

Subject	Year	Term
Economics (micro)	Year 12	Autumn 1
Topic		
4.1.1 - Economic methodology and the economic problem		
Content (Intent)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior Learning – none 		
<p>This section of the syllabus is split into 5 topics (4.1.1.1 to 4.1.1.5)</p>		
<p>4.1.1.1. Economic methodology</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economics as a social science. • Similarities to and differences in methodology from natural and other sciences. • The difference between positive and normative statements. • How value judgements influence economic decision making and policy. • People’s views concerning the best option are influenced by the positive consequences of different decisions and by moral and political judgements. 		
<p>4.1.1.2. The nature and purpose of economic activity</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The central purpose of economic activity is the production of goods and services to satisfy needs and wants. • The key economic decisions are: what to produce, how to produce and who is to benefit from the goods and services produced. 		
<p>4.1.1.3. Economic resources</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economists’ classification of economic resources into land, labour, capital and enterprise, which are the factors of production. • The environment is a scarce resource. 		
<p>4.1.1.4. Scarcity, choice and the allocation of resources</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fundamental economic problem is scarcity and that it results from limited resources and unlimited wants. • Scarcity means that choices have to be made about how scarce resources are allocated between different uses. • Choices have an opportunity cost. 		
<p>4.1.1.5. Production possibility diagrams</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production possibility diagrams illustrate different features of the fundamental economic problem, such as: resource allocation, opportunity cost and trade-offs, unemployment of economic resources, economic growth. • Why all points on the boundary are productively efficient but not all points on the boundary are allocatively efficient. 		
<p>Future Learning:</p>		
<p>This section of the syllabus outlines the skills and methods used by economists. These skills and methods will be applied in all future sections.</p>		
How will knowledge and skills be taught? (Implementation)	How will your understanding be assessed & recorded (Impact)	
<p>This topic will involve, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teacher led lesson content - Independent learning tasks - Group discussion/debates and questioning - Using economic terminology - Reference to economic examples throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Past Paper responses and essays. Marked and feedback given. - Verbal responses. Individual and class feedback given. 	

How can parents help at home?

- Discussing ideas and content at home & linking it to real world situations that they are aware of.
- Watch the news and/or read a good quality newspaper
- Watch any topical films or documentaries that link to economics e.g. Panorama and Dispatches.
- Support us with our department's high expectations of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and minimum standards.

Helpful further reading/discussion

Reading

- Economics A level textbooks
- Tutor 2u website and YouTube channel
- www.econplusdal.com
- <https://www.tutor2u.net>
- BBC website for current economics articles
- Exam board subject website
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics/as-and-a-level/economics-7135-7136>
- CIA website for international economic data
<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>

Vocabulary Key Words

- Social science
- Positive statements
- Normative statements
- Economic activity
- Land
- Labour
- Capital
- Enterprise
- Factors of production
- Resources
- The fundamental economic problem
- Scarcity
- Opportunity cost
- Production possibility
- Resource allocation
- Trade-offs
- Unemployment of economic resources
- Economic growth
- Productive efficiency
- Allocative efficiency

Careers Links

A level economics develops skills and knowledge that help in a wide range of careers. An understanding of how changes in economic variables impacts the economic environment that firms operate in is useful for careers in a wide range of industries. Data handling and interpretation skills, along with the ability to construct alternative arguments to a problem before drawing conclusions are valued in many careers.

This section explains the meaning of enterprise and highlights its importance.