



OXFORDAQA INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL ECONOMICS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the weightings between multiple choice and essay marks in the exam?

At AS, each paper has 15 out of 80 marks for multiple choice questions and 20 out of 80 marks for the extended response/essay question. At A-level, each paper has 10 out of 90 marks for the multiple choice questions and 2 extended response/essay questions at 25 marks each.

To fully appreciate the nature and demands of the papers, it is important that teachers look at the SAMs (sample assessment materials) and the weighting attached to the various AOs (assessment objectives).

What is the grade weighting between AS and A-level?

AS accounts for 40% of a student's overall grade and A-level accounts for the remaining 60%. This is to reflect the more advanced skills required at A-level, as students gain skills, understanding and maturity across the duration of the course.

Does teaching A-level Business before help teaching A-level Economics?

There is no required pre-course knowledge so teaching or studying Business ahead of the Economics course would neither advantage nor disadvantage teachers or students.

What are the entry requirements for this A-Level, both in terms of subject and grade?

That will vary from school to school. The Maths level required is GCSE level. Likewise, students will need to write extended responses so some level of English will be required. How schools set this expectation is up to them - we don't set any entry requirements ourselves.

Is the content of the specification applicable to my country's economy and stock market?

The course has been designed to be a truly international course, with application across all economies, exploring the different economic systems across the world.

How practical is the specification in terms of actual situations?

Economics is an applied subject but also has a well-established body of knowledge that helps us understand what is happening in the world. To be successful, students will need to develop their understanding of key economic concepts and principles AND demonstrate that they can apply these to a variety of real-world problems and issues.

- › The specification should be taught using real world contexts
- › Method of delivery is determined by the teachers

See Professor Margaret Stevens's presentation on [Day 1 of our Prepare to Teach Economics conference](#) for examples of how the content could be delivered in an applied context that would interest and engage students.

- › The [official textbooks](#) (published by Oxford University Press) includes case studies from across the world
- › Questions on the exam papers are linked to real-world contexts/problems. This should encourage an approach to delivering the specification that encourages students to apply their knowledge to interesting real-world contexts.

- › The delivery of the specification should encourage students to keep abreast of current developments, for example:
 - Using a rotation system, students could be asked to provide weekly/fortnightly news reports that explain some of the key events and lead a class discussion
 - Students could be asked to investigate and present a paper to the class about a current economic issue linked to a real-world problem or issue
 - A formal debate, perhaps once a term is another way to encourage students to engage with current economic problems
 - Setting appropriate, applied questions for homework is a straightforward but important way of getting students to practice applying economic concepts and principles

How often will the specification be updated?

OxfordAQA review each qualification every 5 years, unless we judge that a special case calls for an earlier review. This review will determine whether any content needs to be updated, new topics added, or the assessment needs adjusting.

Will there be official textbooks for the course?

Oxford University Press will be publishing two textbooks, matched exactly to the OxfordAQA syllabus – one for AS (available this summer) and one for A-level (available summer 2021).

Why should I teach the OxfordAQA specification over other exam boards?

If you choose OxfordAQA, you'll get:

- › An internationally-focused specification
- › Modern and contemporary subject content
- › A clear division of micro and macroeconomics, meaning it's easy for students and teachers to prepare for assessments
- › Clarity on what skills (e.g. quantitative skills) and knowledge are required for the course, including any synoptic elements
- › An emphasis on real-world application of knowledge: far more relevant for students and better preparation for university study
- › A Fair Assessment approach, meaning exams test only what they are meant to test, and all students are able to reach their potential

If you have any further questions or want more information, please visit oxfordaqaexams.org.uk/economics or [contact us](#).

