

Curriculum Vision: Economics

Why should students learn your subject?

It's important – economics helps students to understand the world around them and the choices that need to be made when dealing with scarce resources.

It's interesting - It helps students make sense of current affairs and understand how to reconcile unlimited wants with limited resources.

It helps develop transferable skills – Whichever route students take beyond A level, economics helps students to analyse and evaluate the strength of different arguments. By understanding and interpreting evidence and data it helps students to develop, present and defend their own views and actions. The key assessment objectives are relevant to almost every aspect of life.

It's relevant – the subjects we study are constantly evolving, e.g. considering the impact of Brexit, Covid and global conflicts so students are well informed. The use of real case studies means students are not just learning theoretical positions but can also apply this to what is happening. Students will also develop commercial awareness.

It has practical applications – economics students can follow a wide range of courses and careers in industry, commerce, finance, banking, product management, marketing and many more.

It can also lead onto well respected and ultimately well paid course at university and beyond.

What is the core knowledge in your subject that all students should understand?

The content is broken down into four key themes:

1. Theme 1: markets, consumers and firms
2. Theme 2: the wider economic environment
3. Theme 3: the global economy
4. Theme 4: making markets work

For each topic area we build in time for consolidation of learning as well as comparisons where relevant.

What do students do with their knowledge to demonstrate their understanding?

Subject knowledge tests – Increasingly we check understanding of key terms and factual knowledge through short answer tests. Sometimes this is done less formally through quizzes.

Questioning – Regular lessons necessarily involve significant output from students in the form of questioning by teachers and at times each other. This challenges students to demonstrate their understanding by explaining areas of the course and using data and evidence to illustrate how it works in practice.

Debate and discussions – Discussions are commonplace and keep students focused and engaged. Sometimes more formal debates and 'verbal boxing' can be used to test not just the arguments they make but how to counter alternative arguments using knowledge and examples.

Extended writing – An important way to assess knowledge and understanding is through extended writing. Essay type questions play a part in all three written papers so from an early stage in Y12 students are taught how to structure and develop a formal written response to a question to reach the higher levels of the mark scheme and hit all the appropriate assessment objectives.

Practice papers – There are a number of past papers and useful resources with exam style questions to further prepare students for exams. These happen regularly with regular assessment points throughout the year culminating in A level exams.