

A Level Economics

Why study Economics?

Economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. An economic way of thinking can help you make better choices.

Economics is the subject for you if you enjoy debating economic issues such as inequality, immigration and how we should pay for healthcare. You will use and interpret data to analyse economic problems and discuss alternative courses of action. You will also keep up to date with national and international trends. We expect to take you to the Economics In Action conference at Warwick University (this incurs a small additional cost), and will encourage you to take part in competitions such as the Student Investor Challenge and the Royal Economic Society essay competition. We will also arrange to attend relevant public lectures at local universities.

Entry requirements

You should be comfortable expressing yourself both in short essay form and in diagrams using mathematical analysis; we ask that you have a grade 5 (6 preferred) in GCSE Maths. Most importantly, you need a strong interest in current affairs; Economics comes to life when you can see it at work in the world around you.

What does the course involve?

In Theme 1 and Theme 2 (Year 12) you will be introduced to the nature of economics, how markets work and why they fail. You will also consider the role of government and the UK economy. In Theme 3 and Theme 4 (Year 13) you will explore how businesses grow and compete, the labour market and how the government intervenes to make markets work better. You will also explore international trade, inequality within and between countries, emerging and developing economies, and the public finances. You will also have an opportunity to consider the role and impact of the financial sector.

Exam Board

Edexcel (B) 2015

How is the course assessed?

Papers 1 & 2 cover the short-answer, data response and essay questions on markets and business behaviour (1) and on the national and global economy (2). Paper 3 covers concepts and theory from the whole course with data response and essay questions. Each paper is weighted 1/3 of the final mark.

What can an A Level in Economics lead to?

Suitable higher education courses include Economics degrees or degrees in Applied Economics such as Environmental Economics, Labour Economics or Monetary Economics. You might choose to study Business Economics, Econometrics or a Management Science degree. Economics students can follow a wide range of careers in industry, commerce, finance and the civil service. If you are considering a degree course in Economics, it is worth noting that most universities ask for A Level Maths as part of their entry requirements.



What skills will be developed in the Economics A Level course?

Studying Economics will help you develop transferable skills that will prepare you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. These include skills in data interpretation, essay writing, as well as problem-solving. There is a strong emphasis on personal research and the ability to undertake independent investigations concerning economic concepts is essential. The research is used in extended writing, competitions and classroom discussions.

