

Economics is an exciting and dynamic social science which examines how individuals, governments and societies make choices from scarce resources. It is used to analyse a range of problems from local to international level including food and energy prices, food and fuel poverty, the financial crisis of 2007-08, inflation, the current crisis in government finances, international trade and development. While having many practical applications, Economics is nonetheless a theoretical subject in which we study models of price determination, market structure and national equilibrium analysis.

In Economics, we ask questions such as:

- Should the government be cutting its spending?
- Should the government tax unhealthy foods?
- Should university students pay tuition fees of £9,000 per year?
- What should economists do about traffic congestion?
- Should commercial banks ever be allowed to go bankrupt?

Who should do A Level Economics?

Economics teaches you how to analyse and think logically. So, while it has obvious applications to business and working in the public sector, it is also a natural complement to Maths and Science subjects. It requires students to analyse data and manipulate diagrams so it is suited to students who can think in a logical and scientific manner. We suggest in most cases a grade '7' or above in GCSE Maths as a requirement for students wanting to study this subject.

The Course

The Economics course is split into Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. In Micro, we consider the specifics behind why different economic agents behave the way that they do, focusing specifically upon issues such as Labour Markets, Market Failures and Market Structures. In Macro, we consider the bigger picture and explore how changes in one macroeconomic objective may impact on many other areas of the economy.

How will I be taught?

We encourage our students to develop as independent learners and critical thinkers, skills essential for university and the world of work. Hence our lessons make use of IT, combined with group work, discussion, debate and research-based activities. The department has interactive whiteboards in both classrooms, one of which is equipped with a suite of PCs.

The department also runs a range of co-curricular activities including Young Enterprise, Student Investor, Royal Economic Society Essay Competition and the Royal Economic Society Lectures. In addition, speakers regularly visit the department to enhance the real life application of the subject. There is also an opportunity to take part in an overseas study tour; in recent years we have visited China and Prague.

How is Economics assessed?

Assessment will be at the end of the two year course and is comprised of three exams, each of two hours' duration. You will complete papers in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and a broader themes in economics paper. There is no coursework option.



Economics, Business and Geography trip to China