



A-LEVEL ECONOMICS

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE AQA A-LEVEL ECONOMICS SPECIFICATION AND THE OXFORDAQA INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL ECONOMICS SPECIFICATION

1. The OxfordAQA specification is modular whereas the AQA specification is linear.
2. The AQA A-level has 3 exam papers (80 marks each) and they must be taken at the same sitting.
3. At A-level, much more weight is given to extended-response questions, for example, 50% of the marks (40 out of 80) for Papers 1 and 2 are allocated to a two-part essay question. Plus 25 marks out of the 80 marks are awarded for the essay-type part of the data response question.
4. There aren't any short-answer questions in the AQA A-level specification.
5. For the AQA A-level, there are 30 marks for multiple-choice questions out of a total of 240. For the OxfordAQA specification, there are 30 marks for multiple-choice questions in Units 1 and 2 and 20 marks for multiple-choice questions in Units 3 and 4.
6. The AQA specification has a case study as part of Paper 3. The case study accounts for 50 out of the 80 marks. 25 of these marks are allocated to an extended-response question that tests all four assessment objectives (AOs). There is also a 15 mark extended-response question that tests AO1, AO2 and AO3.
7. Knowledge of UK economy and recent history is expected for the AQA specification.
8. The AQA specification places less emphasis on international developments, except in as far as they affect the UK economy.
9. The OxfordAQA specification has much more emphasis on the environmental consequences of economic activity.
10. The OxfordAQA specification gives more attention to different types of economic system and how they may affect the allocation of resources.
11. The OxfordAQA specification includes explicit reference to commodity markets and the factors, including speculation, that cause prices to fluctuate in these markets. It also includes the use of buffer stocks to reduce price fluctuations in such markets.
12. The OxfordAQA specification uses the demand and supply model to support the analysis of market failures linked to, for example, externalities and merit and demerit goods. MSC/MSB analysis is not included in the OxfordAQA specification but is in the AQA specification.
13. There is a section on the growth of firms in the OxfordAQA specification. This is not included in the AQA specification.
14. In the OxfordAQA specification, more emphasis is given to technological change and the role of governments in the process.
15. In the AQA specification, the section on competition policy focuses on UK policy and institutions. The OxfordAQA specification focuses on aspects of competition policy that can be applied to many countries.

16. In the AQA specification, the section on monetary policy focuses on UK policy and institutions. The OxfordAQA specification focuses on aspects of monetary policy that can be applied to many countries.
17. In AQA specification, the section on financial markets and the regulation of these markets focuses on UK policy and institutions.
18. In the AQA specification, the section on fiscal policies requires candidates to know and understand the nature of taxes, government spending and institutions in the UK. OxfordAQA does not.
19. At present, the AQA specification has a significant section on the UK's membership of the EU and its consequences for the UK economy.
20. The OxfordAQA specification includes the terms of trade and the significance of changes in the terms of trade for an economy. This is not included in the AQA specification.
21. The OxfordAQA specification includes the IMF and the world bank. They are not included in the AQA specification. The WTO is included in both specs.
22. Economic growth and development is a relatively small part of the AQA specification but is a very large part of the OxfordAQA specification. This is a very significant difference between the two specifications.

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

