

ECONOMICS

AS AND A LEVEL

Examination Board – Edexcel

Qualifications required: Pass in GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English essential.

Economics is an academic and vocational subject. It requires knowledge, understanding, application and analysis of both theory and current economic events. Because of its analytical aspect it combines particularly well with Mathematics, Computing, Social Sciences and Accounting. At the other extreme it offers a good combination with Arts subjects such as Law and History. Given the increasing importance of the economic effects of the European Market, it combines well with Modern Languages. Science students have also found it useful if applying, for example, for degrees in Engineering. Many professional courses, such as Accounting, include Economics as a compulsory subject and exemptions can be claimed from the foundation level in these courses, provided the required grade is reached at A-level.

Which examinations have to be taken for each qualification?

AS (Advanced Subsidiary)

This is the first half of the A level course. It is a stepping-stone to the full A level. The AS can be taken as a 'stand alone' qualification. It is made up of 3 units entitled and assessed as follows:

Unit 1 – Markets: how they work: Assessed by multiple choice questions and one structured data response question.

Unit 2 – Markets: why they fail: Assessed by a structured data response question.

Unit 3 – Managing the economy: Assessed by one structured data response question.

A Level

The full A level is made up of the 3 AS units plus three more units (known as A2) which are studied at a higher level. Units 4, 5 and 6 make up the A2 section of the full A level. These units are entitled and assessed as follows:

Unit 4 – Industrial Economics: Assessed by multiple choice questions and one structured data response question.

Unit 5 – Labour markets: Assessed by one structured data response question.

Unit 6 – The UK in the Global This is the synoptic element of the examination

Economy: and will be assessed by one data response question and one structured essay.

Further details on the content of each area of the specification will be given at the start of the course. This information can also be found on the Edexcel website at www.edexcel.org.uk.