

Economics

Exam Board	Edexcel A
Course Entry Criteria	6 in GCSE Mathematics
Essential skills	You will develop skills of data interpretation and essay writing to consider issues from more than one viewpoint and reach a reasoned conclusion. As a starting point you need to be able to write well to show understanding, and to write to persuade. You need to be numerate, think <i>clearly</i> and understand ratios, percentages and trends in data.
Year 12	In Year 12 Students will learn background study skills, introductory concepts and a broad range of economic models. There is also a heavy emphasis on analysing these models and applying them to the real world. This includes both the markets for individual goods and services, and national economies.
Year 13 and A Level Assessment	At A Level, greater depth of analysis is required, and there is a much bigger emphasis on essay writing to discuss and evaluate issues and policies. There are 3 papers, each of 2 hours. Paper 1 Markets and Business behaviour (Micro) 35% of Total Paper 2 National and Global Economy (Macro) 35% of Total. Both papers have Multiple Choice, short answer, and stepped Data Response questions including an essay Paper 3 General economics 30% of Total. 2 Data response questions & a choice of 2 essays. The essays combine micro & macro effects of economic changes 20% of the marks are based on Maths. The standard is B grade GCSE
University requirements	Typical grade requirements to study a Single Honours Economics degree are as follows: Oxbridge: A* A A Russell Group: A* A A to A A B Non Russell Group: A B B Joint Honours will be slightly lower e.g. for Russell Group A A A to A B B
Related courses and careers	Courses: A Level: Maths, any academic subject including sciences. Good combinations include, History, Geography, Politics, and Modern Foreign Languages. Usually not a good fit with performance but there have been exceptions. University: Higher universities doing Single Honours Economics needs A Level Maths. Joint Honours need less Maths. Useful for Accountancy & Finance related degrees Careers: As 'an economist' – Banks research/analysis functions, Government (national and local) economists, Consultancy/policy advising. Entry into – any management/leadership roles, Marketing, Finance, Accountancy in private or public sector. The value of an economics degree is the ability to think in both numbers and logic, to compare options to make the best/least worst solution to problems.
Other Details	Economics is about how people make decisions as they try to live a 'better life'. It investigates choices when we have a limited set of options and how we trade them off against each other. Whether we succeed is another question but that's part of the attraction of the subject – dealing with uncertainty. What economics is not: a) easy at first, although it gets easier with practice, and b) a 'talking shop' to put forward bland assertions about what 'should be'. Maths with Economics becomes more important at University level; it is perfectly acceptable to do A level Economics without A Level Maths.