

# **A Level Economics – 2011-12**

## **Course Booklet**

**This course guide should be brought to all classes. It provides important information regarding a range of course details but particularly coursework deadlines.**

### **Official Title**

Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Economics (8EC01)

Advanced GCE in Economics (9EC01)

### **Exam Board & Web Details**

This and all Business and Economics Department subjects are registered with Edexcel, their website contains useful information such as course specifications, past examination papers and examination dates. The particular page for this course is:

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/economics/Pages/default.aspx>

It is recommended that every student download a copy of the specification:

<http://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/GCE%20New%20GCE/UA024837%20GCE%20in%20Economics%20Issue%204%20210510.pdf> (it can be found through the previous link)

### **Aims and Objectives of the course:**

Economics AS/A2 course aims for students to develop:

- An interest in and an enthusiasm for the study of economics.
- An appreciation for the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic and social environment.
- An understanding of a range of concepts and an ability to use these concepts in a variety of wider contexts.
- An enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics and an ability to think as an economist.
- Skills, qualities and attitudes which will equip them for challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult and working life.

## **Outline of Assessment**

Each year will be assessed upon two examined units; each Unit will be given a percentage and grade. All of these three Units are all equally weighted.

Over two years you will therefore study four Units; the weightings are as follows:

<b>Module</b>	<b>% of AS / A2 mark</b>	<b>% of total GCE mark</b>
Unit 1 (AS)	50%	25%
Unit 2 (AS)	50%	25%
Unit 3 (A2)	40%	20%
Unit 4 (A2)	60%	30%

The grade boundaries for all units are as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Overall Percentage</b>
A*	90%
A	80%
B	70%
C	60%
D	50%
E	40%
U	Below 40%

## **Assessment Criteria for Each Unit**

GCE economics comprises of the following modules

<b>Unit Number and Name</b>	<b>Course Type</b>	<b>Assessment Method</b>
Unit 1 – Competitive Markets	AS (Year 12)	Examination (1.5 hrs)
Unit 2 – Managing the Economy	AS (Year 12)	Examination (1.5 hrs)
Unit 3 – Business Economics and Economic Efficiency	A2 (Year 13)	Examination (1.5 hrs)
Unit 4 – The Global Economy	A2 (Year 13)	Examination (2 hrs)

## Assessment Tasks Across the year

Over the course of the year you will be taught two units simultaneously by two teachers. In Year 12 this will be Units 1 and 2, in Year 13 this will be Units 3 and 4.

### AS Economics

	Assessment task and details of its relationship to 'official' assessments	Under what conditions will the task be completed & how much time is allowed?	Teacher responsible	Date by when assessment will be completed	
<b>INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>1</b>	Questions on Page 207 of Economics Books	Homework	THR	25 <sup>th</sup> Sept
	<b>2</b>	Multiple Choice Practise Exam to test unit 1.3.1	In Class – controlled conditions	CSE	23 <sup>rd</sup> October
	<b>3</b>	Presentation of development case study by students	In Class	THR	23 <sup>rd</sup> October
	<i>Parents / students / tutors will receive grades 1-3 (minimum) at Progress Review 2 in November (Can be more depending on your schedule)</i>				
	<b>4</b>	Multiple Choice Exam – Supply and Demand	In Class – controlled conditions	CSE	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov
	<b>5</b>	Data Response Question on Measures of an Economy	In Class – controlled conditions	THR	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec
	<b>6</b>	Multiple Choice Exam on Elasticities AND Data Response on how markets help	In Class – controlled conditions	CSE	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec
		Mock Results			
	<i>Parents / students / tutors will receive grades 1-6 (minimum) at Parents' Evening (Can be more depending on your schedule)</i>				
	<b>7</b>	Questions on Page 207 of Economics Books	Homework	THR	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb
<b>8</b>	Data Response question on market failure	In Class - Controlled	CSE	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	
<b>9</b>	Practise Exam Paper	In Class – Exam Conditions	THR	19 <sup>th</sup> March	
<b>10</b>	Multiple Choice and Data Response on market Failure		CSE	19 <sup>th</sup> march	

## A2 Economics

	Assessment task and details of its relationship to 'official' assessments	Under what conditions was task completed & how much time was allowed?	Teacher responsible	Date by when assessment will be completed	
<b>INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>1</b>	Essay – "Evaluate the arguments for and against globalisation"	Homework	FAL	25 <sup>th</sup> Sept
	<b>2</b>	Exercise from Economics book on Marginal cost, marginal revenue and profit maximisation. Q3 – Page 290. Q5 – Page 292. Question 1 – Page 301. Q2 – Page 305	Homework	THR	22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct
	<b>3</b>	Economics Book questions. Page 432-433	Controlled Assessment	FAL	22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct
	<i>Parents / students / tutors will receive grades 1-3 (minimum) at Progress Review 2 in November (Can be more depending on your schedule)</i>				
	<b>4</b>	Exam Questions on marginal costs and marginal revenues	Exam conditions in class	THR	13 <sup>th</sup> Nov
	<b>5</b>	Presentation on an African Country: What is the Poverty Situation? How did it Arise? What is being done to alleviate the problem?	Week of research. Followed by presentations in pairs	FAL	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec
	<b>6</b>	Short Answer test assessing underlying knowledge of units 3.3.1-3.3.6	Exam Conditions – 50 mins	THR	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec
		Mock Results			
	<i>Parents / students / tutors will receive grades 1-6 (minimum) at Parents' Evening (Can be more depending on your schedule)</i>				
	<b>7</b>	Essay: The Bank of International Settlements has called for interest rates to be raised despite the recession – weigh up the arguments for and against this	Homework	FAL	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb
<b>8</b>	Create a Revision Poster to differentiate all the different market structures	Homework and Single Lesson	THR	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	
<b>9</b>	Practice Unit 4 Exam	Double Lesson – Exam Conditions	FAL	12 <sup>th</sup> March	
<b>10</b>	Practice Unit 3 Exam	Double Lesson – Exam Conditions	THR	26 <sup>th</sup> March	

## Additional Examination Guidance:

### Summary of assessment requirements

Unit number and unit title	Level	Assessment information	Number of marks allocated in the unit
Unit 1: Competitive Markets — How They Work and Why They Fail	AS	Examination length: 1 hour 30 minutes Supported multiple-choice questions where students write a short justification of why they chose that answer and/or why the other answers are incorrect. Worth 32 marks. One data response question out of a choice of two questions. Worth 48 marks.	80 marks
Unit 2: Managing the Economy	AS	Examination length: 1 hour 30 minutes One data response question out of a choice of two questions. Worth 50 marks. Last question of data response will be open ended. Worth 30 marks.	80 marks
Unit 3: Business Economics and Economic Efficiency	A2	Examination length: 1 hour 30 minutes Supported multiple-choice questions where students write a short justification of why they chose that answer and/or why the other answers are incorrect. Worth 32 marks. One data response question out of a choice of two questions. Worth 40 marks.	72 marks
Unit 4: The Global Economy	A2	Examination length: 2 hours One essay question with two parts from a choice of three topic areas. Worth 50 marks. One data response question out of a choice of two questions. Worth 50 marks.	100 marks

### Assessment objectives and weightings

		% in AS	% in A2	% in GCE
<b>AO1</b>	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the specified content.	27.5%	22%	24.75%
<b>AO2</b>	Apply knowledge and understanding of the specified content to problems and issues arising from both familiar and unfamiliar situations.	27.5%	22%	24.75%
<b>AO3</b>	Analyse economic problems and issues.	22.5%	28%	25.25%
<b>AO4</b>	Evaluate economic arguments and evidence, making informed judgements.	22.5%	28%	25.25%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	100%	100%

## Subject Specific Additional Material

It is highly recommended that you do additional reading throughout the year, at a very basic level to improve your written Business English you should read the *Business Review* magazine in the library. This magazine is specifically aimed at Business Studies A Level Students and includes many articles and case studies which will support your studies.

For more challenging and relevant articles you might wish to also read *the economist* which is read the world over by high level Business Executives and Economists.

In terms of Websites the Times 100 ([www.thetimes100.co.uk](http://www.thetimes100.co.uk)) provides excellent case studies to support your assignments and examination preparation.

The [www.tutor2u.net](http://www.tutor2u.net) and [www.bized.co.uk](http://www.bized.co.uk) provide good academic support materials.

## Specified Reading

In terms of recommended course text we would particularly recommend *Economics (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.) A Level for EdExcel* by Alain Anderton, this book covers both AS and A2 material. It is highly recommended that you purchase this book. This may be done through the department, however we will only order you a copy after payment has been received.

## Teacher school email addresses

The following teachers will be teaching different elements of the A Level Economics course, they can be emailed at any time.

Mr Chris Sale	<a href="mailto:chrissale@gkschool.org.uk">chrissale@gkschool.org.uk</a>
Mr Frank Albrecht	<a href="mailto:frankalbrecht@gkschool.org.uk">frankalbrecht@gkschool.org.uk</a>
Mr Tom Holder	<a href="mailto:tomholder@gkschool.org.uk">tomholder@gkschool.org.uk</a>

## Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism, as defined in the 1995 Random House Compact Unabridged Dictionary, is the "use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work."

The use of referenced material is encouraged by the department to add weight of argument to a piece of work or particular point. Any quotations within a piece of work are expected to be noted. Additional care must be observed given that all Edexcel moderated work is electronically scanned.

Teachers will take every reasonable care to monitor work which is copied between students' assignments. Submitted work which is copied will be dealt with on a case by case basis. No

work which is suspected will be submitted to Edexcel meaning that plagiarised submissions will not be counted towards a final grade. Student's overall grade will therefore suffer directly as a result of any plagiarism.

### **Causes for Concern**

All causes for concern will be tracked by the department this will provide evidence of interventions and allow tracking to be carried out with students across class boundaries between teachers. Students will be classified a cause for concern under the following headings:

Behaviour – a student's behaviour has meant they have impacted upon their or other students learning.

Coursework/ homework – a student has not submitted a piece of coursework

Attendance – a student's lack of attendance is having a direct effect upon their performance.

Equipment – a student has attended class without their required notes, books, stationary or other equipment.

The five stages of the departmental cause for concern policy are as follows:

- In the first instance (stage one) one letter will be sent home to inform parents of our concern.
- At stage two, another formal letter is issued of more severity to parents.
- At stage three, a parent or guardian must be spoken to directly by the teacher involved, usually by telephone or at a progress review.
- At stage four, a formal meeting will be set up with Mr Albrecht (Head of Faculty), the parent, the student, the classroom teacher and the DoL in attendance.
- At stage five, the progress of the student will be passed through from the department to the Director of Learning or SLT. Given the severity of this point it will most likely be our recommendation that the student should be removed from the course.

**Student Order Form**

Student Name ..... Tutor Group.....

Course .....

**Folder/ Dividers**

Please order me ..... folder/ divider set(s) at £2:00 each, for a total of £.....

**Book Order**

Please order me the following course texts:

<b>Text Name</b>	<b>ISBN No.</b>	<b>Price</b>
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
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.....	.....	.....
	<b>Book Total</b>	.....

**Received by** ..... **(Teacher name)**

**Signed** ..... **(Teacher)**