

Curriculum Overview – Year 13 A-Level Economics

| Sequencing of topics | What knowledge will students develop? (Including key terminology) | What skills will students develop? (Including literacy & numeracy) | Assessment opportunities | Homework opportunities | Personal development (Ursuline Values, Catholic Social Teaching, Cultural Capital, Cross-curricular, Careers) | Curriculum links |
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| Autumn Term 1 | | | | | | |
| 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3 Business Growth | Reasons firms grow. market power, profit, economies of scale, risk reduction | Literacy: explaining growth strategies & evaluating impacts Numeracy: scale calculations; interpreting cost curves | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Case study: recent corporate mergers 10-to-12-mark exam-style question Diagram labelling exercises | Stewardship: responsible expansion without exploitation | Business Studies (growth strategies) Maths (algebra, costs) |
| 3.3.1 Revenue | Total, average, marginal revenue Revenue curves under different market structures | Numeracy: revenue calculations; interpreting numerical tables Literacy: applying concepts to real firms' pricing strategies | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Revenue calculations worksheet Past paper revenue short answers | Justice & fairness: pricing strategies and consumer impact | Maths: functions, marginal values |
| 3.3.2 Production | Productivity, production functions Short vs long run; law of diminishing returns | Numeracy: productivity calculations | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Productivity calculations Short paragraph on diminishing returns | Rights of workers: productivity vs working conditions | Geography (industrial production patterns) |
| 3.3.2, 3.3.3 Costs | Fixed, variable, total, average and marginal costs Short-run and long-run cost curves | Numeracy: cost tables, average and marginal calculations Literacy: explaining relationships between cost curves | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Cost table calculations Diagram practice sheet | Stewardship: efficient use of resources | Maths (algebra & graphs) |

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| 3.3.4 Profit | Normal, supernormal, subnormal profit Profit maximisation (MR = MC) | Numeracy: profit calculations Literacy: evaluating profit's role in business behaviour | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Profit calculation worksheet Past-paper exam question | Common good: profit balanced with social responsibility | Business (profit roles) |
| 3.4.2 Market Structure | Characteristics & assumptions Long-run normal profit | Numeracy: profit calculations | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Diagram practice Short evaluation paragraph | Justice: ensuring fairness in competitive markets | |
| 3.4.2 Perfect Competition | Characteristics & assumptions Long-run normal profit | Numeracy: profit calculations | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Diagram practice Short evaluation paragraph | Justice: ensuring fairness in competitive markets | Equality |
| 3.4.3 Monopolistic Competition | Differentiation, pricing power Long-run normal profit | Literacy: comparing PC and monopolistic | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | 10-mark comparison question | Common good: consumer variety and fair pricing | Consumer Surplus |

| Autumn Term 2 | | | | | | |
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| 3.4.4 Oligopoly | Interdependence, collusion, kinked demand curve Game Theory | Numeracy: profit calculations Literacy: evaluating profit's role in business behaviour | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Research real-world oligopolies 12-Mark writing task | Solidarity: preventing exploitation through anti-competitive behaviour | Consumer fairness/ Government intervention |
| 3.4.5 Monopoly | Characteristics, welfare loss, inefficiencies Barriers to entry | Numeracy: profit calculations Literacy: evaluating profit's role in business behaviour | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Case study: tech monopolies Diagram labelling task | Justice: consumer fairness and preventing exploitation | Consumer fairness/ Government intervention |
| 3.4.6 Monopsony | Labour monopsony; examples (NHS, supermarkets) Impacts on wages and employment | Numeracy: profit calculations Literacy: evaluating profit's role in business behaviour | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Research monopsony labour cases | Rights of workers – fair wage concerns | Equality and Justice |
| 3.4.7 Contestability | Characteristics of contestable markets Sunk costs and ease of entry | Literacy: evaluating contestability Analytical: linking real firms to theory | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Short essay on contestability | Common good: encouraging fair, open competition | Consumer choice |
| 3.2.1 Business Objectives | Profit max, revenue max, sales max Satisficing, CSR motives | Literacy: explaining motives with examples | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | 10-mark objective essay Article review (CSR examples) | Human dignity & common good: ethical business decisions | Profit Maximisation AND CSR |
| 3.4.1 Efficiency | Allocative, productive, dynamic, X-efficiency Efficiency in different market structures | Literacy: Evaluating efficiency Numeracy: comparing figures based on efficiencies | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Efficiency diagrams 10-mark evaluation practice | Stewardship: efficient resource use for societal benefit | Efficiency and Innovation |
| 3.4.1, 3.4.5 Evaluating Competition and Monopoly | Welfare effects, consumer impact Innovation, pricing power, inefficiency | Literacy: balanced arguments | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | 25-mark essay plan Past paper practice | Justice & solidarity: ensuring fair outcomes for consumers & workers | Profit maximising Innovation Quality |

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| 3.6.1, 3.6.2 Government intervention and product markets | Regulation, price caps, subsidies, taxes, competition policy | | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Case study: CMA intervention Diagram worksheet | Common good: ensuring markets function fairly | Equality |
| 3.5.1 Demand for Labour | Derived demand for labour Marginal productivity theory Marginal Revenue Product (MRP) and hiring decisions | Use of key terminology: derived demand, marginal product, elasticity Structured paragraph writing using PEEL | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Short-answer questions on MRP and elasticity. Data-response activity using labour market statistics (ONS). | Dignity of Work – Understanding that workers are not just inputs; productivity improvements should respect human dignity. | Theme 3 productivity links Cross-curricular: Maths (data), Business Studies |
| 3.5.2 Supply of Labour | Individual labour supply Substitution and income effects Backward-bending labour supply curve | Understand determinants of labour supply. Explain wage elasticity and occupational differences. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Essay: “What affects the supply of labour?” Research: Labour market shortages in UK sectors. | Option for the Poor and Vulnerable – How labour supply barriers (e.g., childcare costs, lack of training) disproportionately affect vulnerable groups. | Sociology (demographics) Theme 4 (migration) |
| 3.5.3 Wage Determination | Wage setting in competitive labour markets Monopsony power Trade unions | Structuring 15-mark essays on market structures Using evidence-based arguments | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Compare wage outcomes under competition vs monopsony. Understand trade union influence and real examples. | Dignity & Rights of Workers – Fair wages, protection from exploitation. | Politics (union legislation) Maths (interpreting wage distribution statistics) |
| 3.5.3 Government intervention in labour markets | Minimum wage / National Living Wage Maximum wages Reducing labour market failures | Writing balanced evaluations Interpreting policy documents (Treasury, IFS) | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | 15-mark essay: “Evaluate the impact of minimum wages on labour markets.” Policy comparison mind-map | Preferential Option for the Poor – Minimum wage impacts on low-income families. | Theme 2 (unemployment) Theme 1 (government failure) |
| Mock Exams & Essay Technique | | | Past papers Case studies | Case Studies Past Papers Research | | All Themes |

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| Spring Term 1 | | | | | | |
| 4.1.1 Globalisation | Key drivers and effects of globalisation Positive and negative externalities of increased interconnectedness Impacts on developed and developing economies | Summarising articles from IMF/World Bank PEEL paragraph writing for 10- and 12-mark responses | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Research: Benefits and costs of globalisation on one developing economy Short essay (10 marks): "Is globalisation a force for good?" | Solidarity: Understanding how globalisation connects people and nations. Care for Creation: Environmental consequences of globalisation. | Geography (global trade and flows) |
| 4.1.2, 4.1.3 Specialisation and Trade | Why nations specialise and trade How Trade on Trade fluctuations benefit or harm countries | Writing evaluations of trade theory Correct use of terminology: opportunity cost, efficiency, specialisation | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Research: A country that lost/gained from specialisation | Human Dignity: Ethical conditions for workers in global supply chains | Geography (trade patterns) |
| 4.1.4 The Terms of Trade (TOT) | Definition of TOT and calculation using index numbers. Factors influencing TOT (exchange rates, commodity prices, inflation) | Handling index numbers and quantitative data. Evaluating TOT effects on growth, inflation, and trade balance. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | TOT data calculations from real trade index figures. Mini essays: "Assess the consequences of a deterioration in the terms of trade for developing economies." | Option for the Poor: TOT volatility often harms vulnerable nations. Solidarity: ethical considerations in global commodity markets. | Geography (resource dependence), Maths (index numbers). |
| 4.1.5 Common Market and monetary unions | Stages of economic integration: FTA → Customs Union → Common Market → Monetary Union. Benefits and costs of labour mobility, shared regulations, and common currency. | Comparative evaluation of economic integration levels. Diagram use (trade creation and diversion). | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Research: Benefits and drawbacks of Eurozone membership. Data-response: Intra-EU trade flows. | Solidarity: integration promoting peace and shared welfare. Subsidiarity: debate about national sovereignty vs. supranational authority. | Politics: EU governance. History: European integration. |

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| 4.1.5 The World Trade Organisation | WTO functions: trade negotiations, dispute resolution, liberalisation. Successes and criticisms of WTO (developing world, fairness, power imbalances). | Evaluating global institutions. Case study analysis (e.g., US–China disputes). | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Write: “To what extent does the WTO promote fair trade?” Research WTO case decisions. | Common Good: fair global trade rules. Dignity of Work: ethical treatment of workers. | Politics, Law (international institutions). |
| 4.1.6 Restrictions on Free trade | Tariffs, quotas, subsidies, administrative barriers, embargoes. Infant industry argument, dumping, national security. | Diagrammatic analysis of tariffs/quotas. Evaluating protectionism using multiple perspectives. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Diagram practice: tariff impacts. Short essay: “Evaluate the economic effects of protectionism.” | Common Good: protection vs. global equity. Solidarity: impact of protection on developing countries. | Business: import/export decisions. |
| 4.1.7 Balance of Payment Issues | Structure of the BoP Causes and effects of deficits and surpluses. Policies to correct imbalances. | Data interpretation of BoP tables. Evaluation of expenditure-switching vs. expenditure-reducing policies. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Data-response: UK current account deficit trends. Essay practice on policy solutions. | Stewardship: responsible macro management. | Politics: fiscal and monetary policy |
| 4.1.8 Exchange Rate Systems | Fixed, floating, managed floats. Advantages and disadvantages of each system. | Exchange rate diagram interpretation. Evaluating systems for countries at different development stages. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Comparison table: fixed vs. floating. Research a country that changed its regime. | Common Good: maintaining stability to protect vulnerable households. | Maths (currency calculations). Geography (international relationships). |

Spring Term 2

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| 4.1.8 The impact of changes in Exchange Rates | How appreciation/depreciation affects imports, exports, inflation, GDP and employment. Price elasticity and the J-curve/Marshall-Lerner condition. | Elasticity-linked reasoning. Evaluating short vs. long run impacts. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Numerical tasks: effects of a currency fall. Essay: "Discuss the macroeconomic impact of a currency depreciation." | Option for the Poor: currency crises' social effects. | Business: import costs. |
| 4.1.9, 4.5.4 International Competitiveness | Measures: relative productivity, unit labour costs, real exchange rate. Policies to improve competitiveness. | Interpreting competitiveness indices. Evaluating supply-side strategies. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Data-response: UK vs. Germany productivity. Short essay: "How can a government boost competitiveness?" | Dignity of Work: fair pay & labour conditions in global competition. | Business: productivity strategies. |
| 4.2.1, 4.2.2 Inequality and Poverty | Absolute vs. relative poverty. Causes and consequences of inequality. Lorenz curve, Gini coefficient. | Data skills with Lorenz curves. Ethical reasoning about fairness. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Gini coefficient calculations. Essay: "Causes of global inequality." | Option for the Poor, Human Dignity, Solidarity. | Sociology, RE. |
| 4.5.4 Redistribution of Income and Wealth | Progressive, proportional, regressive taxes. Universal vs. targeted benefits. Evaluation of redistribution policies. | Constructing evaluative judgments on fairness vs. efficiency. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Essay on tax progressivity. Data-response: UK income distribution. | Common Good, Preferential Option for the Poor. | Politics: welfare state. |
| 4.3.1 Measures of Development | HDI, GNI per capita, MPI, education & health indicators. Limitations of single indicators. | Interpretation of development statistics. Cross-country comparison. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | HDI comparison project. Short essay on limits of GDP as a welfare measure. | Human Dignity, Common Good. | Geography (development indicators). |
| 4.3.2 Factors Influencing Growth and Development | Infrastructure, institutions, human | Cause-and-effect analysis. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers | Case study: constraints on growth in Sub-Saharan Africa. | Stewardship (sustainability). | Politics, RE (global justice). |

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| | capital, environment, capital accumulation. Political stability and corruption. | Evaluation of multi-faceted development problems. | Case studies Class Assessments | | Solidarity (supporting developing nations). | |
| 4.3.3 Strategies influencing Growth and Development | Market-based vs. interventionist strategies. Aid, debt relief, trade liberalisation, microfinance, industrialisation. | Evaluating contrasting strategies. Application of case studies | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Essay: "Evaluate the effectiveness of aid." Research: microfinance case studies. | Option for the Poor , Solidarity, Dignity of Work. | Geography: development models. |
| 4.4.1 Financial Markets | Role of banks, bond markets, equity markets. Asymmetric information, moral hazard, market failure. | Risk evaluation. Explaining financial market failures. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Research the 2008 crisis or 2020 financial response. | Stewardship : ethical and stable use of money. | Business Finance. |
| 4.4.3 Central Banks and Financial Market Regulation | Roles of central banks: monetary policy, lender of last resort. Regulation: capital requirements, liquidity ratios. | Evaluation of regulatory frameworks. Monetary policy analysis. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Essay: "How effective is financial regulation?" Interest-rate impact questions. | Common Good , Stewardship (preventing crisis). | Politics: independence of institutions. |
| 4.5.1 Public Expenditure | Types of spending: capital, current, transfer payments. Public goods, merit goods, market failure. | Evaluating spending priorities. Public vs. private sector reasoning. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Case study: NHS or education spending trends. | Common Good , Dignity of the Human Person. | Fair distribution |
| 4.5.2 Taxation | Direct/indirect taxes, tax principles, Laffer curve. Effects on incentives and distribution. | Tax incidence diagram analysis. Policy evaluation. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Essay: "Should the UK tax wealthy individuals more heavily?" | Justice , Preferential Option for the Poor. | Progressive Taxation to help the poor |

| Summer Term 1 | | | | | | |
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| 4.5.3 Public Sector Finances | Budget deficits/surpluses, national debt. Fiscal sustainability and crowding out. | Interpreting fiscal data. Evaluating fiscal policy. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Data-response: UK public finances. | Stewardship: safeguarding future generations. | Distribute finances fairly |
| 4.5.3,4.5.4 Macroeconomic Policies in a Global Context | Interdependence of economies. Global shocks & transmission mechanisms. Effectiveness of fiscal/monetary supply-side policy globally. | Constructing integrated macroeconomic arguments. Using AD/AS and LRAS to analyse global situations. | Textbook Up Learn Past papers Case studies Class Assessments | Essay: "Evaluate UK macroeconomic policy in an interdependent world." Research: Impact of global recessions. | Solidarity: global cooperation in crises. Common Good: joint responsibility for global stability. | Help countries in greater need |
| Synoptic Theme 1 and 3 Revision | | | Past papers Case studies | Revise both Themes | | Synoptic links |
| Mock Exams & Essay Technique | | | Past papers Case studies | | | All Themes |
| Final Consolidation | | | Past papers Case studies | | | All Themes (1-4) |