



Higher Economics

Learner Support Guide

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1. Course Outline

In Higher Economics we will cover three main areas:

Economics of the Market:

Learners will develop their understanding of how to analyse the basic economic problem. They will learn how to examine and analyse how supply and demand drives resource allocation and economic production.

UK Economic Activity:

Learners will develop their understanding of how to analyse government income and expenditure. They will learn how to evaluate the role of the public and private sectors within the economy. They will also learn how to develop the ability to assess the policies and other methods used by the UK government to achieve its economic aims.

Global Economic Activity:

Learners will develop their understanding of how to analyse the global nature of economics. They will explore global trade and learn of its importance to the UK economy. They will also examine economic features and the impacts of developing countries, emerging economies, global institutions and the EU.

Learners should aim to carry out independent research regularly throughout the duration of the year. They should pay specific attention to news and reputable newspaper outlets for articles that are relevant to key economic issues.

2. Assessment Methods

Learners will be assessed at various times throughout the course.

Class Assessments:

The first assessment will be prior to the October break. Learners will be asked a series of exam style questions to assess their content knowledge and understanding. There will also be further assessments November and February.

Prelim:

In December, learners will complete a Prelim. This will be in a similar style to a SQA paper. It will consist of two elements:

Section 1: Case Study - this section is worth 30 marks and contains two multi-part questions worth 15 marks each. Questions will be based on two pieces of stimulus material and sample content from all three areas of study.

Section 2: This section is worth 60 marks and contains three multi-part questions worth 20 marks each. Each question is based on a different area of study.

Learners will also sit a final exam set by the SQA in May.

Assignment:

In January/February, learners will complete a mandatory assignment. This is worth 25% of their overall grade and will be sent to the SQA. The assignment will give learners the opportunity to research a current economic topic/issue. It will also allow them to use their knowledge and understanding to apply relevant concepts and theories to the area of research. They will also learn to analyse and evaluate economic information/data.

3. Exam Preparation

As learners will not have prior knowledge of Economics from National 5, it is paramount that learners are regularly reviewing their class notes and accessing learner and revision materials to help improve their knowledge and understanding of the course content. All materials will be available on the Microsoft Team for the class.

Additionally, revision materials can also be accessed via Scholar, Economics Help and Tutor2u. At this time there are limited textbooks and study guides available for Higher Economics, however learners could make use of *Higher Economics Course Revision Notes and Questions - Duncan McMaster (available on Amazon)*. Please note that although some of the A Level Economics (English Curriculum) have overlapping topics and may be useful, the course is not identical and therefore purchasing textbooks is not recommended.

To prepare for the final exam in May, learners should ensure they are carrying out timed practise of case studies and extended response questions - 1 hour for the case study and 1 hour 30 minutes for the extended response questions.

They should also ensure they are regularly engaging with economic news to develop their knowledge and understanding, this will also allow them to add further depth and detail into their answers. This can come from a variety of sources including: BBC News, The Guardian, Financial Times, Economist, Telegraph, The Scotsman. Learners can also gather information from TV programmes such as the News, Question Time and documentaries.

4. Supported Study

Supported Study classes will begin post October break after school - learners will decide as a class which day will suit best. Saturday School will also run on the weekends running up to the Prelim in December and final exam in May.

Learners are also welcome to come up during lunch, before or at the end of the school day if they need advice or support with their learning.

5. SQA Links

The link below will allow you to access the most recent past papers as well as specimen papers produced by the SQA. There are also Marking Schemes on this page.

[Higher Economics - SQA](#)

The link below to the SQA website will allow you to see where markers have awarded marks to exemplar papers and read the markers' comments on the candidate's response. It is especially helpful in identifying where marks are awarded for analysis and for knowledge. This is also useful for looking at the standards expected from the SQA.

[Higher Economics - Understanding Standards](#)