

# Economics – Student Guide for Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced GCE Specifications

Economic issues are central to the understanding of the real world. This course will allow you to develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories through a critical consideration of current economic issues, problems and institutions.

## Before you start this course

It would be helpful if you have achieved GCSE Mathematics and English at Grade C or above, but these are not essential.

Subjects which would go well with Economics are Geography, History, other Social Sciences and Business Studies or Science subjects and, especially, Mathematics.

With a qualification in Economics you could go on to higher education or work in teaching, business and industry.

To get a certificate for Advanced Subsidiary GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on 3 AS units.

To get a certificate for Advanced GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on 3 AS units, together with 3 A2 units, made up from either Unit 2884 or Unit 2885, together with either Unit 2886 or Unit 2887, plus Unit 2888.

## The units of assessment for AS are:

### Unit 2881 The Market System

For this unit you will learn about:  
Managing scarce resources – the reasons for choice and its consequences; competitive markets and how they work; and firms and how they operate – the spectrum of competition and the main forms of market structure.

### Unit 2882 Market Failure and Government Intervention

For this unit you will learn about:  
Economic efficiency within competitive markets; why markets may not work; and making choices and the impact of government intervention on market outcomes and efficiency.

### Unit 2883 The National and International Economy

For this unit you will learn about:  
Government macro-economic policy objectives and indicators of national economic performance; aggregate demand and supply – the determinants of output, employment and prices; the impact of macro-economic policy instruments; and the determinants of international transactions – the pattern of UK trade and the benefits of trade.

All 3 units are examined by written papers based on unseen real-world case studies. The questions are organised on an incline of difficulty with short answer questions testing knowledge, understanding and application, followed by ones that require continuous prose and concentrate on testing analytical and evaluative skills.

## The units of assessment in A2 are:

You may be able to make a choice, or your teacher may choose for the group either Unit 2884 or Unit 2885.

### Unit 2884 Economics of Work and Leisure

For this unit you will focus on the economic concepts and theories that help economists understand and analyse labour market issues. You will learn about the nature of work and leisure trends in employment earnings, theories of markets for leisure, labour demand, supply and wage determination, market failure and the role of the government and unions in the labour market.

### Unit 2885 Transport Economics

For this unit you will explore the economic principles and context underlying a range of transport problems and issues. You will consider transport, transport trends and the economy; theories of transport markets, resource allocation issues in transport, market failure and the role of government in transport.

You may be able to make a choice, or your teacher may choose for the group either Unit 2886 or Unit 2887.

### Unit 2886 Economics of Development

This unit focuses on the economic problems and prospects facing developing economies in an increasingly hostile global economy. For this unit you will learn about the concept of development, different stages of economic development, theories and models linked to development, the problems of developing economies, and policies to promote development.

### Unit 2887 The UK Economy

For this unit you will consider the recent economic performance of the UK economy. You will be considering how performance of the UK economy is controlled, how the UK economy is modelled, policies to improve economic performance and conflicts, and current issues and controversies of the UK's economic performance.

The third unit you will take in your second year of Economics is:

### Unit 2888 Economics in a European Context

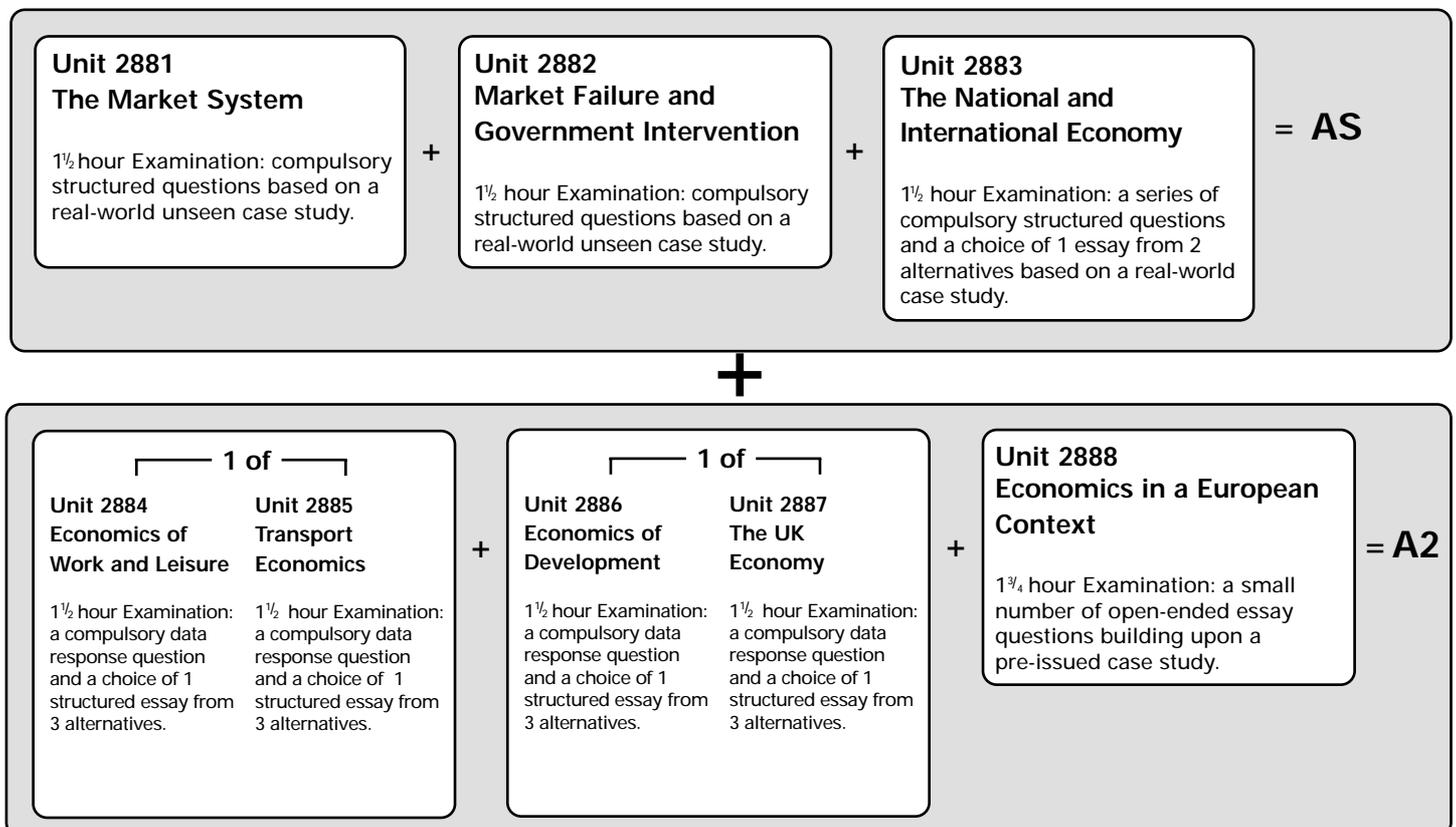
For this unit you will be called upon to place your understanding of the key economic concepts learnt earlier within a European context and build upon the inter-relationships between different parts of the subject.

Units 2884 to 2887 are examined by written papers each consisting of a compulsory data response question and a choice of one structured essay question out of three alternatives.

Unit 2888 will be examined by a small number of open-ended questions building upon a pre-issued case study.

3 A2 units complete the Advanced GCE qualification.

The assessment structure for Economics is:



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or contact OCR Information Bureau 01223 553998 at OCR Head Office, 1 Hills Road, Cambridge CB1 2EU.