

A LEVEL ECONOMICS **(Edexcel Board specification – Economics B)**



This two-year course is suitable for students who:

- Are interested in the different approaches that may be used by policy-makers to address the main economic issues
- Want to learn how to analyse information effectively and can suggest solutions to real problems affecting businesses, the economy and individuals
- Enjoy analysing and presenting the merits of alternative courses of action
- Want to develop the ability to think as an economist

Throughout the course the student will develop knowledge of the UK economy over the last 15 years. They will also learn how to analyse and interpret economic indicators, as well as calculate, use and understand a variety of accounting ratios.

YEAR 1

During year 1 the student will cover:

- **Theme 1 - Markets, consumers and firms:** In this theme, students explore the way in which consumers make choices and entrepreneurs create desirable products.
- **Theme 2 - The wider economic environment:** This theme helps students to explore how firms can become more competitive. It introduces a wider international perspective on the economic environment.

Assessments

At the end of year 1, the student will sit two internally assessed exams:

- **Paper 1** (50%) assesses theme 1 - Markets, consumers and firms
- **Paper 2** (50%) assesses theme 2 - The wider economic environment

Both papers follow the same format. Section A and B each comprise one data response question and section C has an open-response question based on the stimulus material provided. Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes with a total of 80 marks available.

YEAR 2

The A Level course encompasses the two themes covered in year 1 but they are assessed in conjunction with the two additional themes:

- **Theme 3 - The global economy:** This theme builds on the content of the wider economic environment and continues its focus on the international economic environment.
- **Theme 4 - Making markets work:** Students learn about the degrees of competition within markets and apply their understanding of how governments may improve the functioning of markets and the economy.

Assessments

There are three externally assessed written exam papers:

- **Paper 1** (35%) assesses how markets work, themes 1 and 4.
- **Paper 2** (35%) assesses competing in the global economy, themes 2 and 3.

Both these papers follow the same format. Section A comprises one data response question and sections B and C each comprise one extended open-response question based on the stimulus material provided. Each paper is 2 hours.

- **Paper 3 (30%)** is based on pre-released case study material and assesses knowledge and understanding from all four themes. Additional unseen stimulus materials are also used in this paper.

Both sections in this paper include data response questions and one extended open-response question. This paper is 2 hours.

- ☐ This A Level qualification provides a solid foundation for higher education courses such as economics degrees with a focus on theory, or degrees in applied economics such as environmental economics, labour economics, public sector economics or monetary economics. Alternatively, students may choose to study a business economics, mathematical economics or business degree, or can apply for a range of apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships..
- ☐ Students can also progress from the qualification to a wide range of careers ranging from finance, banking, insurance, accountancy, management and consultancy, to becoming professional economists.

GCSE requirements:

English Language – grade 4; Mathematics – grade 6; at least one grade 5 in a literate subject.

Students should also have an interest in current affairs.