

AS/A2 ECONOMICS

Entry requirements:

Students are not expected to have previously studied the subject, but an interest in and an awareness of the business environment is important. It is preferable for students academic performance at GCSE to include at least 3 or 4 As and Bs.

Examination board:

AQA

Teachers:

C Broadhurst
C Spick
K Bradley

Timetable organisation

5 periods per week, usually divided between two members of staff. Between lessons students are expected to read widely, using a variety of references and resources and will of course also be set 1-2 hours of homework per week.

Main Syllabus areas

Study of the subject aims to develop in students an understanding of the fundamental economic concepts by focusing on current issues, problems etc. affecting modern society. The course involves study of the strengths and weaknesses of a market economy and the role of Government within it. The course is lively, relevant and up to date with room for discussion of topical and current events on many occasions.

AS Economics focuses on two units:

- Unit 1 – Markets and Market failure
- Unit 2 – The National Economy

In the second year, a further two units are studied:

- Unit 3 – Business Economics and the Distribution of Income
- Unit 4 – The National and International Economy

AS Level:

- Unit 1 - 1 hour 15 mins (50%) - A combination of multiple choice and data response questions
- Unit 2 - 1 hour 15 mins (50%) - Two compulsory data response questions

Method of assessment

A Level:

- Unit 1 - 1 hour 15 mins (25%)
- Unit 2 - 1 hour 15 mins (25%)
- Unit 3 - 2 hours (25%) - A data response question in Section A, and an essay in Section B
- Unit 4 - 2 hours (25%) - A data response question in Section A and a further essay in Section B

Qualities required

- An interest in/awareness of current affairs
- A logical, coherent approach to problem solving
- A desire to engage in regular background reading
- An inquisitive mind
- A willingness and ability to work independently, showing initiative, organisation and perseverance
- An ability to communicate effectively
- Some mathematical ability in using and interpreting data

Links with other subjects

Frequently studied alongside Mathematics, Geography and English, but increasingly with a wide spread of other subjects. Economics is becoming an essential element of study in a variety of H.E. courses from Law to Engineering, including of course Business/Management

Career prospects

Economics is a useful background subject for further study in a variety of areas, e.g. journalism, law, but is also a key element of subjects such as marketing, finance, accounting and insurance as well as courses including retail or sports management, and urban planning. Of course, the subject remains a key area of knowledge and understanding for all future citizens, consumers and producers.

Extension and enrichment opportunities

Economics is a lively subject; study usually involves opportunities to participate in visits to conferences, visits to the City of London, competitions, individual and group presentations and access to the local business community.