

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

WHAT SKILLS ARE REQUIRED TO DO ECONOMICS? Students are expected to have an interest in current affairs, to be able to interpret data and to have a good command of English.

IS ECONOMICS VERY MATHEMATICAL? The simple answer is no. Students are expected to interpret numerical data but this does not require a high order of mathematical ability.

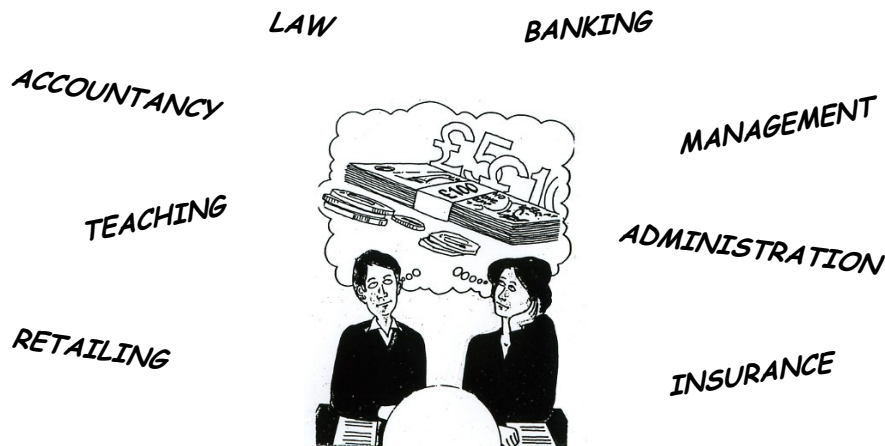
WHAT IS THE WORK LIKE? Emphasis is placed on students' understanding of the basic concepts and varied examples are given. Students are provided with a number of short exercises which reinforce classroom teaching and their reading. Regular written assignments give students the opportunity to research their ideas and communicate their understanding in an essay format. Student participation and discussion are central to the course.

HOW BIG ARE THE CLASSES? Economics is a popular subject at Greenhead. At present there are approximately 120 students in six teaching groups.

Economics allows students to develop the whole range of Key Skills: communication, application of number, IT, working with others, problem-solving and improving their own learning performance.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH ECONOMICS?

- It is a good subject in combination with any other A-level.
- It keeps options open for a wide range of careers, such as:



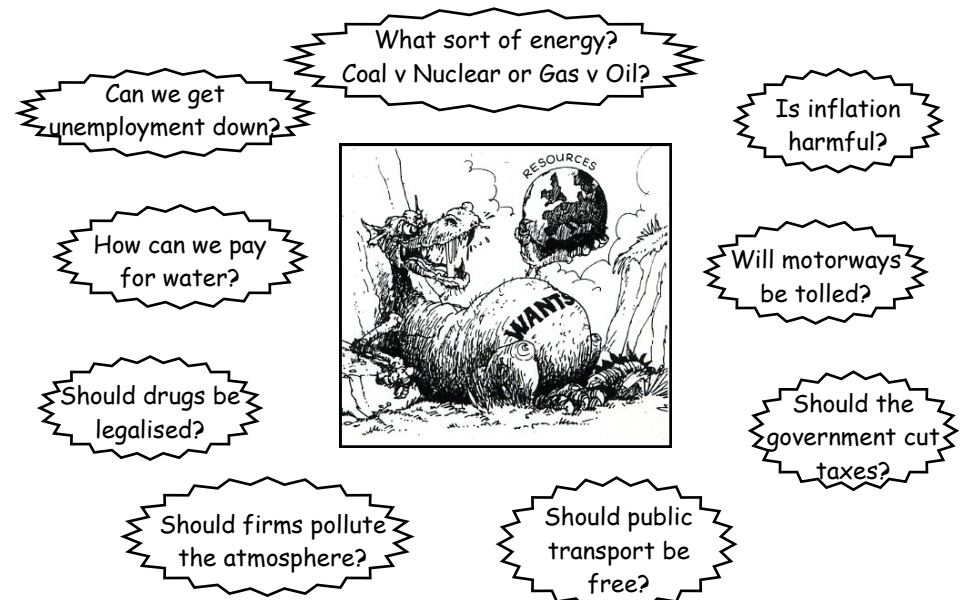
gc GREENHEAD COLLEGE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

You will have heard the term "**ECONOMICS**" but you may be unsure as to what it involves.

When you read newspapers and watch television you are presented with economic issues every day. These include issues such as motorway and urban congestion, National Health Service waiting lists, the destruction of tropical rain forests and the search for sources of energy in the future.

The basic economic problem involves limited resources and unlimited demand for those scarce resources.

If it involves money or resources and how to use them, then it is Economics!



Economics is a popular course because of its relevance to everyday life, student enjoyment and recognition from universities and employers. The course is wide-ranging and at times fast changing. It presents a new challenge in a subject area which is both controversial and lively.

No previous knowledge is necessary or expected and the students have consistently achieved a pass rate which is well above the national average.

ECONOMICS: Advanced-level, Cambridge modular

The course is based on modules which are assessed throughout two years. The method of assessment for the modules is based on a case study, data response and essay questions.

The modules in year one could constitute an AS-level whilst the addition of the second year modules lead to the complete A-level qualification.

The first year consists of two foundation modules:

1. **Markets in Action** - this provides an introduction to why economic choices have to be made, the market model, how markets can be efficient and also how they can fail.

Within the module issues considered would be:

- Why do prices go up and down?
- Should university tuition fees be allowed to rise?
- Should Health Care and Education be provided by the state or the market?
- Why are cities congested and polluted?
- Should drugs be legalised; should tax on alcohol be raised?

2. **The National and International Economy** - this covers how the economy works, government objectives and policies, conflicts between government objectives. Issues covered here include:

- What causes inflation and unemployment?
- What are balance of payments difficulties?
- Why is UK growth faster/slower than other developed nations?
- Should foreign goods be taxed?

The two modules above make-up an AS in Economics.

To complete the course for A-level, the second year also involves two modules which involve applying and developing AS ideas.

1. **Transport Economics** - issues covered here include:

- What determines transport demand?
- Has deregulation of bus/coaches and rail privatisation been successful?
- Should air fares be lower?
- Congestion in cities and policies to deal with it.
- Sustainable transport issues.

2. **The Global Economy** - this considers the causes and consequences of economic growth in the developed economies, the EU, developing economies and the global economy. Issues covered in the module include:

- How is the UK economy performing?
- Should the UK join the single currency?
- What is the impact of EU enlargement?
- Who are the Less Developed Economies and what problems do they have?
- What is the impact of Globalisation?
- Is free trade beneficial?



Further details can be found on the college website: www.greenhead.ac.uk.

The course is supported by activities which go beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to keep up to date with the media and to use resources such as Economic Review, Economics Today, Financial Times, Guardian, CD ROM databases and internet sources.

Links with Industry are also encouraged by external visits and visiting speakers. In the past students have visited Peugeot, Jaguar and Ford car factories, Bass Brewery, Kelloggs' factory, Liverpool Docks, a sewerage plant and Drax power station.

