

Social Science: Economics A Level

Overview of the course

Economics is the branch of Social Science that deals with the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. It also looks at how they are managed taking into account various related problems of labour, finance, and taxation.

AS Unit 1: What Governments & firms decide to produce and why

AS Unit 2: How issues such as Unemployment and Inflation are controlled

A2 Unit 3: The work and Leisure markets e.g. why certain professions get paid so much?

A2 Unit 4: Ideas of Poverty and Globalisation.

What skills will students develop?

- Analysis - throughout the course students consider the impact of key economic issues.
- Evaluation - Students will aim to be able to justify economic choices.
- Extended Reading - Pupils will be required to gather information from a variety of sources.
- Communication - students often work in groups to create presentations.

Assessment

Assessment takes place, at the least, every two weeks. Assessments are usually in the form of past paper questions or essays. Assessment grades are used to help monitor and support progress.

End of Year 12: Two 1h 30min Exams

End of Year 13: Two 2h Exams

SMSC

Students will develop SMSC through looking at the social and moral implications that government policies can have. Spiritual and cultural development is explored through the study of poverty across the globe.

Literacy

Throughout year 12 and 13 students will be developing their literacy skills. Pupils work together in groups or pairs to write model paragraphs or essays in order to be able to write in a more academic way. In addition classes often incorporate literacy based games or wider reading from relevant newspapers and magazines.

Numeracy

Numeracy is a heavy feature in Economics. From the onset students will plot and interpret Demand and Supply graphs. In year 13 pupils analyse data from government sources and consider the implications upon the economy.

ICT

Throughout course pupils will be expected to research specific topics and create presentations. All students in the A level cohort follow an Economics Twitter account.

Meeting the needs of individual students.

According to the needs of the student, differentiated activities are provided. In class G&T students are often faced with more challenging tasks or extension questions to further their knowledge. In addition those who may require extra help are often provided with writing frames to aid their learning. Further to this, all pupils have the opportunity to book in sessions with a subject mentor. Here pupils can either recap concepts they find difficult or carry out tasks to help stretch their knowledge.

Resources to support learning:

- Tutor2u website
- ONS website
- The Economist
- <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-economics-h061-h461/>

Extra-curricular activities

Students are able to access a variety of opportunities beyond the classroom. These include visits to Government offices to gain an understanding of how budget decisions are made and regular trips to LSE Public lectures.

Additional support for learning

Pupils are provided with textbooks and revision guides each year. Extension classes for pupils also take place on a weekly basis. These can be used to either reinforce difficult topics or stretch pupils further to develop their knowledge.

Independent study & VLE

Students are set home study work on a weekly basis which may include wider reading, exam questions or research in the VLE.