



Curriculum Description for Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level

ECONOMICS - HIGHER 2 (Syllabus 9732)

SYLLABUS

1. Market System

This theme provides an introduction to the nature of economics and examines the operation of markets for goods and services. It also focuses on how consumers and producers make decisions about the choices they face, recognising that in the market economy, both are motivated by self-interest.

Candidates should be able to understand the price mechanism as a means of allocating resources and be able to apply demand and supply analysis to real world situations.

2. Market Failure and Government Intervention

This theme examines the nature of market failure, its causes and possible policy remedies. Candidates should be able to understand why markets may not allocate resources efficiently and the methods of dealing with market failure, together with an evaluation of their effectiveness.

3. National and International Economy

This theme provides an introduction to the key indicators of economic performance, the basic AD/AS and AE-Income analysis, and the main objectives and instruments of government policy. Candidates should be able to acquire a good knowledge of recent economic trends and developments in Singapore and the international economy.

Candidates should also be able to appreciate the possible underlying causes of these trends and developments and to evaluate the effectiveness of government policies in the light of these events.

ASSESSMENT FORMAT

The assessment format for the H2 syllabus comprises 2 papers:
H2 Economics (4 hours 30 minutes) (100%)

Paper 1: 2 hrs 15 min (40%)

Case Study Questions

Candidates will be given 2 sets of questions based on 2 condensed write-ups of about 2-3 pages each on a multi-faceted economic issue or policy decision, including a set of data. Questions pertaining to each of the cases will comprise data response type questions based on quantitative data and higher order type questions which will require candidates to apply economic principles in analysing, synthesising, evaluating or solving the economic problem.

Each set of case study questions will consist of 20% of the total marks, of which 8% of this will be allocated to data response type questions and 12% will be allocated to higher order type questions. Candidates may also be asked to assume a role in resolving the economic problem of the case. Each set of questions will carry 30 marks.

Paper 2: 2 hrs 15 min (60%)

Essay Questions

Candidates are required to answer a total of 3 essay questions. They are required to answer at least one question each from Section A and Section B. The third question can be chosen from either section. Each question will carry 25 marks.

Section A

Three essay questions focusing mainly on microeconomics. Candidates must answer at least one question from this section.

Section B

Three essay questions focusing mainly on macroeconomics. Candidates must answer at least one question from this section.

Note:

Paper 1 and Paper 2, taken as a whole, should incorporate a good balance of questions on microeconomics and macroeconomics.

SUGGESTED BOOKLIST

- John Sloman Economics, 5th Edition Pearson Education
- John Sloman Essentials of Economics, 2nd Edition Pearson Education
- Peter Maunder & Roger Miller Economics Explained, 3rd Edition Collins Educational
- Lipsey & Crystal Economics, 10th Edition Oxford University Press
- John Beardshaw Economics: A Student's Guide, 5th Edition Pearson Education
- William A. McEachern Economics: Contemporary Introduction, 6th Edition South-Western College Publishing
- GF Stanlake, SJ Grant (Editor) Stanlake's Introductory Economics, 7th Edition Longman
- Begg, Fischer and Dornbusch Economics, 5th Edition McGraw Hill
- Roger Miller Economics Today, 12th Edition Addison-Wesley Longman
- Parkin, Michael Economics Economics Collin Bamford, Keith Brunskill, Gordon Cain,
- Sue Grant, Stephen Munday, Stephen Walton Economics: AS Level and A Level Cambridge University Press
- Robert Frank & Ben Bernanke Principles of Economics McGraw Hill
- O'Sullivan Arthur & Sheffrin Steven M. Economics: Principles and Tools, 3rd Edition Pearson Education
- Robert L. Sexton Exploring Economics, 2nd Edition Thomson South-Western
- Mankiw, Gregory Principles of Economics, 3rd Edition Thomson South-Western
- McConnell & Bruce Economics: Principles, Problems & Policies, 15th Edition McGraw Hill
- Case & Fair Principles of Economics, 7th Edition Pearson Education

Please refer to the SEAB website for more information regarding this course.

<http://www.seab.gov.sg>