

Supporting Your Learner

Higher Economics

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Course Outline

In Higher Economics pupils study three main areas;

- Economics of the Market – Basic Economic Problem, Supply & Demand
- UK Economic Activity – Role of Government (Fiscal & Monetary policy)
- Global Economic Activity – Trade, EU, Emerging Economies

Pupils will also complete a research assignment and report which will account for 30% of their overall grade. Candidates will also undertake a final SQA exam which will be comprised of a case study and extended response questions based on the three main areas.

Higher candidates should aim to carry out regular independent research throughout the year – paying specific attention to news and quality newspaper articles which are relevant to key economics issues.



Exam Preparation

As the Higher Economics exam approaches, pupils should carry out as much timed practise of case studies and extended response questions as possible. Pupils should make regular use of economics news sources to help develop their understanding and level of detail in their answers further. As pupils have no prior learning of Economics, from National 5, it is imperative that they regularly review their notes from class and access a range of materials to help develop their understanding of the content covered. These materials are made available to pupils at the beginning of the course and they should be reviewing them on a regular basis. The exam is 2 hours 15 minutes in length. Pupils should be spending no more than 50 minutes of that time on the case study section, giving over 1 hour 25 minutes to the extended response questions. These times should be used as a guide when practising past paper questions. Pupils will also have the opportunity to carry out exam practice in class.



Useful Websites

Higher Economics candidates should use a wide range of websites to help them prepare and develop throughout the course.

For course content pupils should make use of websites such as; [Scholar](#), [Tutor2u](#), [Investopedia](#), [Economics Help](#)

One of the most valuable way to enhance their knowledge is to regularly research relevant issues that are in the news currently. Thus websites such as; The [BBC](#), [Economist](#), [Financial Times](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Reuters](#), [Guardian](#), [Telegraph](#), [Independent](#), [Scotsman](#) or any other quality newspaper will be of great use.

Watching television programmes such as [Question Time](#), [Newsnight](#) and [Sunday Politics](#) will also greatly help their understanding of key issues in Economics. As well as making use of the [BBC Money](#) website which has a variety of programmes and links relating to key economic topics.



Useful Textbooks

Unfortunately there are currently no companies that produce Higher Economics textbooks for Scottish Education. There are a number of companies that produce textbooks for A Level Economics; while this course is not identical to the Higher course, pupils may still find these textbooks useful and advice can be given on an individual basis regarding this.

Revision Classes

Currently Higher revision classes are offered by Mr McFarlane on an arranged basis. Pupils can arrange a time period after school most nights to revise any topics or practice past paper questions. Pupils are also always welcome to seek out Mr McFarlane for advice at lunch or at the start or end of the day.

Revision Timetable

SQA Past Papers

The link below will allow you to access the most recent past examination papers as well as specimen papers produced by the SQA. There are also Marking Schemes on this page. Past papers can be accessed for the previous Higher course (HIGHER) and the new Higher course (NEW HIGHER). Both sections are relevant to the current course.

[SQA Higher Economics Past Papers](#)

Understanding Standards

The link below to the SQA website will allow you to see where markers have awarded marks to exemplar papers and read the markers' comments on the candidate's response. It is especially helpful in identifying where marks are awarded for analysis and for knowledge.

[Understanding Standards: Higher Economics](#)



