



AS/A Level Economics

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

This specification gives a strong grounding in economics, both in two mandatory AS units, and at A2, through the updated applied options in micro economics, and a new macro economic unit focussing on the global economy.



What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering the new OCR specification?

- Draws on the strengths of the previous specification with concise AS units and a choice of familiar applied options in micro economics at A2.
- New macro economic focus on the global economy at A2, including popular pre-release stimulus material to provide an appropriate context.
- Cuts the assessment burden on students with the number of units reduced to four (two at AS, two at A2).
- Simple, straightforward assessment, with no coursework.
- Final assessment in both AS papers is a one and a half hour exam. Final assessment in both A2 papers is a two hour exam.
- This specification is excellent preparation for those students intending to pursue economics at degree level, or for anyone considering a career with an economic angle.

AS Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
Markets in Action	This is a micro-economics unit that ensures candidates gain an appreciation of the allocation of resources, the market model and selected aspects of what makes markets efficient or sees them fail.	Mandatory
The National and International Economy	This unit sees candidates introduced to how levels of macro-economic activity are determined and also investigates key national and international economic indicators, policies and problems.	Mandatory

A2 Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
Economics of Work and Leisure	The principal focus here is on understanding and analysing labour market concepts and issues. Leisure industries are considered in terms of models of market structure and the way leisure needs can impact on the supply of labour.	Optional (one of these units must be taken together with the final unit)
Transport Economics	The focus here is on economic concepts and issues which are applied to a variety of transport contexts. Transport industries are considered in terms of models of market structure, particularly with a consideration of contestability.	Optional (one of these units must be taken together with the final unit)
The Global Economy	This unit provides the conceptual framework for the understanding, analysis, and evaluation of macro-economic performance in national, regional and global contexts. The key topics are comparative economic performance indicators and policies, trade & integration, development & sustainability and the economics of globalisation.	Mandatory

How is this qualification assessed?

Entirely through written papers that are externally assessed.

Examinations of all units take place every January and June.

Dates for first examinations

AS

First examinations available from January 2009.

A2

First examinations available from January 2010.

What support will I receive?

Training

Promotional sessions and INSET training will be available..

Publishers

Developed in close consultation with OCR, Harcourt is publishing materials for AS Economics and the areas of A2 specialised economics topics.

Resources

You will be able to download all the following resources from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk.

- Specimen candidate answers for both AS units are to be found in the AS level Teacher Support Materials.
- Sample Assessment Materials will be available for all units.
- Schemes of Work will be available for AS and A2 levels.

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre on **01223 553998**, or visit www.ocr.org.uk where you can also join the A Level Economics e-community.