

A Level Economics - Pearson

Curriculum content

	Year 12	Year 13
Summer 2 (Roll over)		<p>Theme 3 Business behaviour and the labour market</p> <p><u>3.1 Business Growth</u> Sizes and types of firms, Business growth, Demergers</p> <p>Theme 4 A global perspective</p> <p><u>4.1 International economics</u></p> <p>a) Characteristics of globalisation b) Factors contributing to globalisation in the last 50 years c) Impacts of globalisation and global companies on individual countries, governments, producers and consumers, workers and the environment</p> <p><u>4.1.2 Specialisation and trade</u> Absolute and comparative advantage (numerical and diagrammatic): assumptions and limitations relating to the theory of comparative advantage</p> <p><u>4.1.3 Pattern of trade</u></p> <p>a) Factors influencing the pattern of trade between countries and changes in trade flows between countries</p>
Autumn 1	<p>Theme 1 Introduction to markets and market failure</p> <p>Induction <u>1.1 The Nature of Economics/1.2 Rational decision-making</u> Economics as a social science, Positive and normative economic statements, The economic problem, Production possibility frontiers, Specialisation and the division of labour, Rational decision-making, alternative views of consumer behaviour</p> <p><i>Initial Judgement FA</i></p>	<p>Theme 3 Business behaviour and the labour market</p> <p><u>3.3 Revenues, costs and profits</u> Costs, Revenue, Economies and diseconomies of scale, Normal profits, supernormal profits and losses</p> <p>Theme 4 A global perspective</p> <p><u>4.1.4 Terms of trade</u></p> <p>a) Calculation of terms of trade</p>

<p>Theme 1 Introduction to markets and market failure <u>1.2 Rational decision-making</u> Demand, Supply, Price determination, Price mechanism</p> <p>Theme 2 The UK economy – performance and policies <u>2.4 National Income</u> National income, injections and withdrawals, equilibrium level of output, multiplier</p> <p><u>2.1 Measures of Economic Performance</u> Inflation, Economic Growth, Unemployment and employment, Balance of Payments</p>	<p>b) Factors influencing a country's terms of trade c) Impact of changes in a country's terms of trade</p> <p>4.2 Poverty and inequality <u>4.2.1 Absolute and relative poverty</u> a) Distinction between absolute poverty and relative poverty b) Measures of absolute poverty and relative poverty c) Causes of changes in absolute poverty and relative poverty</p> <p><u>4.2.2 Inequality</u> a) Distinction between wealth and income inequality b) Measurements of income inequality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Lorenz curve (diagrammatic analysis) • the Gini coefficient c) Causes of income and wealth inequality within countries and between countries d) Impact of economic change and development on inequality e) Significance of capitalism for inequality</p> <p><u>4.5.4 Macroeconomic policies in a global context</u> a) Use of fiscal policy, monetary policy, exchange rate policy, supply-side policies and direct controls in different countries, with specific reference to the impact of: measures to reduce poverty and inequality</p> <p><u>4.3.1 Measures of development</u> a) The three dimensions of the Human Development Index (HDI) (education, health and living standards) and how they are measured and combined</p> <p><u>4.3.2 Factors influencing growth and development</u> a) Impact of economic factors in different countries</p>
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<p>Autumn 2</p>	<p>Theme 1 Introduction to markets and market failure <u>1.2 Rational decision-making</u> Price, income and cross elasticities of demand, Elasticity of supply, Price determination, Consumer and producer surplus, Indirect taxes and subsidies</p> <p>Theme 2 The UK economy – performance and policies <u>2.2 Aggregate Demand</u> Components of aggregate demand, Consumption, Investment, Government Spending and Net Trade <u>2.3 Aggregate Supply</u> Characteristics of AS, Short run AS</p>	<p>Theme 3 Business behaviour and the labour market <u>3.4 Business structures</u> Efficiency, Perfect competition, Monopoly, Monopolistic competition, Oligopoly <u>3.2 Business objectives</u> Different business objectives, diagrams and formulae</p> <p>Theme 4 A global perspective <u>4.3.2 Factors influencing growth and development</u> a) Impact of economic factors in different countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • education/skills • absence of property rights b) Impact of non-economic factors in different countries</p> <p><u>4.3.3 Strategies influencing growth and development</u> Market-orientated strategies and Interventionist strategies To control mergers, to control monopolies, to protect suppliers and employees, The impact of government intervention Other strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • industrialisation: the Lewis model • development of tourism • development of primary industries • Fairtrade schemes • aid • debt relief <u>4.5.2 Taxation</u> a) Distinction between progressive, proportional and regressive taxes b) The economic effects of changes in direct and indirect taxes <u>4.5.3 Public sector finances</u></p>
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<p>Spring 1</p>	<p>Theme 1 Introduction to markets and market failure <u>1.3 Market failure</u> Types of market failure, Externalities, Public goods, Information Gaps <u>1.4 Government intervention</u> Government intervention in markets, Government failure</p> <p>Theme 2 The UK economy – performance and policy <u>2.3 Aggregate Supply</u> Long run AS <u>2.1 Measures of Economic Performance</u> Causes of inflation, causes of unemployment <u>2.5 Economic Growth</u> Causes of growth, impact of growth, output gaps, business cycle</p>	<p>Theme 3 Business behaviour and the labour market <u>3.4 Market structures</u> Contestability, Monopsony <u>3.6 Government intervention</u> a) Government intervention to control mergers b) Government intervention to control monopolies: · price regulation · profit regulation · quality standards · performance targets c) Government intervention to promote competition and contestability: · enhancing competition between firms through promotion of small business · deregulation · competitive tendering for government contracts · privatisation d) Government intervention to protect suppliers and employees: · restrictions on monopsony power of firms · nationalisation <u>3.6 The Impact of government intervention</u> a) The impact of government intervention on: · prices · profit · efficiency · quality · choice b) Limits to government intervention: · regulatory capture · asymmetric information</p> <p>Theme 4 A global perspective <u>4.1.6 Restrictions on free trade</u> b) Types of restrictions on trade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tariffs • quotas • subsidies to domestic producers • non-tariff barriers c) Impact of protectionist policies on consumers, producers, governments, living standards, equality <u>4.1.7 Balance of payments</u> (Introduction) a) The components of the balance of payments:</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the current account • the capital and financial accounts <p><u>4.1.8 Exchange rates</u></p> <p>a) Exchange rate systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • floating • fixed • managed <p>b) Distinction between revaluation and appreciation of a currency</p> <p>c) Distinction between devaluation and depreciation of a currency</p> <p><u>4.1.7 Balance of payments</u></p> <p>Causes of deficits and surpluses on the current account</p> <p>Measures to reduce a country's imbalance on the current account</p> <p>Significance of global trade imbalances</p>
<p>Spring 2</p>	<p>Theme 1 Introduction to markets and market failure</p> <p><u>1.1 The Nature of Economics</u> Free market economies, mixed economy and command economy</p> <p>Theme 2 The UK economy – performance and policy</p> <p><u>2.6 Macroeconomic objectives and policies</u> Possible macroeconomic objectives, demand side policy (Fiscal and Monetary)</p>	<p>Theme 3 Business behaviour and the labour market</p> <p><u>3.5 Labour market</u> Demand for labour, Supply of labour, Wage determination in competitive and non-competitive markets</p> <p>Theme 4 A global perspective</p> <p><u>4.1.9 International competitiveness</u></p> <p>a) Measures of international competitiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relative unit labour costs • relative export prices <p>b) Factors influencing international competitiveness</p> <p>c) Significance of international competitiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benefits of being internationally competitive • problems of being internationally competitive

		<p><u>4.5.4 Macroeconomic policies in a global context</u> (Introduction) a) Use of fiscal policy, monetary policy, exchange rate policy, supply-side policies and direct controls in different countries, with specific reference to the impact of: measures to increase international competitiveness</p> <p><u>4.4 The financial sector</u></p> <p><u>4.4.1 Role of financial markets</u></p> <p><u>4.4.2 Market failure in the financial sector</u></p> <p><u>4.4.3 Role of central banks</u></p> <p><u>4.5.4 Macroeconomic policies in a global context</u></p>
Summer 1	<p>Theme 1 Markets in context – housing, energy, transport, commodities, health, education</p> <p>Theme 2 The UK economy – performance and policy <u>2.6 Macroeconomic objectives and policies</u> Supply side policies and conflicts and trade offs between objectives and policies</p>	

Skills

The skills developed throughout the course include:

- Recalling detailed information accurately
- Knowledge and understanding of different microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts, theories and models.
- Applying knowledge and understanding of economic concepts, and theories in different economic contexts.
- Analysing and evaluating the impact of economic policy on the consumers, producers and the economy
- Making justified judgements with supported reasoning
- Numeracy skills – calculations in each topic of the course
- Communication and presenting
- Problem solving

Assessment

Internal formal assessment takes place on five occasions in Year 12 (including the mock exams) and two occasions in Year 13 in line with the school assessment policy. There will also be a series of departmental assessments and home works throughout Year 12 and 13 to support the more formal assessments. For the award of the qualification, this linear A Level from Pearson is examined entirely by examination at the end of Year 13. There are three papers:

Paper 1 – Markets and Business Behaviour (2 Hours)

Paper 2 – National and Global Economy (2 Hours)

Paper 3 – Micro and Macro Economics (2 Hours)

Papers 1 and 2 are made up of multiple choice, short response and extended answer questions linking to case studies.

Paper 3 is made up of synoptic short answer and extended answer questions based on two detailed case studies.

Papers 1 and 2 have a slightly greater overall weighting

Further details about the course can be found at:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/economics-a-2015.news.html?facets=news-all>

Sequencing Rationale

Key departmental considerations for the course

- In accordance with the exam board specification, Themes 1 and 2 are taught in Year 12 (as per the AS in the original qualification model) to ensure that students have a solid grounding in the basic economic concepts and theories. Year 12 also therefore provides students with an opportunity to develop key skills in written responses to examination questions which will enable them to access second-year content with confidence.
- The teaching teams are different in Year 12 and Year 13 with one member of staff involved in both years. This member of staff teaches both micro Themes (1 and 3).
- The subject is new to all students choosing to study it with no course at KS4.

Bridging Course/Bridging Work

These are used to introduce prospective students to some of the fundamental ideas studied in the early stages of the Economics course whilst also offering a glimpse at some of the concepts studied later in the course aimed inspiring interest in the course. This is felt important for a subject not studied by any students at KS4.

Year 12 Autumn Term 1

- Topics selected at the start of the course aim to introduce students to the basic theories of economics to help them settle into what is a brand new course for all. This enables them to build a solid foundation, providing them with time to build confidence with new terminology, language and concepts that underpin all economic theory.
- The initial weeks of the course draw upon content from Theme 1 micro delivered by both staff. These early concepts and knowledge form the basis of the **Initial Judgement** assessment before the course splits into micro and macro content, taught separately by the two teachers.
- For Theme 1, teaching is delivered so as to build up the picture of microeconomic theory at a market level. This starts with the concepts of demand and supply before bringing these together for price determination
- For Theme 2, teaching starts with an overview of how the macro economy functions before looking briefly at the key objectives of the macroeconomy (each objective is not looked at in the necessary detail at this stage so as to provide an overview of an economy's function – a more in-depth study of each objective will come later in the Spring Term.

Year 12 Autumn Term 2

- Theme 1 content builds again, looking at developing a more in-depth understanding of demand, supply and price still within the context of the market.
- Theme 2 content looks to build a more comprehensive model of the function of the macro economy via AD/AS analysis before investigating each of the key macro objectives briefly studied in Autumn 1 in more depth.
- The first Formal Assessment at this relatively early stage focuses on knowledge and application for both Theme 1 micro and Theme 2 macro content. The second Formal Assessment is more challenging, requiring students to also demonstrate analysis skills.

Year 12 Spring 1 and 2

- For both Theme 1 and Theme 2 the focus turns to market failure and government policy to correct failure/manage the economy. In this section of the course, students look at economics in action through the eyes of the economic agents and in particular how government manages its function.
- Assessment opportunities encourage students to apply theories studied to the function of the economy in the context of real-life application.

Year 12 Summer 1

- Both Theme 1 and Theme 2 finish with students looking at markets “in action”. For micro this is done through investigating specific product markets and for macro through government policy actions.

Year 13 Summer 2

- This half term is used to introduce students to some of the more straightforward/introductory concepts from the Themes 3 and 4 content.
- It is also used to give students an opportunity to undertake a practical research-based activity designed to generate useful wider knowledge of economics in action that will prove useful later in the course. For Theme 3 this looks at recent M&A activity in the UK whilst for Theme 4 students carry out research into different countries (based on the extent of their economic development). Both offer students the opportunity to develop more effective application skills.

Year 13 Autumn Term

- Theme 3 focuses on concepts relating to “theory of the firm” thus a change in emphasis from the economics of the market. A significant amount of curriculum time is devoted to building a grounding in these key theoretical concepts to help prepare students for the more complex models that follow. This is then followed by the study of market structures, deepening the analysis of the economic models studied.
- Theme 4 focuses on development economics widening the scope of macro economic analysis. This is followed by a deeper investigation into economic growth and development from a global perspective, again encouraging students to grow in confidence with more complex economic models.
- As in Year 1 the first Formal Assessment at this relatively early stage focuses on knowledge and application of the new content for both Theme 3 micro and Theme 4 macro content. Later assessments require students to refer back to analysis and evaluation skills developed towards the end of the Year 1 course.

Year 13 Spring Term/Summer Term

- Theme 3 focus is on the remaining concepts relating to market structures followed by an analysis of government intervention. This is where students revisit all concepts studied across both years in terms of government’s role in managing the micro aspects of the economy. The final topic looks as a specific, specialist market (the labour market) and all aspects of its application.
- Theme 4 focuses on UK policy on a broader perspective followed again by a broader perspective of international trade and policy. Again the final topic is a specialist market, the financial market and its application.
- Later assessments demand of students an ability to demonstrate all skills from knowledge and application to analysis and evaluation. Assessments also enable students to develop a more holistic assessment of economics by requiring them to incorporate micro and macro analysis together for Paper 3 plus all skills required for the separate Paper 1 micro and Paper 2 macro from both Year 1 and Year 2 content.

