

Roundwood Park School



A Level Economics (Pearson Edexcel A)

The aims and objectives of the A Level Economics A are to enable students to:

- Develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, the subject
- Appreciate the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic and social environment
- Develop an understanding of a range of concepts and an ability to use those concepts in a variety of different contexts
- Use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics and develop an ability to think as an economist
- Understand that economic behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives
- Develop analytical and quantitative skills, together with qualities and attitudes that will equip them for the challenges and opportunities

Assessment objectives

AO1 Demonstrate knowledge of terms/concepts and theories/models to show an understanding of the behaviour of economic agents and how they are affected by and respond to economic issues

AO2 Apply knowledge and understanding to various economic contexts to show how economic agents are affected by and respond to economic issues
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AO3 Analyse issues within economics, showing an understanding of their impact on economic agents

AO4 Evaluate economic arguments and use qualitative and quantitative evidence to support informed judgements relating to economic issues.
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Rationale

The plan is based on:

- Best use of teacher skills and experience, including industry experience
- A Macro / Micro area-based plan that builds knowledge across topics
- Development of skills for the examination and for progression

Super Curriculum



Read



Do



Find

<p>See our page on Accessit (On RM Unify). Go to visual search, then business then, then Economics, there is an A-Level area, if Economics is new to you look at the GCSE ones first</p> <p>Speciality books on: Economic Thinkers & Behavioural Economics</p>	<p>Watch Crash Course Economics, over 36 hours of video's covering the whole course, this can be done over the two years</p> <p>Click Here to go to them. All areas of the course are covered.</p>	<p>Use UniFrog to find out about a career in Economics or business. Look at the videos, information and the suggested activities you can do.</p>
<p>Read an article about Economics in a challenging publication</p> <p>The Economist Business section The Economist</p> <p>Focus in Year 13 on International Economics</p>	<p>Watch documentaries on the 3 key thinkers on economics systems: Keynes; Hayek; Marx; Smith Specification link: Economic Thinkers</p> <p>Or try watching some movies: The Big Short, Trading Places & Inside Job</p> <p>Specification Link: Globalisation</p>	
<p>Buy a broadsheet newspaper and look at the Economics news. You can access these online and some newspapers that charge are free at the public library. To achieve above a D you MUST know current events and data</p> <p>Focus on current issues: Markets at work & the National economy</p>	<p>Complete a MOOC or online course in a chosen area. Some are really interesting and form top universities around the world.</p> <p>Moocs on UniFrog relevant to our course are listed under Business Development, Economics or Finance and cover various aspects of the course</p>	<p>Listen to this podcast series from Economists, I can recommend Freakonomics radio but this link shows the best ones.</p>
<p>Sign up for access to the Financial Times. Search 'FT Schools' and register. You have to register in school on our network – once signed up you can access anywhere for a year!</p> <p>The focus on this is micro: Market Failure & The Environment</p>	<p>Visit financial centre like The London Stock Exchange (10 Paternoster Sq., London EC4M 7LS) or Wall Street in New York. But be aware you often have to book to go inside</p> <p>Specification Link: Financial markets</p>	<p>Specification Link: Behavioural Economics</p>
<p>Listen to challenging Podcasts to keep up with the news. The Economist various Podcasts are highly recommended, as well as The Week in Westminster & Politics Weekly (The Guardian)</p> <p>Areas of interest are mainly Macro: UK National Economy & the Global Economy</p>	<p>Complete this Quiz which tests you on the Economics news and events of the week</p> <p>Blog Tutor2U – you will need to scroll to latest quiz</p> <p>Specification Link: The National Economy</p>	<p>Try to go to Taster Courses on Economics. Keep an eye open for free lectures given at the LSE, these get filled very quickly so sign as ASAP. These topics could be on any aspects of the course.</p>
<p>Read or Listen to an Audiobook on all sorts of different topics from Freakonomics to How to Make the World Add Up: Ten Rules for Thinking Differently About Numbers</p> <p>You can focus on any areas but I would recommend: Behavioural Economics</p>	<p>TED talks are a great way to discover new Economic thinking and existing theories clearly explained</p> <p>TED Economics Talks Specification Link: Any aspect you want</p>	

Course Overview

Resource material includes text book Anderton Economics A level, Ezyeconomics (online material), Econplustal – youtube channel.

YEAR 12

Theme 1 : Introduction to Markets and Market Failure

The Economic Problem

(weeks 1-3)

AO – 1

- Assumptions in economics
- Positive and normative economic statements
- The problem of scarcity
- Renewable and non-renewable resources
- Opportunity cost
- Production possibility frontiers
- Specialisation and the division of labour
- Functions of money
- Free market economies, mixed economy and command economy

Informal on-line assessments, research and case study approach.

Formal Assessment reflecting section A & B of the examination

How Markets Work

(weeks 4-8)

AO – 1,2,3

- Rational decision making
- Utility maximisation
- Theory of demand
- Price elasticity of demand
- Income elasticity of demand
- Cross price elasticity of demand
- Theory of supply
- Elasticity of supply
- Price determination
- Functions of the price mechanism
- Consumer and producer surplus
- Alternative views of consumer behaviour

Informal on-line assessments, research.

Formal Assessment reflecting section A & B of the examination

Separate formal numerical assessment

Market Failure

(weeks 9-12)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Negative Externalities
- Positive Externalities
- Public goods
- Information gaps

Government intervention and government failure

(weeks 13-15)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Indirect taxation (ad valorem and specific)
- Subsidies
- Minimum prices
- Maximum prices
- Tradeable pollution permits
- State provision of public goods
- Provision of information
- Regulation
- Government failure

Informal on-line assessments, research and case study approach.

Formal & homework Assessment reflecting section C of the examination

Theme 2: The UK Economy –Performance and Policies

GDP & Economy

(weeks 16-17)

AO – 1,2

- Real and nominal GDP
- GDP and GNI
- Understanding of Purchasing Power
- Parities
- Limitations of GDP when measuring living standards
- Economic well-being and happiness

Inflation

(weeks 18)

AO – 1,2,

- Process of calculating the rate of inflation using CPI
- Limitations of CPI as a measure of
- inflation
- Causes of inflation (demand-pull, cost-push, money supply)
- Effects of inflation on consumers, firms, the government and workers
- Disinflation and deflation (causes, effects, policies)

<p>Unemployment (weeks 19) AO – 1,2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures of unemployment • Under-employment • Economic inactivity • Causes of unemployment • Significance of migration and skills for employment & unemployment • Effects of unemployment on consumers, firms, workers, the government and society
<p>Balance of payments (weeks 20) AO – 1,2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade in goods and services • Components of the balance of payments on current account • Current account deficits and surpluses • Relationships between current account and other macro objectives
<p>Aggregate demand (weeks 21-22) AO – 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Components of AD: $C+I+G+(X-M)$ • AD curve - movements along and shifts of AD curve • Consumption - factors affecting • Investment - factors affecting • Government expenditure (G) • Net trade (X-M)
<p>Aggregate supply (weeks 22-23) AO – 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The characteristics of AS • The characteristics of AS • The AS curve - distinction between movement along, and a shift of, the AS curve • Short-run AS - factors influencing SRAS • Long-run AS- factors influencing LRAS • Keynesian and classical LRAS curves
<p>National Income (weeks 24) AO – 3,4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular flow of income • Injections and withdrawals • Equilibrium levels of real national output • Use of AD/AS diagrams to show how shifts in AD or AS cause changes in real GDP and prices • The multiplier - ratio, process • Calculations of the multiplier using the formulae $1/(1-MPC)$ and $1/MPW$, where $MPW=MPS+MPT+MPM$
<p>Economic Growth and Cycles (weeks 25) AO – 1,2,3,4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes of economic growth • Output gaps • Trade (business) cycle • The impact of economic growth – benefits and costs

Demand-side Policies

(weeks 26)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Monetary policy instruments
- Quantitative Easing
- Fiscal policy instruments
- Distinction between government budget (fiscal) deficit and surplus
- Use of AD/AS diagrams to illustrate demand-side policies
- Awareness of demand-side policies in the
- Great Depression and the Global Financial Crisis of 2008

Supply-side Policies

(weeks 27)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Distinction between market-based and interventionist methods
- Use of AD/AS diagrams to illustrate supply-side policies
- Strengths and weaknesses of supply-side policies

Conflicts and trade-offs between objectives and policies

(weeks 28)

AO – 2

- Potential conflicts and trade-offs between the macroeconomic objectives
- Short-run Phillips curve

Informal on-line assessments, research and case study approach.

Variety of homework & in class assessments – incorporating pair work, research tasks and emphasising skill development

Formal whole examination assessment on Year 1 micro & macro

YEAR 13

Theme 3: Business Behaviour and the Labour Market

Businesses and Growth

(weeks 1-2)

AO – 1,2

- Sizes and types of firms
- Divorce between ownership and control
- Survival of small firms
- Principal-Agent Problem
- Public and Private Sector businesses
- Business growth (organic and external)
- Constraints on business growth
- Demergers
- Business objectives

Revenues, Costs and Profit

(weeks 3-4)

AO – 1,

- Revenue
- Costs in the short run
- Economies and diseconomies of scale
- Minimum efficient scale
- External economies of scale
- Normal profits, supernormal profits and losses
- Profit maximisation
- Shut Down point

Market Structures

(weeks 5-9)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Efficiency - a) Allocative efficiency b) Productive efficiency c) Dynamic efficiency
- d) X-inefficiency
- Perfect competition
- Monopolistic competition
- Oligopoly
- Overt and tacit collusion; cartels and price leadership
- Simple game theory: the prisoner's dilemma in a simple two firm/two outcome model
- Types of price competition including limit and predatory pricing

Non-price competition in markets

(weeks 10)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Monopoly
- Price discrimination
- Natural monopoly
- Monopsony
- Contestability including barriers to entry & exit, contestability and the conduct of firms

Labour Market

(weeks 11-12)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Demand for labour
- Supply of labour
- Market failure in labour markets: the geographical and occupational mobility and immobility of labour
- Wage determination in competitive and non-competitive markets
- Maximum and minimum wages
- Public sector wage setting
- Policies to tackle labour market immobility
- Significance of the elasticity of demand for labour and the elasticity of supply of labour

Government intervention

(weeks 13)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Government intervention to control mergers
- Government intervention to control monopolies:
- Government intervention to promote competition and contestability
- Nationalisation versus privatisation
- Limits to government intervention in different markets

Informal on-line assessments, research and case study approach.

Variety of homework & in class assessments – incorporating pair work, research tasks and emphasising skill development

Formal whole examination assessment on Year 13 Theme 3

Theme 4: A Global Perspective

Role of the state in the Macroeconomy

(weeks 1-2)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Public expenditure
- Crowding out
- Taxation - Direct and Indirect Distinction between progressive, proportional and regressive taxes
- The economic effects of changes in direct and indirect tax rates on other variables:
- Distinction between automatic stabilisers and discretionary fiscal policy
- Distinction between a fiscal deficit and the national debt
- Distinction between structural and cyclical deficits
- Factors influencing the size of fiscal deficits
- Factors influencing the size of national debts
- The significance of the size of fiscal deficits and national debts

Macroeconomic policies in a global context

(week 3)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Use and impact of macroeconomic policies to respond to external shocks to the global economy
- Measures to control global companies' (transnationals') operations

The Financial Sector

(weeks 4-5)

AO – 1,2

- Role of financial markets
- Market failure in the financial sector
- Role of central banks

Globalisation

(weeks 6-9)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Characteristics of globalisation
- Factors contributing to globalisation in the last 50 years
- Impacts of globalisation and global companies on individual countries, governments, producers and consumers, workers and the environment
- Specialisation and trade including absolute and comparative advantage
- Patterns of trade (geographical and commodity)
- Trading blocs and the World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- Terms of trade
- Free Trade Areas
- Customs Unions
- Single Markets
- Monetary Unions
- Restrictions on free trade including tariffs and quotas
- Impact of protectionist policies on consumers, producers, governments, living standards, equality

Balance of payments

(weeks 10-11)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Components of the balance of payments: current account, capital account, financial account
- Causes of deficits and surpluses on the current account
- Measures to reduce a country's imbalance on the current account
- Significance of global trade imbalances

Exchange rates

(week 12)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Floating exchange rates
- Fixed exchange rates
- Managed exchange rates
- Factors influencing floating exchange rates
- Competitive devaluation/depreciation and its consequences

International competitiveness

(week 13)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Measures of international competitiveness: Including relative unit labour costs
- Factors influencing international competitiveness

Poverty

(weeks 14)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Distinction between absolute poverty and relative poverty
- Measures of absolute poverty and relative poverty
- Causes of changes in absolute poverty and relative poverty
- Distinction between wealth and income inequality
- Measurements of income inequality:
- Causes of income and wealth inequality within countries and between countries
- Impact of economic change and development on inequality
- Significance of capitalism for inequality

Emerging and Developing Countries

(weeks 15)

AO – 1,2,3,4

- Measures of development
- Factors influencing growth and development
- Strategies influencing growth and development
- Trade liberalisation
- Foreign direct investment
- Privatisation
- Human Capital
- Microfinance
- Buffer stock schemes
- Infrastructure
- Overseas aid
- Debt relief
- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Informal on-line assessments, research and case study approach.

Variety of homework & in class assessments – incorporating pair work, research tasks and emphasising skill development

Formal whole examination assessment on year13 theme 4