



TRAILL
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

ECONOMICS

IGCSE ECONOMICS



YEAR 9 OPTION BOOKLET: 2024-2026

Subject: Economics

Course Title: IGCSE Economics

Why choose Cambridge IGCSE Economics? Cambridge IGCSE Economics is accepted by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of economics. Successful IGCSE Economics candidates gain lifelong skills, including:

- An understanding of economic theory, terminology and principles.
- The ability to apply the tools of economic analysis.
- The ability to distinguish between facts and value judgements in economic issues.
- An ability to use basic economic numeracy and literacy.
- The ability to take a greater part in decision-making processes in everyday life.
- An understanding of the economies of developed and developing nations.
- Develop candidates' basic economic numeracy and literacy and their ability to handle simple data including graphs and diagrams.

Assessment at a glance:

Candidates will receive grades from A* to G.

Paper 1 – 45 minutes

Paper 2 – 2 hours 15 minutes

30 Multiple Choice questions

Structured case study questions

30 % of the marks

70% of the marks

Assessment objectives and their weightings

The four assessment objectives in IGCSE Economics are:

A: Knowledge with understanding

B: Analysis

C: Judgement and decision-making

D: Critical evaluation.

A01: Knowledge and Understanding: 30%

A02: Analysis :40%

A03: Critical Evaluation :30%

Curriculum Content:

1 Basic economic problem: choice and the allocation of resources

Candidates should be able to:

- define the nature of the economic problem (finite resources and unlimited wants);
- define the factors of production (land, labour, capital, enterprise);
- define opportunity cost and analyse particular circumstances to illustrate the concept;
- evaluate the implications of particular courses of action in terms of opportunity cost.

2. The allocation of resources: how the market works; market failure

Candidates should be able to:

- describe the allocation of resources in market and mixed economic systems;
- demonstrate the principle of equilibrium price and analyse simple market situations with changes in demand and supply;
- describe the causes of changes in demand and supply conditions and analyse such changes to show effects in the market;
- define price elasticity of demand and supply and perform simple calculations;
- demonstrate the usefulness of price elasticity in particular situations such as revenue changes, consumer expenditure;
- describe the concept of market failure and explain the reasons for its occurrence;
- evaluate the merits of the market system;
- define private and social costs and benefits and discuss conflicts of interest in relation to these costs and benefits in the short term and long term through studies of the following issues:
 - conserving resources versus using resources;
 - public expenditure versus private expenditure.

3. The individual as producer, consumer and borrower

Candidates should be able to:

- describe the functions of money and the need for exchange;
- describe the functions of central banks, stock exchanges, commercial banks;
- identify the factors affecting an individual's choice of occupation (wage factors and non-wage factors);
- describe likely changes in earnings over time for an individual;
- describe the differences in earnings between different occupational groups (male/female; skilled/unskilled; private/public; agricultural/manufacturing/services);

- describe trade unions and their role in an economy;
- describe the benefits and disadvantages of specialisation for the individual;
- analyse the different motives for spending, saving and borrowing;
- discuss how and why different income groups have different expenditure patterns (spending, saving and borrowing).

4. The private firm as producer and employer

Candidates should be able to:

- describe the type of business organisation in the public and private sectors: sole proprietors, partnerships, private companies, public companies, multi-nationals, co-operatives, public corporations;
- describe and evaluate the effects of changes in structure of business organisations;
- describe what determines the demand for factors of production;
- define total and average cost, fixed and variable cost and perform simple calculations;
- analyse particular situations to show changes in total and average cost as output changes;
- define total and average revenue and perform simple calculations;
- describe the principle of profit maximisation as a goal;
- describe pricing and output policies in perfect competition and monopoly;
- describe the main reasons for the different sizes of firms (size of market, capital, organisation);
- describe and evaluate integration, economies and diseconomies of scale;

5. Role of government in an economy

Candidates should be able to:

- describe the government as a producer of goods and services and as an employer;
- describe the aims of government policies, such as full employment, price stability, economic growth, redistribution of income, balance of payments stability;
- discuss the possible conflicts between government aims;
- describe the types of taxation (direct, indirect, progressive, regressive, proportional) and the impact of taxation;
- discuss the government's influence (regulation, subsidies, taxes) on private producers.

6. Economic indicators

With regards to prices candidates should be able to:

- describe how the retail price index is calculated;
- discuss the causes and consequences of inflation.

With regards to employment candidates should be able to:

- describe the changing patterns and levels of employment;
- discuss the causes and consequences of unemployment.

With regards to output candidates should be able to:

- define Gross Domestic Product (GDP);
- describe simple measures and indicators of comparative living standards, such as GDP per head, Human Development Index (HDI).

7. Developed and developing economies: trends in production, population and living standards

Candidates should be able to:

- describe why some countries are classified as developed and others are not;
- recognise and discuss policies to alleviate poverty;
- describe the factors that affect population growth (birth rate, death rate, fertility rate, net migration) and discuss reasons for the different rates of growth in different countries;
- analyse the problems and consequences of these population changes for countries at different stages of development;
- describe the effects of changing size and structure of population on an economy;
- discuss differences in living standards within countries and between countries, both developed and developing.

8. International aspects

Candidates should be able to:

- describe the benefits and disadvantages of specialisation at regional and national levels;
- describe the structure of the current account of the Balance of Payments;
- define exchange rates;
- discuss the causes and consequences of exchange rate fluctuations;
- describe methods of protection;
- discuss the merits of free trade and protection.

Career Options for Economics Students

Finance and property

Accountant, Auditor, Financial adviser, Energy Auditor, real estate agent, Actuary, Finance manager, Financial dealer, Mortgage broker and Valuer

Government, Law and Safety

Elected Government Representative, Policy Analyst, Foreign Policy Officer, Urban/Regional Planner

Farming, Fishing, Forestry and Mining

Agricultural/Horticultural Consultant, Farmer/Farm Manager, Crop Farmer, Forester

Education and Social Sciences

Economist, Tertiary Lecturer, Statistician, Teacher

Arts and Media

Advertising Specialist, Marketing Specialist, Advertising, Sales and Marketing Manager

Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation

Hotel/Motel Manager, Hospitality management.

Business and Logistics

Managing Director/Chief Executive, Construction and Infrastructure, Quantity Surveyor, Transport
