



Economics

Department of Economics and Business Studies

The department offers a choice of two 'A' Levels: Economics and Business Studies. It is not possible for students to study both subjects. It also offers International Baccalaureate Economics.

International Baccalaureate Economics

The content of the IB course has much in common with the current A Level syllabus. The course looks to provide answers to challenges that are common to all societies. It is a highly theoretical course that will provide students with a good foundation in the subject. By the end of the course candidates should be able to:

- understand economic terminology
- present economic arguments in a clear and logical manner
- understand and interpret economic data and information
- understand the diverse nature of world economies
- perceive that economic variables are interrelated, and predict possible consequences from changes in economic policy
- apply economic theory to diverse global events in order to analyse and evaluate possible outcomes

The course looks at economics from a truly international perspective. One of the key themes is the study of Development Economics. This enables students to understand why some countries are less developed than others. It also looks at the problems faced by these countries, and examines some of the development strategies that have been successfully implemented around the world.

Like the A level, the IB course is academically demanding both at Standard and Higher Level. Students must have a sound mathematical knowledge and be able to present their ideas on paper in a lucid and coherent way. The course will require a good deal of wider reading and, therefore, students must have a keen interest in current economic affairs.

All students will be required to produce a series of economic commentaries based on self chosen articles. This will require a good deal of personal research and it is imperative that students can work to deadlines.

Both the Standard and Higher Level qualifications are assessed by external examinations and internally marked commentaries. All external examinations are sat at the end of the course.

At Standard Level, students sit two external examinations:

- a one hour multiple choice paper
- a two hour written paper that includes data response and essay questions

At Higher Level, students sit three external examinations:

- a one hour multiple choice paper
- a one hour essay paper
- a two hour written paper that includes data response and essay questions