

# Economics

## A Level

AQA GCE AS/A2

Head of Department – Jamieson Brown

You should do this course if.....

You have a genuine interest in current affairs, business, politics and environmental issues. Economics is the [social science](#) that studies the production, [distribution](#), and consumption of [goods and services](#). It is well suited for theoretical thinkers who are interested in exploring answers to questions such as: 'How can we end world poverty?' or 'why are house prices rising so quickly?'

If you're considering a career in business, finance or politics, Economics is the subject for you. Regardless of what career path you take though, Economics will provide you with knowledge that will benefit you greatly in later life, helping you to make decisions from: 'What type of mortgage to get?' to: 'Which political party to vote for?'

Skills you will develop on this course

Developing economic arguments; Research skills: books, newspapers, journals and internet; clarity of oral and written expression; critical evaluation skills; debating and presentation skills; concise and efficient note-taking styles; application of numerical / theoretical models; I.C.T., team working, improving own learning & performance, and problem solving.

Topics studied

### UNIT 1 - (AS)

*Markets & Market Failure:* Introduces basic microeconomic models, enabling students to apply these to current problems and issues. Basic microeconomic models include: Demand and supply, the operation of the price mechanism, and causes of market failure.

### UNIT 2 - (AS)

*The National Economy:* Provides students with an understanding of developments in the UK economy and government policies over the past ten years. Also considers AD/AS Analysis; providing opportunities to use this analysis to explore recent and current economic behaviour.

### UNIT 3 – (A2)

*Business Economics & The Distribution of Income:* This Module builds on the knowledge and skills students have developed in Module 1. It requires them to use and evaluate more complex microeconomic models, for example, perfect competition, monopoly and oligopoly, and to develop further their critical approach to such economic models and methods of enquiry.

### UNIT 4 – (A2)

*The National & International Economy:* Further develops students' critical approach to economic models and methods of enquiry. Students gain an appreciation of the ways in which developments in the U.K economy can be related to the global and European Union contexts.

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### How will you learn?

Classroom teaching, exercises/activities, discussions, taking notes from presentations, filling in handouts, textbooks, video, group research and presentations; using past A level stimulus-response and essay questions; library and internet research; questions set by your teacher; re-reading notes taken in class; use of interactive e-learning environment.

All students should read a quality newspaper and make good use of the economics journals, written specifically for A Level students, available in the LRC.

### Where does the course lead?

Many degrees such as Accountancy, Business, Management, Business & Finance, Politics, Geography and Law all contain aspects of Economics. Many of our former students have gone on to do degrees in Economics, Engineering, Maths or Physical Sciences, and have found the subject useful to them. Ultimately, many Economics students go on to work for large businesses, often within the financial sector. Economics will also help you to make sense of current affairs and to be more aware of real world economic issues, such as poverty, unemployment, traffic congestion and house prices. You will also be developing a range of skills, which will certainly help, in your chosen career.

### Assessment and Exams

#### Unit 1

AS Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes. 25 compulsory multiple choice Q's (total of 25 marks). Choice of one from two data response questions (total of 50 marks). 25% of the total A Level marks

#### Unit 2

AS Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes. 25 compulsory multiple choice Q's (total of 25 marks). Choice of one from two data response questions (total of 50 marks). 25% of the total A Level marks

#### Unit 3

A2 Written exam: Choice of one from two data response questions (total of 40 marks) Choice of one from three essay questions (total of 40 marks). 25% of the total A Level marks

#### Unit 4

A2 Written exam: Choice of one from two data response questions (total of 40 marks) Choice of one from three essay questions (total of 40 marks). 25% of the total A Level marks

### Entry Requirements

5C's at GCSE. Grade C or above in English Language and Maths.

You must be prepared to learn to write clearly and efficiently, but most importantly you must have a general interest in economic issues that affect our everyday lives.