

New A Level Economics

H061 and H461 replacing 3812 and 7812

Information for OCR centres transferring to **new specifications for first teaching in September 2008**

This document maps the current A Level Economics specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and Teachers involved in the teaching of Economics

The full specification is available online along with a short questionnaire enabling you to share your comments on the specification and help shape the materials developed to support it. For more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit www.ocr.org.uk/14-19alevels

Current specification – mapping the changes pages 2-3

Outline specification for first teaching September 2008 page 4

QCA have stipulated that:

- Number of units required to achieve GCE A level Economics is to be reduced from six to four
- Stretch and Challenge style questions are to be introduced into A2 assessment
- There will be no specified synoptic unit. Now synopticity is assessed throughout A2 units.



Mapping the changes to the A Level Economics specification for first teaching September 2008

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Existing specification		Candidates must complete six units; four mandatory units and two optional units				
	Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
AS	The Market System	2881 Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The style of these papers remains the same. The papers remain based around some case study material (text and/or data and/or graphs) with a number of stepped compulsory questions culminating in a mini essay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Units 2881 and 2882 have been combined into F581. Exam duration has been extended from one hour to one and a half hours. The new units are now more heavily weighted being worth 50% at AS each. Available raw marks have been increased from 45 to 60 in each new unit. New unit codes F581 and F582. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA have stipulated that there must be only two units at AS level. As the weighting and raw mark totals have been increased it was appropriate for the exam time to be extended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The specification is user friendly with the content and exemplification clearly identified in a bulleted list. Support materials will be available both from our preferred publisher partner and internally from OCR.
AS	Market Failure and Government Intervention	2882 Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 1hr exam				
AS	The National and International Economy	2883 Mandatory 40% (AS) 20% (A Level) 1hr exam				
A2	Economics of Work and Leisure	2884 Mandatory 15% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The title will remain the same and much of the content. The style of the exam and rubric will remain the same. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The length of the exam will increase to two hours. The paper will now be marked out of 60 raw marks. Content has been updated. New unit code F583 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The length has been increased to account for the increase in raw marks. Content has been updated to bring the specification up to date with current developments. 	
A2	Transport Economics	2885 Mandatory 15% (A Level) 1.5hr exam				

Existing specification						
	Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
A2	Economics of Development	2886 Optional 15% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the Content of this unit will remain the same and become part of unit F585. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This unit will no longer exist but elements of this unit will now form part of unit F585. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synopticity is now required in all A2 units and, therefore, merging aspects of current A2 units has ensured OCR fulfills this requirement. 	
A2	The UK Economy	2887 Optional 15% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the Content of this unit will remain the same and become part of unit F585. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This unit will no longer exist but elements of this unit will now form part of unit F585. 		
A2	Economics in a European context	2888 Mandatory 20% (A Level) 1.75hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the Content of this unit will remain the same and become part of unit F585. The pre-release stimulus material will still be issued to provide a context for the new F585 unit. The style of the paper remains broadly the same in terms of nature of the questions and number of raw marks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elements of this unit will now form part of unit F585. The length of this paper has been extended to 2 hours and is now worth 25% of the A level. The context of this unit has been updated to a global one from an EU context. This reflects key changes in the global economy which impact markedly on the UK. New unit code F585. 		

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Candidates must complete four units to achieve the GCE A Level, including both mandatory AS units, one choice from a pair of micro-economic options and the mandatory macro-economic unit.

	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
AS	Markets in Action	F581 Mandatory 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content will be recognisable to present OCR centres as will the style and format of the papers, thus providing continuity for Centres. These two units remain familiar optional units to centres. Material has been updated and re-balanced. Available raw marks have been increased from 45 to 60 and half an hour additional examination time provided in each case. Section A in each case, is a compulsory data response question and section B is a choice of one out of three structured essay questions, which is broadly the same as in the present specification. Fuses key concepts, content and some contexts of three of the macro units (2886, 2887 and 2888). Creates an integrated macro unit. Maintains pre-issue stimulus material, issued six-eight weeks before exam. Maintains similar style, nature and number of questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text and other support materials available to help. The specification is user friendly with the content and exemplification clearly identified in a bulleted list. Support materials will be available both from our preferred publisher partner and internally from OCR. There is an e-community for this specification to aid teachers to help support each other.
AS	The National and International Economy	F582 Mandatory 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam		
A2	Economics of Work and Leisure	F583 Optional 25% (A Level) 2hr exam		
A2	Transport Economics	F584 Optional 25% (A Level) 2hr exam		
A2	The Global Economy	F585 Mandatory 25% (A Level) 2hr exam		