



Queen Mary's College



FAQs – Economics

Q: Do I need to have studied Economics at GCSE level?

A: No, the vast majority of students taking A-Level Economics have not studied economics before.

Q: What skills do I need to be successful at economics?

A: There is much use of extensive writing (essays and other extended writing) so developing good written skills is essential for success. A degree of competence at maths is required, but the mathematics used is not to a high level. The highest level of difficulty in mathematical operations is the calculation of percentages. You will need to interpret and use graphs and data to back your written arguments. The ability to integrate the interpretation of data and the manipulation of diagrams into written arguments are the most important skills you will develop.

Q: Can I study Business Studies and Economics?

A: Yes, many students study both. There is some, but very little over-lap between the two subjects.

Q: Do I have to study A Level Mathematics?

A: Definitely no!

However, if you wish to study economics at university. Some universities will require a grade B in GCSE Maths. Many (but not all) may require you to study A Level Mathematics. The study of Mathematics is essential if you are considering Oxbridge/Russel Group universities. If you need advice please contact john.caden@qmc.ac.uk.

Q: What can I do with an A level in Economics?

A: If you are lucky enough, you can become a professional economist (government, charities and NGOs, banks and investment companies), or even a teacher! However, like most A-levels it is not a vocational qualification: the analytical, evaluative and thinking skills make it a prized qualifications that will open door to many disciplines and professions.

Economics students have gone on to study in a range of qualifications: mathematics and science under-graduates have enjoyed economics as a means

of attaining a qualification to get them on to their chosen path in mathematics and science. Students have used the A level in Economics to go on to apprenticeships and following degrees such as accountancy and finance.

Q: *Is Economics about the stock market?*

A: Not really, it is more about general resource use. How does society decide about how goods, income and resources are distributed. There is a unit on financial markets and their impact on the national and international economy.

Q: *What other courses go with A level Economics?*

A: Economics will accompany many subjects: It is more about your interests. If you want to understand current issues in society, then economics is the course for you. Economics is a social science and will give you a deeper understanding of human action and motivations. It will go with other social science/humanity subjects such as sociology, geography, politics, history and psychology.