

AS and A LEVEL

Co-teaching Guide

H061, H461

ECONOMICS

A guide to co-teaching
the OCR A and AS Level
Economics specifications

June 2015



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A GUIDE TO CO-TEACHING THE OCR A AND AS LEVEL ECONOMICS SPECIFICATIONS

The following sample co-teaching guide for AS and A Level Economics suggests how the AS Level and year 1 of the A Level could be taught.

INTRODUCTION

The design of the Economics AS and A Level specifications mean that effective co-teaching can be achieved with only minor concessions to the different assessment requirements for each component of the course.

There is a major overlap between Components 1 and 2 of the AS Level and Components 1 and 2 of year 1 of the A Level. The assessment is slightly different for each but this should not cause significant problems in terms of delivery and preparation for the AS exam. There is a greater demand at A Level but due to the linear design of the course there is adequate time to revisit earlier work and focus on the A Level demand in the latter part of the second year. In fact, preparation for the AS Level exam is useful in terms of providing the first year students with an opportunity to build their exam skills. Some centres may decide to enter their candidates for both the AS Level and the A Level examinations. If this is the case then the AS Level exam will become useful practice for the final A Level exams in year 2. There will be an OCR Mock exam service available which will help with the process of preparing students to practise unseen questions. This will also help teachers to understand the level of demand of both the AS and the A Level examinations.

CONTINUITY AND THEMES

Component 1 of both the AS and A Level qualifications focuses on 'microeconomics'. From a base of microeconomic theory, students will discuss and evaluate how well this theory explains our observations of economic agents in the real world. The theoretical workings of the free market provide a useful starting point for explanation and analysis. Imperfections and market failures provide a lead into discussing the merits and drawbacks of government intervention and the usefulness of theory in explaining observations taken from the real world of economics.

Component 2 of both the AS and A Level qualifications focuses on 'macroeconomics'. It will provide students with the technical and analytical tools required to understand how the macroeconomy functions on both the domestic and global levels. Policy approaches, their limitations and conflicts are also considered in a historical context to understand how macroeconomics has changed over time.

The A Level qualification also has a Component 3, focusing on 'themes in economics'. The assessment of this component will be synoptic in nature and will draw on content from both the microeconomics and macroeconomics components, applied to particular themes. It adds further depth to micro- and macroeconomic topics studied in year 1, like the concept of the margin, and introduces new topics, such as the labour market or the role of the financial sector.



ASSESSMENT

There are a number of different types of skills being assessed through a number of different question styles. Similar to the old specification, the new specification has a higher level of demand in the full A Level. Therefore, the AS Level questions can be treated as preparation for the A Level skills.

Component 1 and Component 2 for the AS Level are each weighted 50% and will each be assessed by:

- 15 multiple choice questions (section A)
- short and medium answer data response questions (section B)
- as well as one essay from a choice of two (section C)

Total marks for section A are 15, 25 for section B and 20 for section C, giving a total of 60 marks for each component.

Each component of the A Level is worth 33.33%, for Component 1 and 2 there will be:

- a set of data response questions each with a total of 30 marks (section A)
- as well as two essays from a choice of four, 25 marks each (sections B and C)

This gives a total of 80 marks for Component 1 and for Component 2.

Assessment of Component 3 of the A Level will consist of:

- 30 multiple choice questions (section A) and
- a set of data response questions worth 50 marks requiring both short answers as well as evaluative responses (section B)

This gives again a total of 80 marks.



SAMPLE CURRICULUM PLAN

Year 1	TEXTBOOK 1	AS SPECIFICATION (A Level)			
	Section 1 Microeconomics	Component 1 Microeconomics (H060/01) (H461/01)			
Autumn term (1st half)	Part 1 Scarcity and choice	Chapter 1	Introducing economics	Scarcity and choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The basic economic problem The market economy Opportunity cost Specialisation and trade
	Part 2 How competitive markets work	Chapter 2 Chapter 3 Chapter 4	The coordination problem The nature of demand The nature of supply	How competitive markets work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of resources The objectives of economic agents Supply and demand and the interaction of markets
Autumn term (2nd half)		Chapter 5 Chapter 6	Market equilibrium and the price system Prices and resource allocation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elasticity Productive and allocative efficiency Costs and revenue Economics and diseconomies of scale
	Part 3 Market failure and government intervention	Chapter 7 Chapter 8 Chapter 9	Market failure and externalities Other forms of market failure Government intervention and government failure	Market failure and government intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market failure Externalities Information asymmetries Alternative methods of government intervention Government failure



Year 1					
MOCK EXAMS for Section 1 Microeconomics					
Section 2 Macroeconomics			Component 2 Macroeconomics (H060/02) (H461/02)		
Spring term (1st half)	Part 4 Economic policy objectives and indicators of macroeconomic performance	Chapter 10 Chapter 11 Chapter 12	Macroeconomic performance: inflation Macroeconomic performance: employment and unemployment Measuring economic performance: economic growth	Economic policy objectives and indicators of macroeconomic performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic growth • Employment and unemployment • Inflation • Trends in macroeconomic indicators
Spring term (2nd half)	Part 5 Aggregate demand and aggregate supply	Chapter 13 Chapter 14	Aggregate demand Aggregate supply and macroeconomic equilibrium	Aggregate demand and aggregate supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular flow of income • Aggregate demand • Aggregate supply • Aggregate demand and supply • Macroeconomic equilibrium
	Part 6 The application of policy instruments	Chapter 15	Macroeconomic policy instruments	The application of policy instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal policy • Monetary policy • Supply side policy • Policy conflicts
Summer term (1st half)	Part 7 The global context	Chapter 16 Chapter 17	International trade The balance of payments and the exchange rate	The global context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International trade • Balance of payments • Exchange rates
	MOCK EXAMS for Section 2 Macroeconomics & exam revision				
	AS EXAMS				

N.B. The **second half of the summer term of year 1** could be used to introduce one or two topics of the year 2 of the A Level for example “The labour market” or for the Extended Project Qualification, please see <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/projects-extended-project-h856/>



Year 2	TEXTBOOK 2	A LEVEL Component 3 Themes in economics (H460/03)			
Autumn term (1st half)	Part 1 How competitive markets work	Chapter 1	Demand and marginal utility	Scarcity and choice How competitive markets work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concept of the margin Supply and demand and the interaction of markets
	Part 2 Competition and market power	Chapter 2 Chapter 3 Chapter 4 Chapter 5	Business objectives and efficiency Market structure: Perfect competition and monopoly Market structure: Monopolistic competition and oligopoly Markets and resource allocation	Competition and market power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business objectives Market structures and their implications for the way resources are allocated and the interdependence of firms
Autumn term (2nd half)	Part 3 The labour market	Chapter 6 Chapter 7 Chapter 8	Labour demand, labour supply and wage determination The UK labour market Market failure and government and the unions in the labour market	Labour market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wage determination Labour market issues and themes Government intervention
	Part 4 Market failure and government intervention	Chapter 9 Chapter 10	The environment Other forms of government intervention in markets	Market failure and government intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public goods Inequity Environment



Year 2 MOCK EXAMS for microeconomic themes					
Spring term (1st half)	Part 5 Macroeconomic policy and performance	Chapter 11 Chapter 12	Growth and development Income distribution and welfare	Economic policy objectives and indicators of macroeconomic performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic growth and development Income distribution and welfare
	Part 6 Aggregate demand and aggregate supply	Chapter 13	Views of the macroeconomy and the economic cycle	Aggregate demand and aggregate supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Phillips curve The economic cycle
Spring term (2nd half)	Part 7 The application of policy instruments	Chapter 14 Chapter 15	The operation of fiscal and monetary policy Approaches to macroeconomic policy	The application of policy instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approaches to policy and macroeconomic context
	Part 8 The global context	Chapter 16 Chapter 17	Globalisation and international trade Trade policies and negotiations	The global context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Globalisation Trade policies and negotiations
Summer term (1st half)	Part 9 The financial sector	Chapter 18 Chapter 19 Chapter 20	The role of the financial sector and the real economy The financial sector in developing and emerging economies The central bank and financial regulation	The financial sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of the financial sector in the real economy The financial sector in developing and emerging economies The role of the central bank Financial regulation
	MOCK EXAMS for macroeconomic themes & exam revision				
Summer term (2nd half)	A LEVEL EXAMS				





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