

ECONOMICS IN THE SIXTH FORM

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT

Economics teaches students to think logically and to use theories to understand how economies function. At the centre of the subject is the question of how we divide up our scarce resources, and how decisions resulting from this affect us all. It therefore studies all of society, both private and public sector and the activities of various groups and institutions within it. The study of Economics provides students with an exciting opportunity to develop their understanding and ability to interpret economic events in the world around them.

Economics is taught in the Sixth Form as an A Level (having switched from Cambridge Pre-U in 2019). The course provides excellent preparation for University level study.

CONTENT AND SKILLS

Students are provided with opportunities to:

- Analyse and evaluate the economic concepts and theories that underpin the workings of a modern day economy.
- Develop quantitative skills through the appreciation and use of various relevant statistics.
- Understand and apply the concepts of causality and interdependence, on both a macro and a micro scale.
- Critically and independently assess the effectiveness of policy decisions, both internal and external, that have influenced the UK economy over the past 10 years.
- Communicate their reasoning and conclusions fully and effectively.

The curriculum covers **microeconomics** - why economic choices have to be made, the market model, the theory of how firms operate, labour markets, how markets can be efficient and how they can fail. The **macroeconomic** part of the course covers key macroeconomic concepts such as economic growth, inflation, unemployment, productivity and competitiveness as well as conflicts in Government policy-making.

The **global economics** component covers the analysis of trade and exchange rates and includes the opportunity to study highly topical contexts including the European Union, less developed economies and globalisation.





ASSESSMENT

AQA Economics question papers consist of:

- Paper 1 - short answer, data response and essay questions on a choice of microeconomics topics.
- Paper 2 - short answer, data response and essay questions on a choice of macroeconomics topics (both UK and global topics are covered).
- Paper 3 - a 30 question multiple choice section and essay paper based on a single topical economic issue.

WHAT DOES ECONOMICS COMBINE WELL WITH?

Economics combines particularly well with History, Geography, Government and Politics, Modern Languages and Mathematics. It is a desirable qualification for a range of Arts and Social Science courses and many Sixth Formers go on to university to study such subjects as Economics, Law, Business Management, Finance Accountancy and PPE. Economics provides opportunities for careers in both the public and private sectors, in the UK and abroad including banking, accountancy, management, insurance, the civil service, local government, manufacturing, systems analysis and computer science.

CO-CURRICULAR LEARNING

There are a number of enrichment opportunities offered by the Department including Young Enterprise and the IEA Budget Challenge. Students may also attend topical lectures and take part in Economics and Business related trip opportunities.

PRE-U RESULTS 2019

PRE-U	D3	M1	M3
A LEVEL equivalent	A*/A	B	C
Economics	25%	50%	25%

Economics will be offered at A Level starting from the 2019/20 academic year.