

IGCSE Economics (0455)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the course book?

There is no single course book for the IGCSE Economics syllabus. The resource list gives a number of alternative books designed for GCSE Economics.

Do I need to teach the course in the order given in the syllabus?

No, the order in which you teach the course is entirely up to you.

Sometimes the questions start with a statement, e.g. about India or Kenya. Do the candidates have to know about these economies?

No, they do not. The introductory quotation or statement is intended as stimulus material only. Sometimes, particularly in Paper 6 (Alternative to Coursework) or the multiple choice paper, candidates will have to work with data given, but they are not expected to have prior knowledge of a specific economy.

Does this mean that there is no point in the candidates knowing about their own economy?

No, it does not mean that. Candidates will receive credit for illustrating their answers, where relevant, with examples from their own economy or any economy that they have studied.

Is the use of calculators allowed?

Yes. For details of the restrictions on graphic display, data banks, etc, which apply to all CIE examinations, see the Handbook for Centres.

Are the mark schemes published?

Yes. They are available on the Teacher Support website or on the CIE Publications CD-ROM.

If a Grade C is the highest grade available for a candidate taking the Core option, would it not be better to be entered for the Extended option?

It is true that Grades A*, A and B are available only to candidates who have taken the Extended route. Grades C, D and E can be obtained via either the Core route or the Extended route, and CIE seeks to ensure that the demands on the candidates are equivalent for the two routes. However, the amount of content to be covered is less under the Core route, and this more limited curriculum may be more suitable for some candidates. If a candidate is entered for the Extended option but does not obtain enough marks for a Grade E, they cannot receive a Grade F or a Grade G but will be ungraded, whereas if they had taken the Core route they might have been able to achieve an F or a G.

Are marks deducted for wrong answers in the multiple choice?

No. The candidate's mark is the total number of questions answered correctly.

Are the multiple choice questions arranged in any particular order on the paper?

They are broadly arranged in the same order as the topics appear in the syllabus booklet.

How many marks are necessary to achieve the various grades?

This varies from year to year in the light of the difficulty of the papers. The most recent 'grade thresholds' are published on the Teacher Support website.

Where can I find the answer keys to the multiple choice questions?

They are in the published 'Report on the Examination', which is on the Teacher Support website and the CIE Publications CD-ROM.

Are there any changes to the syllabus for 2008-2009?

There are no changes to the syllabus for 2008. However, from June 2009, the syllabus has changed in terms of content and scheme of assessment revisions. Please refer to the 2009 syllabus for further details.