaction
- Whether transaction affects **current income or capital position**
- Short-term vs long-term economic impact

Each account serves a **distinct analytical purpose**.

### 3. Current Account

#### 3.1 Meaning of Current Account

The **current account** records all transactions relating to:

- Goods**
- Services**
- Income**
- Current transfers**

These transactions affect the **current income level** of a country and are generally **recurring in nature**.

#### 3.2 Components of Current Account

The current account is composed of the following major elements:

##### 3.2.1 Trade in Goods (Visible Items)

This includes:

- Exports of goods
- Imports of goods

The difference between exports and imports of goods is known as the **Balance of Trade**.

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**Economic significance:**

- Major source of foreign exchange
- Reflects production capacity and competitiveness

**Persistent trade deficit often indicates:**

- Import dependence
- Weak export base

### 3.2.2 Trade in Services (Invisible Items)

**Services include:**

- Transport
- Insurance
- Banking
- Tourism
- Software and IT services

Service exports generate **foreign exchange earnings** without physical movement of goods.

**For economies with strong service sectors, surplus in services can:**

- Offset trade deficits
- Stabilize current account



### 3.2.3 Income

**Income transactions include:**

- Compensation of employees
- Investment income (interest, dividends, profits)

**These arise due to:**

- Labour movement across countries
- Cross-border investments

A country with high foreign investment inflows often experiences:

- Outflow of investment income

### 3.2.4 Current Transfers

**Current transfers include:**

- Remittances
- Gifts
- Grants
- Aid for consumption purposes

**These transactions:**

- Do not involve quid pro quo
- Directly affect disposable income

For developing economies, remittances are a **stable source of foreign exchange**.

## 3.3 Current Account Balance

- The difference between total receipts and total payments under current account is called the Current Account Balance.

- Surplus → receipts exceed payments
- Deficit → payments exceed receipts

**Current account balance is a key indicator of:**

- External sustainability
- Consumption-saving gap

## 4. Capital Account

### 4.1 Meaning of Capital Account

The **capital account** records all transactions that:

- Affect the **asset or liability position** of a country
- Involve **capital flows** rather than current income

These transactions are generally **non-recurring** and have **long-term implications**.

### 4.2 Components of Capital Account

#### 4.2.1 Borrowings

**Borrowings include:**

- External loans
- Multilateral and bilateral assistance

**These create:**

- Repayment obligation
- Interest liability

**Borrowings finance:**

- Development expenditure
- BOP deficits

#### 4.2.2 Foreign Investment

**Foreign investment includes:**

- Direct investment
- Portfolio investment

**Such inflows:**

- Increase foreign exchange reserves
- Influence economic growth

**However, they may also lead to:**

- Profit repatriation in future

#### 4.2.3 Banking Capital

Banking capital includes:

- Short-term capital movements
- Changes in foreign assets and liabilities of banks

**These flows are often:**

- Volatile
- Sensitive to interest rate differentials

#### 4.2.4 Changes in Foreign Exchange Reserves

**Changes in reserves reflect:**

- Central bank intervention
- Adjustment of BOP imbalances

**An increase in reserves indicates:**

- Net inflow of foreign exchange

**A decline signals:**

- Financing of BOP deficit

### 5. Relationship Between Current and Capital Account

Although recorded separately, the two accounts are **economically interconnected**.

- Current account deficit is financed by capital account surplus
- Capital inflows compensate for excess imports
- Persistent reliance on capital inflows indicates structural weakness

Thus, capital account should **support**, not substitute, current account strength.

### 6. Conceptual Distinction: Current vs Capital Account

Basis	Current Account	Capital Account
Nature	Income-related	Asset-related
Time horizon	Short-term	Long-term
Transactions	Recurring	Mostly non-recurring
Economic role	Consumption & income	Financing & investment

This distinction is a **high-frequency exam area**.

### 7. Analytical Importance for Policy

- Current account reflects trade competitiveness
- Capital account reflects investment climate
- Combined analysis guides exchange rate policy

**Macroeconomic stability requires:**

- Manageable current account deficit
- Stable capital inflows

### 8. Common Exam Traps

- Treating remittances as capital account items
- Confusing investment income with capital flows
- Assuming all foreign inflows are beneficial
- Ignoring reserve changes

Avoiding these errors requires **conceptual clarity, not memorisation**.

### 9. Teaching Relevance for KVS PGT

**For effective classroom teaching:**

- Components explain sources of foreign exchange
- Clarify reasons behind BOP deficit/surplus
- Prepare students for exchange rate analysis

This topic forms the **foundation for foreign exchange rate determination**.

## Balance of Payments: Surplus and Deficit (Causes, Economic Effects & Adjustment Mechanisms)

### 1. Introduction: BOP Balance as an Analytical Concept

- Although the Balance of Payments is **always balanced in accounting terms** due to the double-entry system, economists frequently use the terms **surplus** and **deficit** to describe the **net position of specific accounts**, particularly the **current account**. These terms help in diagnosing the **external economic health** of a country.

For **KVS PGT Economics**, this topic is conceptually sensitive because:

- Questions often test understanding of *which account* shows surplus/deficit
- Students confuse BOP deficit with trade deficit or accounting imbalance

A clear analytical approach is therefore essential.

### 2. Meaning of Balance of Payments Surplus

**A Balance of Payments surplus occurs when:**

- Total foreign exchange receipts exceed total foreign exchange payments
- The surplus is reflected through increase in foreign exchange reserves

In practice, BOP surplus generally refers to:

- **Current account surplus**, or
- Net surplus position after adjustments

#### 2.1 Interpretation of BOP Surplus

**BOP surplus indicates:**

- Strong export performance
- High inflow of remittances or services income
- Adequate foreign investment inflows

However, surplus is **not always a sign of economic strength**, as it may also reflect:

- Suppressed imports due to low domestic demand
- Capital inflows driven by speculative motives

### 3. Meaning of Balance of Payments Deficit

**A Balance of Payments deficit arises when:**

- **Total foreign exchange payments exceed total foreign exchange receipts**
- The deficit is financed through **drawing down foreign exchange reserves** or borrowing

In economic analysis, BOP deficit usually refers to:

- Current account deficit

#### 3.1 Interpretation of BOP Deficit

**BOP deficit implies:**

- Excess of imports over exports
- Higher payments for services and income
- Inadequate export earnings

A BOP deficit indicates **pressure on foreign exchange reserves** and may require policy intervention.

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## 4. Causes of Balance of Payments Surplus

### 4.1 Export-Led Growth

**A country may experience surplus due to:**

- Competitive manufacturing sector
- Strong global demand for exports
- Diversified export base

### 4.2 High Remittances and Service Exports

**Surplus may result from:**

- Large inflow of remittances
- Strong performance in IT, tourism, or financial services

Such earnings can offset merchandise trade deficits.

### 4.3 Capital Inflows

**Foreign investment inflows may lead to:**

- Temporary BOP surplus
- Increase in foreign exchange reserves

However, this surplus may be **volatile** in nature.

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## 5. Causes of Balance of Payments Deficit

### 5.1 Import-Intensive Growth

**Rapid economic growth often leads to:**

- Increased imports of capital goods
- Higher demand for energy and raw materials

This can cause **structural BOP deficit**.

### 5.2 Weak Export Competitiveness

**BOP deficit may arise due to:**

- High cost of production
- Poor quality or lack of diversification
- Unfavourable terms of trade

### 5.3 Inflationary Pressures

- Domestic inflation makes exports expensive and imports cheaper, worsening BOP.

### 5.4 Capital Outflows

**Outflow of foreign capital due to:**

- Political instability
- Higher interest rates abroad

Can aggravate BOP deficit.

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## 6. Economic Consequences of BOP Surplus

### 6.1 Positive Effects

- Strengthens foreign exchange reserves
- Enhances international creditworthiness
- Provides buffer against external shocks

## 6.2 Negative Effects

- Excessive surplus may lead to currency appreciation
- Appreciation can reduce export competitiveness
- May signal under-consumption or weak domestic demand

Thus, surplus is not unambiguously beneficial.

## 7. Economic Consequences of BOP Deficit

### 7.1 Adverse Effects

- Depletion of foreign exchange reserves
- Pressure on domestic currency
- Increased external borrowing
- Loss of investor confidence

### 7.2 Potential Benefits (Contextual)

**In developing economies:**

- Deficit financing may support growth
- Import of capital goods can raise productive capacity

Hence, the **quality and purpose of deficit** matters more than its existence.

## 8. Adjustment Mechanisms for BOP Disequilibrium

- When BOP surplus or deficit persists, corrective measures are required.

### 8.1 Automatic Adjustment Mechanism

**Through:**

- Price changes
- Exchange rate movements
- Income changes

**For example:**

- Deficit → currency depreciation → exports become cheaper → imports costlier

### 8.2 Policy Measures

**Governments may adopt:**

- Export promotion policies
- Import restrictions
- Exchange rate adjustments
- Monetary and fiscal measures

### 8.3 Capital Account Adjustments

- Encouraging foreign investment
- External borrowing

These are **short-term measures** and may create future liabilities.

## 9. BOP Surplus/Deficit and Foreign Exchange Reserves

- Surplus → accumulation of reserves
- Deficit → depletion of reserves

**Reserves act as:**

- Shock absorbers
- Tools for exchange rate management

However, excessive dependence on reserves is unsustainable.

## 10. Conceptual Errors to Avoid (Exam Focus)

- Treating BOP deficit as accounting imbalance
- Assuming surplus always indicates strength
- Ignoring role of capital account
- Confusing trade deficit with current account deficit

Most exam traps revolve around **partial understanding**.

## 11. Teaching Relevance for KVS PGT

**For classroom delivery:**

- This topic explains external sector challenges
- Links trade, capital flows, and exchange rates
- Prepares students for exchange rate determination

Clear explanation helps students understand **global economic interdependence**.

### **Foreign Exchange Rate: Meaning & Exchange Rate Systems (Fixed, Flexible & Managed Floating - Conceptual Analysis)**

#### 1. Introduction: Exchange Rate in an Open Economy

- In an open economy, domestic economic activities are deeply influenced by **international transactions**. Goods, services, capital, and income flow across borders, and all such transactions require conversion of one currency into another. The **foreign exchange rate** provides the mechanism through which this conversion takes place.

**For KVS PGT Economics, the concept of exchange rate is crucial because:**

- It links **Balance of Payments with macroeconomic stability**
- It explains movements in exports, imports, capital flows, and inflation
- It forms the conceptual base for **exchange rate determination and policy**

#### 2. Meaning of Foreign Exchange Rate

- The **foreign exchange rate** is the **price of one country's currency expressed in terms of another country's currency**.

**In simple terms, it shows:**

- How many units of domestic currency are required to purchase one unit of foreign currency, or
- How many units of foreign currency can be obtained with one unit of domestic currency.

Thus, the exchange rate represents the **external value of a currency**.

#### 3. Economic Significance of Exchange Rate

**The exchange rate influences:**

- Export competitiveness
- Cost of imports

- Capital inflows and outflows
- Inflation and growth
- Balance of Payments position

Even small changes in exchange rate can have **large macroeconomic effects**, making it a sensitive policy variable.

#### 4. Exchange Rate Systems: Conceptual Overview

- An **exchange rate system** refers to the method by which the value of a currency is determined in the foreign exchange market. Broadly, exchange rate systems can be classified into:

1. Fixed Exchange Rate System
2. Flexible (Floating) Exchange Rate System
3. Managed Floating Exchange Rate System

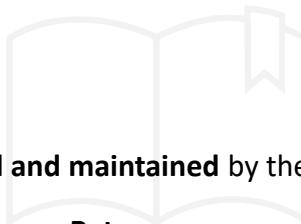
Each system reflects a different degree of government intervention.

#### 5. Fixed Exchange Rate System

##### 5.1 Meaning of Fixed Exchange Rate

Under the **fixed exchange rate system**, the value of a country's currency is **fixed or pegged to**:

- Another currency, or
- A basket of currencies, or
- Gold (historically)



The exchange rate is **officially declared and maintained** by the government or central bank.

##### 5.2 Role of Central Bank under Fixed Exchange Rate

**To maintain the fixed rate, the central bank:**

- Buys foreign currency when domestic currency appreciates
- Sells foreign currency when domestic currency depreciates

Thus, the exchange rate is kept stable through **official intervention**.

##### 5.3 Characteristics of Fixed Exchange Rate

- Stability in exchange rate
- Predictability in international trade
- Dependence on foreign exchange reserves
- Limited role of market forces

#### 6. Flexible (Floating) Exchange Rate System

##### 6.1 Meaning of Flexible Exchange Rate

Under the **flexible exchange rate system**, the exchange rate is **determined by market forces** of:

- Demand for foreign exchange
- Supply of foreign exchange

There is **no official target or fixed value**.

##### 6.2 Market Mechanism in Flexible Exchange Rate

- Excess demand for foreign currency → depreciation of domestic currency
- Excess supply of foreign currency → appreciation of domestic currency

Thus, exchange rate fluctuates freely based on economic conditions.

### 6.3 Characteristics of Flexible Exchange Rate

- Market-determined exchange rate
- Continuous fluctuations
- No need for large foreign exchange reserves
- Automatic adjustment of Balance of Payments

## 7. Managed Floating Exchange Rate System

### 7.1 Meaning of Managed Floating

The **managed floating exchange rate system** is a **hybrid system** combining features of:

- Fixed exchange rate system
- Flexible exchange rate system

**Under this system:**

- Exchange rate is largely market-determined
- Central bank intervenes occasionally to prevent excessive volatility

### 7.2 Nature of Central Bank Intervention

**Intervention is:**

- Not to maintain a fixed rate
- But to smoothen sharp fluctuations
- To protect economic stability



**This system is often described as:**

- “Floating with intervention”
- “Dirty float”

### 7.3 Rationale for Managed Floating

**Managed floating is adopted to:**

- Avoid extreme volatility of flexible rates
- Retain policy autonomy
- Protect trade and investment interests

Most modern economies, especially developing countries, prefer this system.

## 8. Comparison of Exchange Rate Systems

Basis	Fixed	Flexible	Managed Floating
Determination	Government	Market	Market + Intervention
Stability	High	Low	Moderate
Role of Central Bank	Active	Minimal	Selective
Forex Reserves	Essential	Not essential	Moderately required

This comparison is **frequently tested** in examinations.

## 9. Exchange Rate System and BOP

- Fixed system requires strong BOP position
- Flexible system adjusts automatically through price changes
- Managed floating balances stability with adjustment

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### Choice of system depends on:

- Level of development
- Openness of economy
- Stability of capital flows

### 10. Conceptual Errors to Avoid (Exam Focus)

- Assuming fixed exchange rate means no change ever
- Treating managed floating as fully fixed
- Ignoring role of central bank under flexible regime
- Confusing exchange rate system with exchange control

Such errors arise from **partial understanding**.

### 11. Teaching Relevance for KVS PGT

**For classroom teaching:**

- This topic connects BOP with currency value
- Helps students understand global economic shocks
- Builds foundation for exchange rate determination

Clear explanation ensures conceptual clarity and exam readiness.

### **Determination of exchange rate in a free market**

#### **(demand-supply analysis, factors affecting exchange rate)**

#### 1. Introduction: Exchange Rate as a Market Phenomenon

- Under a **flexible exchange rate system**, the value of a currency is not fixed by the government. Instead, it is determined by the interaction of **demand for foreign exchange** and **supply of foreign exchange** in the foreign exchange market. This market-based determination reflects the **external economic conditions** of a country.

For **KVS PGT Economics**, this topic is conceptually crucial because:

- It links **BOP transactions with exchange rate movements**
- It explains currency appreciation and depreciation
- It forms the analytical base for merits and demerits of exchange rate systems

#### 2. Foreign Exchange Market: Conceptual Overview

The **foreign exchange market** is the market where:

- Different national currencies are bought and sold
- Exchange rates are determined

Participants include:

- Importers and exporters
- Foreign investors
- Banks and financial institutions
- Central bank (indirectly under flexible system)

The exchange rate emerges from the **collective behaviour of these participants**.

### 3. Demand for Foreign Exchange

#### 3.1 Meaning of Demand for Foreign Exchange

- Demand for foreign exchange refers to the **demand for foreign currency** by residents of a country to make payments to the rest of the world.

It is expressed as:

- Demand for dollars, euros, etc., in terms of domestic currency

#### 3.2 Sources of Demand for Foreign Exchange

**Demand for foreign exchange arises due to:**

- Import of goods
- Import of services
- Outflow of capital (foreign investment abroad)
- Transfer payments to other countries

Each of these creates a **need for foreign currency**, increasing demand.

#### 3.3 Exchange Rate and Demand Relationship

There exists an **inverse relationship** between:

- Exchange rate and quantity demanded of foreign exchange

**When:**

- Exchange rate rises → foreign currency becomes costlier → demand falls
- Exchange rate falls → foreign currency becomes cheaper → demand rises

This inverse relationship gives the **downward slope** to the demand curve.

### 4. Supply of Foreign Exchange

#### 4.1 Meaning of Supply of Foreign Exchange

- Supply of foreign exchange refers to the **availability of foreign currency** in the domestic market.

**It arises when:**

- Foreign currency flows into the country

#### 4.2 Sources of Supply of Foreign Exchange

**Supply of foreign exchange comes from:**

- Export of goods
- Export of services
- Inflow of foreign investment
- Remittances and transfers

These transactions increase the **availability of foreign currency**.

#### 4.3 Exchange Rate and Supply Relationship

There exists a **direct relationship** between:

- Exchange rate and quantity supplied of foreign exchange

**When:**

- Exchange rate rises → foreign currency fetches more domestic currency → supply increases
- Exchange rate falls → supply decreases

This direct relationship gives the **upward slope** to the supply curve.

## 5. Determination of Equilibrium Exchange Rate

- The **equilibrium exchange rate** is determined at the point where:
- Demand for foreign exchange equals supply of foreign exchange

**At this rate:**

- There is neither excess demand nor excess supply
- The foreign exchange market clears

Any deviation from this equilibrium creates forces that bring the exchange rate back to equilibrium.

## 6. Appreciation and Depreciation of Currency

### 6.1 Appreciation of Domestic Currency

**Appreciation occurs when:**

- Value of domestic currency rises relative to foreign currency

**Caused by:**

- Increase in supply of foreign exchange
- Decrease in demand for foreign exchange

**Economic effects:**

- Exports become costlier
- Imports become cheaper
- Trade balance may worsen

### 6.2 Depreciation of Domestic Currency

**Depreciation occurs when:**

- Value of domestic currency falls relative to foreign currency

**Caused by:**

- Increase in demand for foreign exchange
- Decrease in supply of foreign exchange

**Economic effects:**

- Exports become cheaper
- Imports become costlier
- Trade balance may improve

## 7. Factors Affecting Demand and Supply of Foreign Exchange

The exchange rate is influenced by several factors, including:

- Changes in exports and imports
- Capital movements
- Changes in income levels
- Speculation and expectations
- Government policies

Each factor shifts either the demand curve or the supply curve, leading to a new equilibrium.

## 8. Automatic Adjustment Mechanism under Flexible Exchange Rate

**Under flexible exchange rate system:**

- BOP deficit leads to depreciation
- Depreciation boosts exports and discourages imports
- BOP moves towards balance automatically

Thus, flexible exchange rate acts as a **self-correcting mechanism**.

## 9. Analytical Importance for Policy

Understanding free market determination helps in:

- Evaluating exchange rate volatility
- Designing intervention strategies
- Assessing impact of global shocks

This analysis is essential before comparing exchange rate systems.

## 10. Common Conceptual Errors (Exam Focus)

- Confusing appreciation with depreciation
- Assuming demand for foreign exchange slopes upward
- Ignoring capital flows
- Treating exchange rate as independent of BOP

Most exam mistakes stem from **diagrammatic misunderstanding**.

## 11. Teaching Relevance for KVS PGT

For classroom teaching:

- This topic provides graphical clarity
- Helps students link theory with real-world exchange movements
- Prepares students for analytical and diagram-based questions

### Merits And Demerits of Flexible and Fixed Exchange Rate & Managed Floating Exchange Rate System

#### 1. Introduction: Why Exchange Rate Choice Matters

The choice of an exchange rate system is one of the **most critical macroeconomic policy decisions** for any country. It directly influences:

- External trade competitiveness
- Capital flows and investment climate
- Inflation and growth
- Balance of Payments stability

No exchange rate system is universally superior. Each system involves **trade-offs between stability and flexibility**, autonomy and discipline. For **KVS PGT Economics**, questions frequently test the **comparative logic**, not mere listing of merits and demerits.

#### 2. Fixed Exchange Rate System: Merits

- A **fixed exchange rate system** provides certainty by maintaining a stable external value of the domestic currency.

##### 2.1 Stability in International Trade

- Eliminates exchange rate uncertainty
- Facilitates long-term contracts
- Encourages international trade

**Stability is particularly beneficial for:**

- Exporters
- Importers
- Long-term investors