

## Why study Economics

Economics is, at its very heart, the study of people. It is an inquiry into how people succeed, what makes us happy or content, and ultimately how humanity has managed over generations to become more healthy and prosperous than ever before. Economics examines what drives human beings to do what they do, and looks at how they react when faced with difficulties or success. It investigates choices people make when given a limited set of options and how they trade them off against each other. It is a science that encompasses history, politics, psychology and at times, the odd equation or two. Through the study of Economics you will be able to apply economic concepts and theories, giving you a greater understanding of commercial life in local, national and international contexts. Economics provides opportunities to explore critical issues such as:-

- Why do footballers earn more than nurses?
- Should the National Health Service provide free IVF treatment for childless couples?
- Will carbon trading schemes help to reduce the impact of global warming?
- Is it fair that the world's richest 8% earn half of the planet's income?

## What will you be learning?

Here at QESixth we follow the Edexcel Specification A course for A level Economics. This means that you will study four themes during the two year course.

### **Theme 1 – Introduction to markets and market failure:**

You will consider how markets work, looking at how supply and demand interact to allocate resources in local, national and international markets. You will learn how to apply supply and demand analysis to real-world situations and be able to offer explanations of consumer behaviour. You will look at the nature and causes of market failure before considering the strengths and weaknesses of possible government intervention to remedy market failures.

### **Theme 2 – The UK economy: performance and policies:**

This theme introduces the key measures of economic performance and the main instruments of economic policy primarily in a UK context. You will be introduced to the aggregate demand / aggregate supply model so that you can use it to analyse changes in real output and the price level. You will examine the use of demand-side policies, supply-side policies and direct controls as means of improving an economy's performance; recognise the underlying assumptions; predict the likely impact and effectiveness of such policies; and consider these in context.

### **Theme 3 – Business behaviour and the labour market**

This theme develops the microeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 1 and focuses on business economics. You will look at the rational assumption that firms are profit maximisers and then challenge this by looking at alternative business objectives. Revenues, costs and profits are explored before linking these ideas to different markets structures. Supply and demand analysis is specifically applied to the labour market to see how wages are determined in competitive and non-competitive markets.

### **Theme 4 – A global perspective**

This theme builds on the knowledge and skills gained in Theme 2, and applies them in a global context. You will understand the significance of globalisation, international trade, the balance of payments and exchange rates. You will also examine public finance, macroeconomic policies and the role of the financial sector in a global context. You will consider the factors influencing the growth and development of emerging and developing countries and you will be expected to develop an awareness of trends in the global economy over the last 25 years.

### **What are the lessons like?**

Lessons comprise of a mixture of content rich, knowledge focused delivery alongside discussion based lessons focusing on evaluating what is going on in the world around us and analysing how businesses, governments and global agencies aim to maintain and improve the state of the global economy. It is a modern day subject, so you will spend a lot of time looking at what is happening right now, trying to make sense of it, and sometimes arguing as to whether it is a good or bad idea! We also like to attend workshops in Manchester and bring the subject to life with guest speakers wherever possible. You do need to have a grade 5 or preferably a grade 6 in **both Maths and English Language**. There is **no** coursework component.

### **How will I be assessed?**

The A level course is assessed using three papers as follows:

- Paper 1: Markets and Business Behaviour – questions draw on topics from across Themes 1 and 3. 35% of total A level qualification.
- Paper 2: The national and global economy – questions draw on topics from across Themes 2 and 4. 35% of total A level qualification.
- Paper 3: Microeconomics and macroeconomics – questions draw on topics from across Themes 1,2,3 and 4. 30% of total A level qualification.

All three exams are two hours long and are worth 100 marks each.

### **What can it lead to?**

It is acknowledged as a strong A level by many key employers, and this is because it is a rigorous academic A level. Success at Economics requires good number skills and a willingness to analyse in detail and write at length on each area of study. It also requires a comprehensive knowledge of economic developments in the real world. Economics mixes particularly well with other Social Sciences such as Geography, History and Business. It is also very useful with Mathematics and Science subjects as preparation for careers in Engineering, Accountancy and Medicine. Arts subjects such as Languages and English Literature also mix well with Economics if you are considering careers in organisations with overseas links or careers related to the Media such as Journalism.

### **Want to know more?**

To find out more and discuss your suitability contact Miss Danson ([a.danson@qes.org.uk](mailto:a.danson@qes.org.uk)).