



A Level Economics

"Economics sheds light on how and why resources are distributed the way they are, how money works and why things cost what they do."

"Studying economics in the sixth form stretches your mind and forces you to think laterally about a range of interesting and topical problems."

"Studying economics in the sixth form will not only ensure you stay up-to-date with current affairs; you will also develop the facilities to critically analyse a range of issues in finance, business and politics."

A level Economics students

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Economics A (9EC0)



Is Economics for me?

Yes, if you enjoy:

- debating economic issues such as inequality, immigration and how we should pay for healthcare
- using and interpreting data to analyse economic problems
- discussing alternative courses of action
- keeping up to date with national and international trends



Do I need GCSE Economics?

- You don't need to have studied Economics at GCSE to do A level Economics – you will be introduced to all the core content
- If you studied GCSE Economics and enjoyed it, you are likely to enjoy the A level too
- Economics does involve working with numbers so you will need a good grade in GCSE Maths
- You may have come across some economics in History and Citizenship when you learned about unemployment, inflation and taxes



What will I learn?

- In **Theme 1** you will learn about how markets work and what happens when they don't work so well
- In **Theme 2** you will learn about how the economy works in booms and recessions
- In **Theme 3** you will learn how businesses compete and set prices, how the jobs market works and how competition can be encouraged
- In **Theme 4** you will learn about globalisation and international trade, how economies develop, financial markets and the public finances



Year 12

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure

This theme focuses on microeconomic concepts. Students will develop an understanding of:

- nature of economics
- how markets work
- market failure
- government intervention.

Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies

This theme focuses on macroeconomic concepts. Students will develop an understanding of:

- measures of economic performance
- aggregate demand
- aggregate supply
- national income
- economic growth
- macroeconomic objectives and policy.



Year 13

Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market

This theme develops the microeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 1 and focuses on business economics.

Students will develop an understanding of:

- business growth
- business objectives
- revenues, costs and profits
- market structures
- labour market
- government intervention.

Theme 4: A global perspective

This theme develops the macroeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 2 and applies these concepts in a global context. Students will develop an understanding of:


- international economics
- poverty and inequality
- emerging and developing economies
- the financial sector
- role of the state in the macroeconomy.



How will I be assessed?

For A level you will study all four themes and will sit three exams at the end of your course:

- **Paper 1** has data response and essay questions, and focuses on how markets work and the behaviour of consumers and businesses
- **Paper 2** has data response and essay questions, and focuses on how the economy works and how governments try to manage the economy
- **Paper 3** the data response and essay questions ask you to see how it all fits together

A photograph of three students in a classroom or library setting. In the foreground, a young woman with long dark hair is sitting at a white desk, looking intently at a laptop screen. Her hands are on the keyboard. In the background, two other students, a young man and a young woman, are also sitting at a desk, looking at papers. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a modern educational environment.

What do students think about studying Economics at A Level?

Year 13 answers to some of the questions you might ask them:



- What do you enjoy most about economics lessons?
 - I enjoy that there is a lot of discussion time in most lessons, allowing you to think for yourself and consider others viewpoints.
 - How interactive the lessons are and the fact you can get really involved, I think this really helps with consolidating the work covered and gaining a deeper understanding of the subject.
- What's the most interesting topic you've studied so far?
 - I found the topic on market failure interesting because you can see it present in real life
 - Policies that target macroeconomic objectives because we can see it happening at the current time, specifically during covid, and it's interesting how it affects a range of factors but at the same whilst it's improving some, it's worsening others



- What are other economics students like?
 - Friendly and smart
 - There's a lot of discussion in the lessons and they are generally willing help you

- Will I enjoy lessons or will they be boring?
 - Lessons are interesting because there's normally active discussion and you'll probably be called on by a teacher to answer something so you have to be engaged!
 - You will enjoy them as long as you're keen to interact

- How easy is it to get extra help if I'm finding it difficult?
 - The teachers are often very quick with replying to emails involving queries



- What aspects of the work have you found most difficult?
 - Sometimes the diagrams and some of the calculations can be tricky at first, but after practice they become a lot easier. However, teachers do spend extra time on extra challenging topics.
 - The exam technique which is good because it means we have a good understanding of the subject itself and it's something relatively easy to work on
- What has surprised you most about studying economics at A Level?
 - Doing economics GCSE has helped more than I thought it would, but some of my friends who didn't do it at GCSE are doing just as well so don't let that put you off!
 - How pretty much everything we learn relates to each other, you can really bring in knowledge from one area and apply it to another



What can I do next?

Economics prepares you for progression to further study or the world of work:

- You will have developed data handling and writing skills which are transferable to both university and employment
- You might want to study a degree in economics, business economics, econometrics or a business and management degree
- You might progress to a career in industry, commerce, finance or the civil service



How do I find out more?

You can find out more about studying Economics by:

- Visiting the Edexcel website to find out more about AS and A level Economics A – just look for the squirrels
- Search online for Economics courses at university to find out more about where an A level in Economics can take you
- Find out what is happening in the world economy by watching relevant news programmes and reading business news
- Speak to your Mr Wood (Head of Business & Economics), Mr Scopes or Mr Mortell who will advise you what to do next



Good luck!