

## Economics A Level (Edexcel A)

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### Course description

Economics is truly all around us, present in almost every aspect of our lives. Studying the subject gives students a generalist understanding of the world and its inner workings. Students learn everything from what determines the price of goods and services to why the average standards of living vary so widely within and between countries. The case-based learning emphasis on economics at A-Level makes it really easy to see how the theory has real-life applications, particularly when considering the recent volatility of global markets. Economics students devote a lot of their learning time to independent study. This equips them for life in the real-world, where people are expected to take responsibility for their own development and conversely, contribution.

### Course content

The Economics course is structured into four themes:

**Theme 1:** Introduction to markets and market failure

**Theme 2:** The UK economy – performance and policies

**Theme 3:** Business behaviour and the labour market.

**Theme 4:** A global perspective.

### Assessment

The Economics course consists of three papers:

**Paper 1: Markets and business behaviour** – 35% of total qualification / 100 marks / 2 hours. Paper 1 will assess microeconomics and questions will be drawn from Themes 1 and 3.

**Paper 2: The national and global economy** – 35% of total qualification / 100 marks / 2 hours. Paper 2 will assess macroeconomics and questions will be drawn from Themes 2 and 4.

**Paper 3: Microeconomics and macroeconomics** – 30% of total qualification / 100 marks / 2 hours. Paper 1 will assess content across all four themes.

### Future opportunities

A-Level economics will give you a range of subject-specific skills from statistical analysis and an understanding of economic theory and modelling approaches to the ability to apply economic reasoning to policy issues in a critical manner. You'll also gain a whole suite of sought-after transferable skills including numeracy, communication, data handling and problem-solving skills. These are in demand from many employers including government departments and thinktanks, banks, universities, consultancies and insurance and accountancy firms. Economics students normally do well in the jobs market, it is quite common for economics students to go into jobs such as accountancy which require you to take more training and gain professional qualifications through higher apprenticeships. It will also provide a strong basis for progression to further qualifications in economics or related subjects in higher education.



### Entry requirements

It is not a requirement of the course to have studied Economics at GCSE level. You should have a genuine interest in current affairs, business and economic matters and a high degree of motivation, organisation and an ability to work independently. You should also have at least a level 5 in English and a level 6 Mathematics GCSE.