

Economics

A Level

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Exam Board: EDEXCEL



What is this subject about?

Economics is the study of how individuals and groups make decisions with limited resources so as to best satisfy their wants, needs, and desires. You will study basic economic concepts and theories, such as supply and demand, the operation of markets for goods, services and labour, reasons why markets sometimes fail (e.g. the recent problems in the financial and housing markets) and how policies can be used to remedy such failure. You also look at the key features and measures of the UK economy such as unemployment, inflation and economic growth, which will help you to understand, and comment upon, government policy.

In the A2 year, you study business economics and economic efficiency, as well as examining the UK economy in a global context. You also examine and explore the economies of developing countries and consider wider issues such as poverty, aid and debt.

For the AS level you will study:

How markets work, why they fail; Managing the UK economy

For the A2 level you will study:

Business economics and economic efficiency; The Global economy

How is the course assessed?

Through written examinations. There are two written exams in each year.

What skills will I need for this course?

Good written and numerical skills, but also a real interest in how the economy works and current economic affairs.

What courses would combine well with this subject?

Mathematics, Politics, Sociology and Geography all combine well with the study of Economics.

What can the course lead to in terms of higher education and future careers?

Degrees in Economics and related subjects. Economists work in a variety of fields such as the city markets, financial services, government and administration and business services.

What are the formal entry requirements for this course?

Aside from the general entry criteria that the College requires, you will also need a grade C in GCSE English Language and a grade C in GCSE Maths.

What extra support / enrichment activities are on offer?

As well as the subject tutorials, the Economics department has run visits to financial institutions, student conferences and a trip abroad to a major European city.

Do I need to do A level Maths with Economics?

No, you can study Economics at A level without A level Maths. However, A level Maths is VERY STRONGLY RECOMMENDED if you are considering studying Economics at degree level. Many competitive universities will require high grades in A level Maths and will not consider your application for Economics without it. Having said that, there are also many universities who WILL take students on to degree courses without A level Maths!

Can I combine Economics with Business Studies A level?

A very limited number of universities prefer students not to study Business Studies and Economics (mainly Oxford, Cambridge and Bristol) but students who have studied both at A level have gone on to leading universities such as Exeter, Durham and London School of Economics.



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