



Wakefield Girls' High School
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School
Wakefield

Technical Information

A-level

A-level Course Title	Unit Code	Awarding Body
Economics	7136	AQA

A-level Examinations:

Name	Method of Assessment	Marks
Economics Paper 1: Markets and Market Failure	Examination 2 hours	80
Economics Paper 2: National and International Economy	Examination 2 hours	80
Economics Paper 3: Economic Principles and Issues	Examination 2 hours	80

WGHS Senior School

(Girls 11-18 years)
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QEGS Senior School

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Course Guide

A-level Economics

Economics

Background Knowledge and Qualifications

The course assumes no previous knowledge of Economics so no specific GCSE subjects are required. However, although Economics is not mathematical, it does require a good level of numeracy as quantitative skills form 20% of the final qualification. Whilst a confident performance in mathematics is desirable, the skills required extend only to ratios, fractions, percentages, index numbers and the calculation of revenue, profit and loss. Economics also requires the ability to think and analyse logically so strong English skills will also stand you in good stead. If you have an interest in current affairs, the state of the economy and how it might be improved, you stand to gain the most from this course.

As a social science, Economics will mix easily with all science and arts subjects but popular combinations are with History, Politics, Geography, Mathematics and English. If you have a definite career in mind you may find Economics useful to study because of the understanding it gives to the general operation of the economy in which you will work and the development of logical reasoning.

Course Description

This A-level is a reformed A-level. For your A-level you will be studying the following areas:

Economics offers an insight into the events, interactions and debates that affect almost everyone on the planet. It is an international subject of rational thought, progression and growth that considers individuals' standards of living, feelings of well-being and their rights and responsibilities.

Economics will teach you to think logically and use theories to understand how economies operate. At the heart of the subject is the question of how we divide up scarce resources and how decisions resulting from this affect us all – in other words, who gets what and why? It therefore studies all of society and the activities and behaviours of various groups within it, from workers to firms and from consumers to governments. The other significant part of the course concerns the macro economy and includes the study of inflation, unemployment, economic growth and international trade, and the difficulties governments face when they attempt to steer the economy in their chosen direction.

All economic issues are supported by theory, but the daily diet of the course will focus on relevant and topical issues of the day. Teachers use a variety of approaches including case studies, video and classroom debate, but it is expected that students take an active interest in current affairs and are keen to learn why the economy works in the way that it does and discuss the relative merits of various solutions to economic problems.

Use of Course and Qualifications

Economics at any level, dealing as it does with money and the working of the economy, is an important addition to the skills we all need as citizens and income earners, so it is a useful subject in itself. As far as careers are concerned, Economics gives opportunities both in the public and private sectors and both in the UK and abroad. Jobs include working in Stockbroking, Banking, Accountancy, Management and the City. Economists are also found in many areas including Manufacturing, Systems Analysis and Computer Science.

Student Testimonial

Year 13 student
Proposed University
Course: Economics

Economics explains nearly everything in the modern world and there is no doubt about the relevance of Economics in all career paths. Essay writing skills can be developed along with knowledge of the subject. It really is a great subject to study at A-level!

