

SUBJECT GUIDE:

Exam Board - EDEXCEL

ECONOMICS TEACHING AT REGENT COLLEGE

Economics teaching at Regent College is firmly rooted in current affairs. This not only makes the teaching more relevant and interesting, it also prepares students for the A Level examination because the examination board stipulates that students must “demonstrate an awareness of current economic events and policies”.

We use videos, films and newspaper extracts to bring the theories in the textbooks alive and up to date.

We follow the Edexcel courses in Economics to A Level (Advanced GCE), code 9EC0. We began teaching the new syllabus from September 2015.

Students are asked for their email addresses so that we can send them electronic versions of the course materials, extension tasks, homework reminders, referrals to web-sites and recommended articles, books, television broadcasts and YouTube resources. They are also encouraged to ask their teacher for help and clarification outside lessons by email. Our experience is that students who develop self-reliance and ambition achieve the highest grades.

In addition to a competent standard of written English, students need a good grade in GCSE Mathematics to cope. In the context of economic data, they will be taught how to calculate, use measurements such as ratios, fractions and percentage changes to analyse information in written, graphical, tabular and numerical forms. The assessment of these quantitative skills constitute a minimum of 20% of the overall marks for A Level.

WHY STUDY ECONOMICS

Economics is essential to understanding the world in which we live and work. What determines the prices of the goods and services on which we spend our income, and the prices of the shares and bonds in which we invest our savings? How does education affect the lifetime earnings of people? Why do some people earn so much and others so little? Why do some jobs pay high wages while other jobs pay low wages? How do firms operating in different market environments decide what quantities to produce, what prices to charge, and how much labour and capital to employ? Why do average standards of living vary so widely between and within countries?

Beyond A-Level, the competitive nature of the graduate job market means that a degree is seen as an investment into increased future earnings. In the Complete University Guide, the table of average earnings by degree, shows Economics in sixth place, only being beaten by Medicine, Dentistry and three Engineering subjects. The top employment sectors for Economics graduates from the London School of Economics are: banking, accountancy and taxation, business and management consultancy, and local and national government.

For those whose appetite is whetted, further information can be obtained from the Edexcel website:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/economics-a-2015.html>

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