



ST BERNARD'S
HIGH SCHOOL

Curriculum Guide

Economics

2025 - 26



Contents

Curriculum Intent	3
Year 10	4
Year 11	6
Year 12	6
Year 13	12

Curriculum Intent

The aim of the Economics Department is that students that study the subject here at St Bernard's High School will become intellectually curious, perceptive, and logical members of society. As Economics is a social science, students will study the deeper reasons behind why individuals, governments, firms, and nations take certain actions and how they make choices to maximise outcomes with limited resources. Through the study of Economics at both GCSE and A-Level, students will develop the ability to carefully dissect and analyse any information they are presented with and make independent, well-informed decisions.

Head of Maths, Computer Science, Business and Economics Faculty

Mr J Miller

Head of Business and Economics Department

Mrs L Cousins

Year 10

This subject can be chosen as an option for GCSE.

Curriculum overview for year group

In Year 10, students will start the AQA GCSE Economics course, progressing through Topic 1 (How markets work). During this year students will be focused on studying a range of themes within microeconomics. This will include a variety of topics that explore the actions and motivations of consumers and firms including resource allocation, supply and demand, productivity, firms' objectives, market failure and the labour market. Throughout the year students will examine a range of case studies about economic changes and will learn to analyse the impacts on various economic agents and make balanced recommendations about alternative courses of action.

Number of lessons per fortnight: 3

Skills developed: Decision-making, communication (written and verbal), financial literacy, commercial awareness, problem solving, critical thinking, calculation, interpretation, data analysis (qualitative and quantitative).

Classes: Students are taught in mixed ability classes

Essential equipment: Calculator, black/blue pen, green pen, ruler, pencil, eraser, highlighter

Extracurricular and enrichment opportunities: Economics open house

Careers curriculum: Students will learn about the motivations and role of firms, consumers and the government. They will build an awareness of why firms exist and how they maximise profits. They will study the labour market, looking at pay slips, reasons for wage differentials and the merits of safe and productive workplace.

	Content studied	Literacy focus	What parents can do to help
Autumn Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of economic activity and economic groups The factors of production The basic economic problem, making choices and opportunity cost Markets and allocating resources Economic sectors Specialisation, division of labour and exchange Demand and the demand curve Supply and the supply curve Equilibrium price and quantity – supply and demand diagrams 	<p>Command words in shorter 2-mark exam questions 'State, explain', 'define'</p> <p>As this subject is completely new to students at KS4, each lesson will include many new key terms, these will be reviewed each lesson during retrieval and students will be given a glossary of key terms.</p>	Encourage students to read and listen to business and economics news. Pay attention to local businesses and organisations, discuss the purpose and impact of these organisations on the local community.
Spring Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermarket relationships Price elasticity of demand Price elasticity of supply Costs, revenue, and profit Moral and ethical considerations Production and productivity 	<p>Command words in 6-mark questions ('Analyse')</p> <p>Command words in 3-mark questions ('Draw' and 'Calculate')</p> <p>Reading case studies and extracting evidence to support analysis in answers.</p>	Discuss with students which goods and services would be first and last to go if either you or they had to cut their spending. Why?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economies and diseconomies of scale Competitive markets Non-competitive markets 		
Summer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The labour market Market failure and the misallocation of resources Government intervention Externalities Revision and consolidation of all microeconomics topics. 	<p>Command word in 9-mark questions ('Assess')</p> <p>Reading case studies to recognise evidence to support or contrast with a particular view.</p>	<p>Support students with revision for the end of year mock. This will be their first full GCSE style paper. They should revise all microeconomics content and practice past paper questions.</p>

Helpful books/websites:

- Tutor2u AQA 9-1 GCSE Economics Knowledge Books
- Tutor2u Economics
- Economics Help - <https://www.economicshelp.org/>
- Economics Online - <https://www.economicsonline.co.uk/>
- Exam Board website – AQA GCSE Economics - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics/gcse/economics-8136/specification>
- MME Revise – Past papers and mark schemes - <https://mmerevise.co.uk/gcse-economics-revision/gcse-economics-past-papers/aqa-gcse-economics-past-papers/>
- Mr Goff – GCSE Economics (YouTube) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JD4TcX4biHw&list=PLQAq9jJZ-SAlkX5plaONcTeXLVkw3ZLRE>

Y10 Business super curriculum**Read:**

- The Economics sections of BBC News, The Guardian, or The Times.
- An economics book:
 - The Economics Book by DK
 - Fifty Things that Made the Modern Economy by Tim Harford
 - Can't We Just Print More Money? By Rupal Patel and Jack Meaning
- This article about how at home entertainment is replacing going out - <https://vergemagazine.co.uk/how-online-entertainment-is-replacing-traditional-nights-out/>
- This article about the true costs of fast fashion - <https://economicsobservatory.com/fast-fashion-what-are-the-true-costs>

Watch:

- The Apprentice on BBC 1 or Dragon's Den on BBC 2 (both available on BBC iPlayer)
- Talking Business – BBC News/One (available on BBC iPlayer)
- The American Factory – Netflix
- How Gucci Fell from High Fashion to Discount Rack - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbgYIQPlkm8>
- What is the gig economy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXT8xdqcAoU>
- Why every restaurant has the same desserts - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtTLUnH5vps>

Listen:

- BBC Business Daily (BBC Sounds or Spotify)
- TED Business (Spotify)
- The Economist (Spotify)
- Planet Money (Spotify)
- Economics in Ten (Spotify)

Year 11

This subject can be chosen as an option for GCSE.

Curriculum overview for Year 11

In Year 11, students will continue the AQA GCSE Economics course, progressing through Topic 2 (How the economy works). During this year students will be focused on studying a range of themes within macroeconomics. This will include a variety of topics that explore the actions and motivations of governments and economies including inflation, unemployment, economic growth, interest rates, taxation, government spending, exchange rates, and global trade. Throughout the year students will examine a range of case studies about economic changes and will refine their skills of analysing the impacts on various economic agents and making balanced recommendations about alternative courses of action.

Number of lessons per fortnight: 3

Skills developed: Decision-making, communication (written and verbal), financial literacy, commercial awareness, problem solving, critical thinking, calculation, interpretation, data analysis (qualitative and quantitative).

Classes: Students are taught in mixed ability classes

Essential equipment: Calculator, black/blue pen, green pen, ruler, pencil, eraser, highlighter

Extracurricular and enrichment opportunities: Economics open house

Careers curriculum: Students will learn about how the government intervenes in the economy and facilitates global trade. They will explore the various job roles associated with these processes and the skills of an economist.

	Content studied	Literacy focus	What parents can do to help
Autumn Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest rates, saving, and borrowing Purpose and types of government taxation Government revenue and spending Economic objectives of the government Conflicts (moral, ethical sustainability) in government objectives. Causes and impact of economic growth Government policies for economic growth Types, causes and consequences of unemployment Government policies to reduce unemployment Causes and consequences of inflation Government policies to manage inflation Balance of payments Government policies to manage the balance of payments 	<p>Command words in 15-mark questions ('Justify your view')</p> <p>Reading case studies to look for evidence to support both sides of an argument or viewpoint. Using this evidence to build a balanced argument.</p>	<p>Discuss general economic issues with students and how they affect your household.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income and wealth inequality 		
Spring Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiscal policy Monetary policy Supply-side policy Policies to correct externalities Benefits of trade to countries UK's exports and imports Exchange rates and impact on consumers and producers Free trade and free trade agreements Impact of globalisation (moral, ethical, and sustainability issues) The functions of money The role of the Bank of England and other financial institutions 	<p>Review of all exam command words and corresponding answer structures.</p> <p>Using key terms and evidence from the case study for precise and detailed analysis and balanced evaluation</p>	<p>Discuss basic economic issues and how they might affect you, your household, friends or family. For example, how tax and interest rate changes impact your household. Discuss personal finance (credit and debits cards, overdrafts, mortgages, saving).</p>
Summer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision of all content from microeconomics and macroeconomics 	<p>Review of all exam command words and corresponding answer structures.</p> <p>Using key terms and evidence from the case study for precise and detailed analysis and balanced evaluation</p>	<p>Students should be completing as many past paper questions as possible. Support them with revision planning and completed past papers in timed conditions.</p>

Helpful books/websites:

- Tutor2u AQA 9-1 GCSE Economics Knowledge Books
- Tutor2u Economics
- Economics Help - <https://www.economicshelp.org/>
- Economics Online - <https://www.economicsonline.co.uk/>
- Exam Board website – AQA GCSE Economics - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics/gcse/economics-8136/specification>
- MME Revise – Past papers and mark schemes - <https://mmerevise.co.uk/gcse-economics-revision/gcse-economics-past-papers/aqa-gcse-economics-past-papers/>
- Mr Goff – GCSE Economics (YouTube) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JD4TcX4biHw&list=PLQAq9jJZ-SAlkX5plaONcTeXLVkw3ZLRE>

Y11 Business super curriculum**Read:**

- The Economics sections of BBC News, The Guardian, or The Times.
- An economics book
 - The Economics Book by DK
 - Fifty Things that Made the Modern Economy by Tim Harford
 - Can't We Just Print More Money? By Rupal Patel and Jack Meaning
- This article about the history of money - <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/explainers/how-has-money-changed-over-time>

- This article about why taxes exist and how they work in the UK - <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/private-lives/taxation/overview/>

Watch:

- The Apprentice on BBC 1 or Dragon's Den on BBC 2 (both available on BBC iPlayer)
- Talking Business – BBC News/One (available on BBC iPlayer)
- Money, Explained (Netflix)
- What Everyone Gets Wrong About Global Debt - Economics Explained - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAqj30s4IH8>
- Is Inequality Inevitable? - Ted-Ed - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEnf_CFoyv0
- How Singapore Got So Crazy Rich- Bloomberg - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSMWN8VpY6A>

Listen:

- BBC Business Daily (BBC Sounds or Spotify)
- TED Business (Spotify)
- The Economist (Spotify)
- Planet Money (Spotify)
- Economics in Ten (Spotify)

Year 12

Curriculum overview for Year 12

In Year 12, students will start the AQA A-Level Economics course. Although the A-level course builds on knowledge and skills covered in the GCSE course, the KS5 scheme of work and lessons are designed to be accessed by students without the need for prior study of Economics. Students will be beginning the year with focusing on microeconomics, building an understanding of the motivations and actions of firms and consumers and then in the second half of the year they will move on to macroeconomics where they will focus on the actions of governments and whole economies.

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Skills developed: Decision-making, communication (written and verbal), financial literacy, commercial awareness, problem solving, critical thinking, calculation, interpretation, data analysis (qualitative and quantitative).

Essential equipment: Calculator, black/blue pen, green pen, ruler, pencil, eraser, highlighter, lined paper, plastic wallets, file dividers

Extracurricular and enrichment opportunities: Economics open house

Careers curriculum: Students will learn about the motivations and role of firms, consumers and the government. They will build an awareness of why firms exist and how they maximise profits, giving them an insight into becoming an entrepreneur. They will also study government intervention and policy which will allow them to explore the role of an economist and roles within governance and legislation.

	Content studied	Literacy focus	What parents can do to help
Autumn Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic resources Scarcity, choice and the allocation of resources Economics as a social science and economic methodology Production possibility diagrams The determinants of the demand for goods and services Price, income and cross elasticities of demand The determinants of the supply of goods and services Price elasticity of supply The determination of equilibrium market prices The interrelationship between markets Production and productivity Specialisation, division of labour and exchange Costs of production Economies and diseconomies of scale Average revenue, total revenue and profit The objectives of firms 	<p>Command words in shorter exam questions 'explain', 'using data', 'using a diagram'</p> <p>Each lesson will include many new key terms (with more for students who have not studied Economics at KS4). These will be reviewed each lesson during retrieval and students will be given a glossary of key terms.</p>	<p>Encourage students to read and listen to business and economics news. Pay attention to local independent businesses, discuss why these businesses are successful. If you know any family or friends that currently or previously been business owners, talk to them about their experiences.</p> <p>Support students with organisation and setting up folders.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitive markets Monopoly and monopoly power 		
Spring Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How markets and prices allocate resources Market failure Public goods, private goods and quasi-public goods Positive and negative externalities in consumption and production Merit and demerit goods Market imperfections Government intervention Government failure The objectives of government economic policy Economic growth and the economic cycle Unemployment Inflation The balance of payments The circular flow of income Aggregate demand Short-run aggregate supply Long-run aggregate supply 	<p>Command words in exam questions 'explain', 'to what extent', 'justify your view'</p> <p>Reading case studies to recognise evidence to support or contrast with a particular view.</p> <p>Understanding and using qualitative and quantitative data.</p>	<p>Discuss with students the wider, 'knock-on' impact of different goods and services that they use being produced and consumed. Is the impact good or bad overall?</p> <p>Encourage students to begin prioritising independent revision on topics that have found difficult in preparation for mocks next term.</p>
Summer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggregate demand and aggregate supply analysis Possible conflicts between macroeconomic policy objectives Monetary policy Fiscal policy Supply-side policies Review and consolidate all content and introduction to Year 13. 	<p>Command words in exam questions 'explain', 'to what extent', 'justify your view', 'evaluate'</p> <p>Wider reading around the subject with the focus on students building an understanding of different industries or business cases so that they can use their own examples for application in exam answers.</p>	<p>Discuss general economic issues with students and how they affect your household.</p> <p>Support students with revision for the End of Year mock – This will be their first full A-LEVEL style paper. They should revise all Year 12 microeconomics content and practice past paper questions. They should complete past papers as practice; these should be Paper 1.</p>

Helpful books/websites:

- CGP A-Level Economics revision guide
- Tutor2u Economics
- Economics Help - <https://www.economicshelp.org/>
- Economics Online - <https://www.economicsonline.co.uk/>
- Seneca (AQA A-Level Economics)
- Exam Board website – AQA A-Level Economics - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics/a-level/economics-7136/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

- MME Revise – Past papers and mark schemes – <https://mmerevise.co.uk/a-level-economics-revision/a-level-economics-past-papers/aqa-a-level-economics-past-papers/>
- EconplusDal (YouTube) - <https://www.youtube.com/@EconplusDal>

Y12 Economics super curriculum

Read:

- The Economics sections of BBC News, The Guardian, or The Times.
- An economics book:
 - Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner.
 - The Undercover Economist by Tim Harford
 - Rich Dad, Poor Dad by Robert T. Kiyosaki
- This article about the future of the automotive industry - <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/global/Documents/gx-deloitte-future-automotive-mobility-study.pdf>
- This article about the 4-day week experiment results in the UK - <https://autonomy.work/portfolio/uk4dwpilotresults/>

Watch:

- Talking Business – BBC News/One (available on BBC iPlayer)
- Money, Explained (Netflix)
- An economist walks into a bar - Robert Litan - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SkoG9FWP4w&t=776s>
- The Most Important Economic Schools of Thought - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6UXRZ2XwgU>
- What are the economics of war? - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pp6yPCM-3fl>
- Japan's Massive Money Experiment Is Over. Now What? - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFYv-rk4v9Y>

Listen:

- BBC Business Daily (BBC Sounds or Spotify)
- TED Business (Spotify)
- The Economist (Spotify)
- Planet Money (Spotify)
- Economics in Ten (Spotify)

Do

- Find and complete a virtual work experience programme - <https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience/search>
- Complete a free course online - [All our free courses | OpenLearn - Open University](#) or <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses>

Year 13

Curriculum overview for year 13

In Year 13, students will continue the AQA A-Level Economics course. Throughout the year, students will enhance their knowledge revisiting microeconomics and then later macroeconomics to explore new themes and add depth to previously covered topics. The scheme of work is designed in this way to encourage students to make synoptic links between all the topics that they cover, allowing them to build a fuller, big picture view of how markets and the economy works.

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Skills developed: Decision-making, communication (written and verbal), financial literacy, commercial awareness, problem solving, critical thinking, calculation, interpretation, data analysis (qualitative and quantitative).

Essential equipment: Calculator, black/blue pen, green pen, ruler, pencil, eraser, highlighter, lined paper, plastic wallets, file dividers

Extracurricular and enrichment opportunities: Economics open house

Careers curriculum: Students will learn about the motivations and role of firms, consumers and the government. They will build an awareness of why firms exist and how they maximise profits, giving them an insight into becoming an entrepreneur. They will also study government intervention and policy which will allow them to explore the role of an economist and roles within governance and legislation

	Content studied	Literacy focus	What parents can do to help
Autumn Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer behaviour Imperfect information Behavioural economic theory Behavioural economics policy The law of diminishing returns and returns to scale Economies and diseconomies of scale Technological change Monopolistic competition Oligopoly Price discrimination The dynamics of competition Contestable and non-contestable markets Static efficiency, dynamic efficiency and resource allocation Consumer and producer surplus Labour demand & marginal productivity theory Labour supply Wage determination Trade unions The National Minimum Wage 	<p>Command words in exam questions 'explain', 'to what extent', 'justify your view', 'evaluate'</p> <p>Use of data and calculations to support focused and precise analysis.</p> <p>Wider reading around the subject with the focus on students building an understanding of different industries or business cases so that they can use their own examples for application in exam answers.</p>	<p>Support students with organisation and setting up folders for the new school year.</p> <p>Support them with revision for November mocks – They should revise all macroeconomics content from Year 12. They should complete past papers as practice; these should be Paper 2.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discrimination in the labour market • Income and wealth inequality • Poverty • Government policies to inequality and poverty 		
Spring Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition policy • Public ownership and privatisation, • Regulation and deregulation • Uses of national income data • The structure of financial markets and financial assets • Commercial banks and investment banks • Central banks and monetary policy • The regulation of the financial system • Globalisation • Trade • Exchange rate systems • Economic growth and development 	<p>Review of all exam command words and corresponding answer structures.</p> <p>Use of data and calculations to support focused and precise analysis.</p> <p>Wider reading around the subject with the focus on students building an understanding of different industries or business cases so that they can use their own examples for application in exam answers.</p>	Support them with revision for February mocks – They will be told what units will be covered. They should complete past papers as practice; these should be Paper 3.
Summer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of all microeconomics and macroeconomics topics and exam technique/ practice. 	<p>Review of all exam command words and corresponding answer structures.</p> <p>Use of data and calculations to support focused and precise analysis.</p> <p>Wider reading around the subject with the focus on students building an understanding of different industries or business cases so that they can use their own examples for application in exam answers.</p>	Students should be completing as many past paper questions as possible. Support them with revision planning and completing past papers in timed conditions.

Helpful books/websites:

- CGP A-Level Economics revision guide
- Tutor2u Economics
- Economics Help - <https://www.economicshelp.org/>
- Economics Online - <https://www.economicsonline.co.uk/>
- Seneca (AQA A-Level Economics)
- Exam Board website – AQA A-Level Economics - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics/a-level/economics-7136/specification/specification-at-a-glance>
- MME Revise – Past papers and mark schemes – <https://mmerevise.co.uk/a-level-economics-revision/a-level-economics-past-papers/aqa-a-level-economics-past-papers/>

- EconplusDal (YouTube) - <https://www.youtube.com/@EconplusDal>

Y13 Economics super curriculum

Read:

- The Economics sections of BBC News, The Guardian, or The Times.
- An economics book
 - Misbehaving: The Making of Behavioural Economics By Richard Thaler
 - Dead Aid by Dambisa Moyo
 - Doughnut Economics: Think Like a 21st-Century Economist by Kate Raworth
- This article about nationalising the railway in the UK - <https://news.sky.com/story/what-is-labours-rail-nationalisation-plan-and-will-it-make-train-tickets-cheaper-13266749>
- This article about Universal Basic Income (UBI) - <https://www.jrf.org.uk/social-security/is-universal-basic-income-a-good-idea>

Watch:

- Talking Business – BBC News/One (available on BBC iPlayer)
- The Price of Fairness (Netflix)
- The Big Short (Netflix)
- Cryptopia (Netflix)
- Why is Argentina's economy such a mess? - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18RTtDVghfw>
- How Private Equity Ate Britain- Bloomberg - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlyl5Sl6OL0>
- The Most Important Problem in Game Theory (Does it pay to be nice?) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mScpHTIi-kM>

Listen:

- BBC Business Daily (BBC Sounds or Spotify)
- TED Business (Spotify)
- The Economist (Spotify)
- Planet Money (Spotify)
- Economics in Ten (Spotify)

Do

- Find and complete a virtual work experience programme - <https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience/search>
- Complete a free course online - [All our free courses | OpenLearn - Open University](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses) or <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses>