Edexcel A Level Economics

Vision Statement

The A Level Economics curriculum aims to “develop intellectually curious, analytical and socially aware students who can understand, evaluate and challenge the economic issues shaping modern society”.

Curriculum Intent

Economics is a dynamic and contemporary subject that enables students to explore how individuals, businesses and governments make decisions in a world of scarce resources. Through the study of microeconomics and macroeconomics, students will develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to interpret economic data, assess competing arguments and make reasoned judgements about local, national and global economic challenges. We aspire to equip students with the economic literacy required for higher education, future employment and active citizenship in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

Our Edexcel A Level Economics curriculum is designed to provide students with a secure understanding of core economic concepts and theories while encouraging them to apply their knowledge to real-world contexts. Students investigate current economic issues, analyse evidence and develop the ability to construct balanced and well-supported arguments.

The curriculum is sequenced to build progressively from fundamental economic principles towards more complex economic models and debates. Students begin by developing an understanding of markets, incentives and market failure before exploring the behaviour of firms, labour markets and government intervention. This microeconomic foundation is complemented by the study of national and international economic performance, macroeconomic policy, globalisation and development. Throughout the course, students revisit key concepts and apply them in increasingly sophisticated contexts, promoting long-term retention and deeper understanding.

A central aim of the curriculum is to develop students' analytical, quantitative and evaluative skills. Students learn to interpret and manipulate economic data, construct and analyse diagrams, evaluate policy decisions and communicate complex ideas effectively through extended written responses. The curriculum places a strong emphasis on critical thinking, enabling students to recognise that economic issues rarely have simple solutions and that different stakeholders may be affected in different ways.

The study of Economics also supports students' understanding of the wider world. Through engagement with current affairs and contemporary economic developments, students become informed citizens who can critically evaluate the economic challenges facing individuals, businesses, governments and societies. The curriculum encourages students to consider issues such as inequality, sustainability, productivity, globalisation and economic development, fostering an appreciation of the role economics plays in shaping opportunities and outcomes across the world.

Finally, the curriculum prepares students for progression beyond sixth form. The knowledge, analytical skills and independent thinking developed through the course provide an excellent foundation for further study in Economics, Business, Finance, Geography, Politics, Law and related disciplines, while also supporting a wide range of professional and vocational pathways. Our intention is that students leave the course as confident, reflective and economically literate individuals who are well prepared for the demands of higher education, employment and lifelong learning.

Why study Economics at The Sixth Form at Ridgewood?

- Economics is an important and topical subject with many real-world applications including politics, business and marketing
- Economics students at Ridgewood do better than their peers nationally for gaining grades A*-C
- Students have gone on to study a variety of prestigious universities including Cambridge, Durham and St. Andrews
- The Head of Economics is an expert examiner for Edexcel Economics

What topics will I study in this subject?

Topic	What this means
Competitive Markets (Year 12)	This topic looks at the basic idea of economics including scarcity and the difference between needs and wants. It introduces the key ideas of markets, demand and supply and then looks out how these markets fail.
Managing the Economy (Year 12)	This topic looks at the UK economy and how it is monitored and controlled. You will look at measures such as growth, inflation and unemployment.
Business Economics and Economic Efficiency (Year 13)	This topic looks at how businesses work in an economy. You will look at costs, revenue and profits and how businesses compete.
The Global Economy (Year 13)	This topic looks at the whole world including globalisation, trade, development and poverty.

What skills will I need in this subject?

Skill	What this skill involves in this subject
Understanding data	You will have to pick out important details from both numerical and written data and make links between the data and the questions and content.
Analysis	You will need to be able to make links between different ideas in a chain of reasoning, explaining that A leads to B leads to C and why.

Evaluation	You will need to see both sides of an argument and be able to suggest reasons why something might not happen the way it should.
Extended essay writing	In Year 12 you will be writing 20 mark essays; in Year 13 these will be 25 mark essays.

What will my lessons involve?

- Most lessons involve explanation and discussion of a new concept, followed by practice data questions or essay questions on that concept
- Frequently you will look at case studies related to the content
- You will have lessons practising your new skills such as essay writing and analysis
- Occasionally there are role play type activities where you have to be the consumer, business or government
- At the end of Year 12 and during Year 13 you will have lessons where you will independently research developing countries of your choice

What will my independent study involve?

- An important aspect of your independent study will involve keeping up to date with the news and current affairs
- You will be given regular work to do; this could involve research of an area or a new topic, or practice questions and essays
- You will also need to spend considerable time checking over your notes as all the content you will learn will be new and there is a lot of it
- Finally you will need to spend time doing exam practice and becoming familiar with the mark schemes and questions

How will I be assessed?

Percentage exam assessment: 100%	Percentage coursework assessment: 0%

Assessment	**Details of assessment**
Paper 1	Two hours, 100 marks, Topics 1 and 3, 35% of overall mark Section A is five short questions worth 5 marks, each has a multiple choice element Section B is five questions based on provided data worth 50 marks in total Section C is a choice of two essay questions worth 25 marks
Paper 2	Two hours, 100 marks, Topics 2 and 4, 35% of overall mark Section A is five short questions worth 5 marks, each has a multiple choice element Section B is five questions based on provided data worth 50 marks in total Section C is a choice of two essay questions worth 25 marks
Paper 3	Two hours, 100 marks, all topics, 30% of overall mark There are two sections Both sections include three questions based on provided data worth 25 marks in total and a choice of two essay questions worth 25 marks

How do I know this is the right course for me?

- If you are interested in business or politics or how the real world works, then Economics is for you!
- Prior knowledge of Economics is not needed to study the course but you will need to be able to write essay-style questions in exams, so English is very important.
- It links well with Politics, Business and Geography.
- Economics can be useful if you are interested in a career in business, journalism, politics, finance and accounting, marketing, engineering or IT.
- You must be patient. This subject will all be new to you, so there is a lot to take in, and you may not fully be able to grasp some of the ideas until later in the course.

