

# teachers' handbook

Version 2 April 2010



## **GCSE** Economics

J320 – Full Course

This handbook is designed to accompany the OCR GCSE Economics specification for teaching from September 2009. This booklet contains the following support materials:

Subject specific guidance

Resource list

Publisher partner resources

Frequently asked questions

Other forms of support.

OCR GCSE  
**ECONOMICS**

[www.ocr.org.uk/economics/newgcse](http://www.ocr.org.uk/economics/newgcse)

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# Introduction

OCR is offering new GCSEs for first teaching in September 2009.

We've taken this opportunity to improve the quality of our GCSEs for teachers and students alike.

We've made improvements in three key areas : updated and relevant content, a focus on developing students personal, learning and thinking skills, and flexible assessment, so you can choose the best learning approach for the job.

We want to make the introduction of these new GCSEs as easy for you to manage as possible.

The main changes are :

- Controlled assessment will be introduced for most subjects
- The opportunity will be taken to bring course content up to date
- Examinations should provide opportunity for extended writing and more varied question types
- All GCSEs will meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Our approach is to provide consistency across all our GCSEs by offering the flexibility that unitised qualifications bring, allowing teaching and assessment to be either a linear or unitised fashion.

OCR offers a range of support materials, developed following extensive research and consultation with teachers. We've designed them to save you time when preparing for the new specification and to support you while teaching them.

It is important to make the point that this Teacher Handbook plays a secondary role to the specifications themselves. The GCSE Economics specification is the document on which assessment is based: it specifies what content and skills need to be covered. At all times therefore, the Teacher Handbook should be read in conjunction with the Specification. If clarification on a particular point is sought, then that clarification must be found in the Specification itself.

# Resources

The list below is by no means exhaustive. Inclusion does not necessarily mean complete suitability, unless the resource has been endorsed by OCR. The list is intended to act as a broad guide. It is also recognised that teachers may be familiar with other relevant resources that are not listed below.

Teachers will need to use their professional judgement in assessing the suitability of materials in the list below.

OCR recognises that the teaching of this qualification will vary greatly from school to school and from teacher to teacher. With that in mind, this Teacher Guide and the associated Scheme of Work are offered as guidance but will be subject to modifications by the individual teacher.

## Key Endorsed Textbooks

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Heinemann is producing the following resources for OCR GCSE Economics for first teaching in September 2010 [publication – Spring 2009].

Chris Bancroft, Amy Chapman, Gordon Springall *OCR GCSE Economics*

## General texts

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A.G. Anderton, *Economics for GCSE*, second edition, Collins Educational, July 1993, ISBN-10: 0003274292 ISBN-13: 9780003274295

Robinson and R Nutter, *GCSE Economics* (Longman GCSE Study Guides), Longman, June 1997, ISBN 0582315395 - ISBN-13 9780582315396

N Proctor and J Pratten, *GCSE Economics*, Tudor Educational, January 2001, ISBN-10: 1872807739 - ISBN-13: 9781872807737

D Moynihan and Brian Titley, *Economics: A Complete Course*, OUP, Oxford, February 2001, ISBN-10: 0199134138 - ISBN-13 9780199134137

## Websites

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Biz / ed ([www.bized.co.uk](http://www.bized.co.uk)) has for many years produced a range of notes and worksheets for use by GCSE Economics students.

Wikipedia ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)) is a huge resource of economic information. It is though unedited and may not always contain correct information.

The Economist ([www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)) contains short, punchy, topical articles and has an excellent search and back issues for subscribers.

([www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)) is an excellent source of information for some of the topics in the GCSE specification. It has a good data section and search facility.

The EBEA website (<http://www.ebea.org.uk/home/>) contains links to useful learning resources and publications and has a section specifically geared towards the teaching and learning of GCSE Economics.

Tutor2U ([www.tutor2u.net](http://www.tutor2u.net)) again contains some interesting resources related to economics and a blog that candidates may find engaging.

NationMaster ([www.nationmaster.com](http://www.nationmaster.com)) contains a vast compilation of data from such sources as the CIA World Factbook, The UN, and OECD.

The Office for National statistics website ([www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)) is a useful and regulated site that provides free access to data produced by the Office for National Statistics.

The World Bank Website ([www.worldbank.org/](http://www.worldbank.org/)) is especially relevant for the study of Unit A593, The UK Economy and Globalisation. It contains global statistical and topical information that is regularly updated.

HSBC's website (<http://www.hsbcukeconomyexplained.co.uk>) is a sound website containing economic information regarding the UK economy.

The website of the Bank of England ([www.bankofengland.co.uk](http://www.bankofengland.co.uk)) holds a wealth of information about the UK economy and the Bank's role in this.

Students should be encouraged to read a good newspaper on a regular basis or should use news websites to aid the contextualisation of economic theory.

There are magazines produced by both the EBEA (*Teaching Business and Economics*) and Anforme (*Economics Today*) that candidates may find useful.

# Other forms of Support

In order to help you implement the new GCSE Economics Specification effectively, OCR offers a comprehensive package of support. This includes:

## Published Resources

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OCR offers centres a wealth of quality published support with a fantastic choice of 'Official Publisher Partner' and 'Approved Publication' resources, all endorsed by OCR for use with OCR specifications.

## Publisher partners

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OCR works in close collaboration with three Publisher Partners; Hodder Education, Heinemann and Oxford University Press (OUP) to ensure centres have access to:

- Better published support, available when you need it, tailored to OCR specifications
- Quality resources produced in consultation with OCR subject teams, which are linked to OCR's teacher support materials
- More resources for specifications with lower candidate entries
- Materials that are subject to a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement

Heinemann is the publisher partner for OCR GCSE Economics.



Heinemann is producing the following resources for OCR GCSE Economics for first teaching in September 2009, which will be available in Spring 2009.

OCR GCSE Economics Student Book –  
Christopher Bancroft, Amy Chapman, Gordon Springall  
ISBN: 9780435849054  
Published: September 2009

## Approved publications

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OCR still endorses other publisher materials, which undergo a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement. By offering a choice of endorsed materials, centres can be assured of quality support for all OCR qualifications.



## Endorsement

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OCR endorses a range of publisher materials to provide quality support for centres delivering its qualifications. You can be confident that materials branded with OCR's "Official Publishing Partner" or "Approved publication" logos have undergone a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement. All responsibility for the content of the publisher's materials rests with the publisher.

These endorsements do not mean that the materials are the only suitable resources available or necessary to achieve an OCR qualification. Any resource lists which are produced by OCR shall include a range of appropriate texts.

## OCR Training

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A full range of training events provide valuable support, for the delivery and assessment of OCR qualifications:

### **Get Ready...**

An overview of new OCR specifications

### **Get Started...**

For teachers preparing to deliver or already delivering OCR specifications

### **Get Ahead...**

For teachers wanting to improve delivery and assessment of a current OCR specification

### **Lead the way...**

To encourage creativity and innovation

View up-to-date event details and make online bookings at [www.ocreventbooker.org.uk](http://www.ocreventbooker.org.uk) or view our new training e-books at [www.ocr.org.uk/training](http://www.ocr.org.uk/training). If you are unable to find what you are looking for contact us by e-mail [training@ocr.org.uk](mailto:training@ocr.org.uk) or telephone 02476 496398.

## e-Communities

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Over 70 e-Communities offer you a fast, dynamic communication channel to make contact with other subject specialists. Our online mailing list covers a wide range of subjects and enables you to share knowledge and views via email.

Visit <https://community.ocr.org.uk>, choose your community and join the discussion!

## Interchange

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OCR Interchange has been developed to help you to carry out day to day administration functions online, quickly and easily. The site allows you to register and enter candidates online. In addition, you can gain immediate a free access to candidate information at you convenience. Sign up at <https://interchange.ocr.org.uk>



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What are the major changes to this specification?

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- The new specification has become unitised. This will allow students to complete a unit/s at the end of Year 10 should they wish. Currently the only ruling is that a minimum of 40% must be sat in the same series that the candidates enter for a full course qualification certification.
- The new economics specification consists of three compulsory units.
- The scheme of assessment is untiered.
- Unit A593 consists of pre released material, issued to centres prior to the examination.
- Unit A591 can be assessed via an optional computer based testing assessment. This will ensure that the access to, and manipulation of data, is made more interesting and applicable to real life.

## Will pre release stimulus material continue to be used?

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- Yes, for unit A593, where it will provide a broad context to aid preparation for the examination. Pre-release material will continue to be issued 2 months prior to the examination.

## How will the use of CBT affect my candidates?

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- The use of CBT testing is **not** compulsory for Unit A591; however, it is OCR's preferred method of assessment as OCR feels that information can be more easily manipulated using CBT testing in GCSE economics.

## Will OCR make past papers available?

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- Papers from the June 2008 series onwards will be available to download from the secure Interchange website by the end of November.
- Only papers from previous exam series will still be available to download from the OCR Website. These will be free of charge.

## What support can we expect from publishers?

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- OCR is working in partnership with individual publishers for different subject groups. Comprehensive resources are being developed by these Publishing Partners, Heinemann, to support the specification and complement the support available from OCR.

## What support materials are being produced by OCR for the revised GCSE?

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- Schemes of work and lesson plans can be downloaded from the OCR website. The materials will be available in fixed PDF format, for reference purposes, and also in Word format, so that teachers can adapt the materials for their own use.

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[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

OCR customer contact centre

**General qualifications**

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