

A-Level Economics

What is Economics?

At its heart, Economics is all about choice. We, as consumers, face decisions on what and how much to consume, as unfortunately we can't have everything we want. Producers and governments face the same issues. They would like to provide us with all the goods and services we want, but they are unable to do so. Therefore, difficult decisions need to be made. Economics is all about those decisions, of which, there is rarely a right or wrong answer. In Economics, it is up to you to argue your point of view.

What content does it include?

Economics is traditionally divided into two parts; studying individual markets and decisions (Microeconomics) and studying entire economies and how they work in isolation and with each other (Macroeconomics). Over the two years, you will cover a wide range of real-life issues such as:

- How the free market works in reality
- How prices are set by businesses but influenced by consumers
- How NHS money is given out
- How businesses decide on strategies
- How worker's wages are worked out and why inequality still exists between men and women
- Why the Credit Crunch happened and whose fault it was
- Whether the UK's economy is as strong or weak as people say
- Whether government policies are fair
- How important international trade is with China and Russia
- Whether globalisation is a good thing and whether it benefits development

Why should you study Economics?

Aside from the fact that Economics affects all of our lives in a huge way, studying the subject develops a number of skills that both universities and employers are actively seeking. Analysing problems, identifying solutions, communicating points of view and influencing others are key skills that you will develop. However, in our opinion, the best thing about studying Economics is that it is a 'real-time' subject – textbooks are out of date by the time they are printed and economic thinking changes constantly. The commercial awareness that you will gain from studying this subject will be invaluable now and in later life.



Academic results

The department takes great pride in its academic results. Last year, over 90% of students achieved an A*-B grade with many students out-performing their statistical expectations..

Extra-curricular opportunities

Whilst studying Economics at SGGs, you will have the opportunity to take advantage of many extra-curricular activities including a possible European trip (previous destinations include Paris and Brussels), multiple trips to City-based institutions in London, Economics conferences and the opportunity to represent the school in the ICAEW's Business Planning competition where we have made the national finals in 2 out of the last 3 years.



Entry requirements

Aside from a level 7 in GCSE mathematics, we do not ask for any other formal entry requirements. Rather it is more important that you bring a keen interest in topical events, such as the recent Brexit vote, the growing impact of China's economy or the publication of individual firm's gender pay gap.

Future paths

Every year, around 60-70% of our students go on to study Economics or Business-related degrees at top universities. However, over the past three years, the department has also supported some of our very best students to secure jobs or higher-level apprenticeships with PriceWaterhouseCoopers (Professional Services), Accenture (Management Consultancy), Mondelez (Fast Moving Consumer Goods), JP Morgan (Investment Banking), Lloyds (Commercial Banking) and Aston Martin (Procurement) in London and Birmingham, on paid schemes, as an alternative to university.



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