

The Sheffield Sixth Form – Economics Pre-induction Summer Project

Welcome

Welcome to the A Level Economics study guide. This guide will help you prepare for your studies with us in September.

Economics includes the study of how people behave and interact with each other, as well as the dynamic between consumers, manufacturers and government.

You'll look at the fundamental forces which affect our lives, such as employment, prices, international trade and poverty. Economists are often in healthy debate with each other over these issues and it is this controversy which makes the subject lively and interesting and which allows you the opportunity to make your own judgements and form your own opinions. There are several definitions of economics, with each trying to encapsulate the essence of the subject. However, most textbooks seem to agree that "economics concerns the allocation of society's scarce resources amongst the many alternative uses to which they could be put."

Topics you may study include:

- Microeconomics - Microeconomics addresses issues such as: "Why are house prices so high?", "Can pollution effectively be controlled?" and "Should governments interfere with markets?"
- Macroeconomics - The macroeconomic issues covered include: "Why does the Government have an inflation rate target and how does it affect us?", "What happens to the economy if people decide to spend more?" and "How are we affected by the Chinese and Indian economies?"

Students develop the knowledge and skills needed to understand and analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions. They will also build upon their quantitative skills and appreciate that, when evaluating arguments, both qualitative and quantitative evidence are important.

This AQA A Level Economics can be studied alongside Maths, Sociology, Psychology, Politics, Geography and Business.

About the course

During their course of study, students will develop a critical approach to economic models and methods of enquiry. Students will have a good knowledge of developments in the UK economy and government policies over the past fifteen years.

Students will be expected to acquire competence in quantitative skills that are relevant to the subject content and be familiar with the various types of statistical and other data which are commonly used by economists. Students will be able to make relevant calculations from economic data and be able to interpret data presented in the form of index numbers. Examples of other relevant quantitative skills include: the construction and use of graphs and the application of statistical measures such as the mean and median. Students will understand the role of evidence in economic decision making and will appreciate the importance of value judgements. There are 2 units that the 3 exams will cover:

4.1 Individuals, firms, markets and market failure.

Students will be required to acquire knowledge and understanding of a selection of microeconomic models and to apply these to current problems and issues, such as demand and supply, perfect competition, monopoly, the operation of the price mechanism and the causes of market failure are central to this part of the specification. Students will need to demonstrate a realistic understanding of the decisions made by firms and how their behaviour can be affected by the structure and characteristics of the industry in which they operate.

4.2 The national and international economy.

Students should understand that microeconomic principles underpin the behaviour of the macroeconomy, for example, understanding of price elasticity of demand is essential when analysing the impact of changes in the exchange rate on an economy. Students should have a good knowledge of developments in the UK economy and government policies over the past fifteen years. They should also be aware of developments in the world economy.

Course content

You will study 14 subjects within your A Level Economics. These are:

- 1) Economic methodology and the economic problem
- 2) Individual economic decision making
- 3) Price determination in a competitive market
- 4) Production, costs and revenue
- 5) Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
- 6) The labour market
- 7) The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- 8) The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets The national and international economy
- 9) The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- 10) How the macroeconomy works : the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis, and related concepts
- 11) Economic performance
- 12) Financial markets and monetary policy
- 13) Fiscal policy and supply-side policies
- 14) The international economy

In order to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in economics, students need to have acquired competence in the quantitative skills that are relevant to the subject content and which are applied in the context of an economics A-level, including: • calculate, use and understand ratios and fractions • calculate, use and understand percentages and percentage changes • understand and use the terms mean, median and relevant quantiles • construct and interpret a range of standard graphical forms • calculate and interpret index numbers • calculate cost, revenue and profit (marginal, average, totals) • make calculations to convert from money to real terms • make calculations of elasticity and interpret the result • interpret, apply and analyse information in written, graphical and numerical forms. The assessment of quantitative skills will include at least Level 2 mathematical skills as a minimum of 20% of the overall A-level marks. These skills may be assessed across the assessment objectives.

Where does this lead?

Possible career choices A-level economics can offer you include accountancy, stockbroker, banker and online financial and business-related careers, however most require a higher level of education. Your A Level economics can lead you to degrees in economics, business studies, business management, politics, social sciences and engineering. Some degrees offer a combination such as Economics and a language or Politics and Economics or Economics and Management. Some degrees also offer a placement year to improve your industrial knowledge and practice.

The Sheffield College offer a variety of Higher Education courses including degree courses. This A Level can lead onto these higher level programmes.

Future opportunities

Economists research and analyse aspects of economic and financial policy, and advise businesses, banks, and governments on statistical data, trends, and investments. You will produce detailed and economic analysis to inform business' strategic decision-making. As an Economics graduate with critical thinking, analytical and communication skills, there are a variety of careers available both inside and outside the criminal justice sector including:

Economist, Chartered account, Investment analyst, Financial risk analyst, Management consultant, Government officer, Accountant, Economic researcher, Financial consultant.

Assessment

There are 3 externally set exams in year 2 - Paper 1: The operation of markets and market failure and Paper 2: The national economy in a global context and Paper 3: Economic principles and issues. Each exam is 2 hours. The exams are a mixture of data response analysis, multi-choice questions and essay questions. You will need to pass the 4 Progression tests and 2 mock exams to move from year 1 to year 2.

How to prepare for joining us.

We are really looking forward to you joining us in September and to help you prepare for this you should complete the following task.

TASK

Scenario – you work for `Delightte` as the European Investment Manager. The recent Coronavirus has had a major impact upon the economies of the world. Create an email to send to your clients giving them a report on the following economic industries and issues:

- Oil Industry globally
- UK Supermarkets
- Global Restaurant and Hotel Industry
- UK Inflation
- UK unemployment
- UK Bank Interest Rates



Within your email you should include the following:

- What is happening in the industry at present giving examples from the UK and / or globally.
- How this may affect people within the UK and your investors.

This task should take you up to 15 hours in total and you can use programmes such as Microsoft Word to present your email. You should hand this task in during your first week of teaching.

Good luck.