



CAMBRIDGE AS & A LEVEL ECONOMICS COURSEBOOK

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

New Syllabus changes for
teaching Cambridge
International AS and A
Level Economics

For first examination from
2016

Cambridge International Examinations is making changes to its AS and A Level Economics syllabus for first examination from 2016.

The **main** syllabus changes are:

- The incorporation of five ‘key concepts’ which run through the AS and A level syllabus. These are already well known to teachers and are
 - Scarcity and choice
 - The margin and change
 - Equilibrium and efficiency
 - Regulation and equity
 - Progress and development

Their purpose is to encourage students to make links between topics in the syllabus and so deepen their understanding of Economics. The new edition of the Coursebook incorporates these key concepts in all chapters where appropriate. Further guidance is available in the teacher CD.

In addition to the main syllabus changes, there are also some more minor changes, these are outlined below:

- The terms ‘core’ and ‘supplement’ have been dropped; the syllabus is now simply referred to as AS Level (Papers 1 and 2) and A Level (Papers 3 and 4). The new coursebook is now conveniently laid out with five AS subject chapters followed by five A Level subject chapters.
- Some topics have moved from AS Level to A Level; a small number of A Level topics have been moved from A Level to AS Level (See below for details).
- Some new topics have been incorporated into the syllabus to reflect their growing importance for anyone studying for an international Economics qualification.

There are no changes to

- The ways in which the qualification can be taken
- The forms of assessment and construction of question papers
- The weightings for each question paper and sections in papers 2 and 4.

What do these changes mean for the CIE Economics resource suite from Cambridge?

The skills remain the same and are fully covered in the resources that have been produced by Cambridge for the second edition of the Coursebook and accompanying teacher CD.

These resources though will soon be more extensive, to include:

- A new edition of the coursebook produced by Prof. Colin Bamford and Susan Grant that is fully consistent with the new syllabus. This book also includes new and updated self-assessment tasks, most of which focus on Asian and African examples.

- A new and more extensive Student CD produced by the coursebook authors that includes new features such as worksheets, new exemplar questions and answers, a revision checklist and mind maps, research guidance, tips on how to revise for examinations and other features
- A new Teacher CD to incorporate answers to the self-assessment tasks in the coursebook as well as other teacher aids.

The main syllabus changes are set out below. It should be stressed that these are less significant at AS Level; the current coursebook is particularly relevant for the first two sections of the microeconomics syllabus for teaching starting in September 2014.

2014 Syllabus Change	How to use the current edition for this syllabus change
<p><u>AS Level</u></p> <p>1. <u>Basic economic ideas and resource allocation</u></p> <p>New content on short and long run, merit goods, demerit goods and information failure.</p>	<p>Chapter 1 (Core) covers nearly all of the topics. There is a little more emphasis on the specialisation and enterprise</p>
<p>2. <u>Price system and the micro economy</u></p>	<p>Chapter 2 (Core) covers almost all of this section.</p>
<p>3. <u>Government micro intervention</u></p> <p>Greater emphasis on taxation and the effects on the market; more content on subsidies, transfer payments, direct provision.</p>	<p>Chapter 3 (Supplement) includes some of this new AS content</p>
<p>4. <u>The macro economy</u></p> <p>Minor additions to content on ‘Aggregate Demand’ (AD) and ‘Aggregate Supply analysis’ (AS) and a little more detail on components of the balance of payments and exchange rates.</p>	<p>Chapter 4,5 and 6 (Core) cover most topics.</p>
<p>5. <u>Government macro intervention</u></p> <p>Content on fiscal, monetary, supply side policies and policies to correct balance of payments and correct inflation.</p>	<p>Chapter 7 (Supplement) can be used to introduce types of macro polic</p>
<p><u>A Level</u></p> <p>1. <u>Basic economic ideas and resource allocation</u></p> <p>Main change is that some content is now at A Level.</p>	<p>Chapter 1 (Supplement) and Chapter 3 (Core) covers all topics</p>



<p>2. <u>Price system and the micro economy</u></p> <p>New content on budget lines and indifference curves, cartels, objectives of firms and pricing policy and performance of firms.</p>	<p>Chapter 2 (Supplement) covers most of the rest of this section of the syllabus</p>
<p>3. <u>Government micro intervention</u></p> <p>Two new sections on policies to achieve efficient resource allocation and to correct market failure and on equality and policies towards income and wealth redistribution.</p>	<p>Part of Chapter 2 (Supplement) and part of Chapter 3 (Supplement)</p>
<p>4. <u>The macro economy</u></p> <p>New content on national income statistics, aspects of classification of economies, national debt, impact of corruption plus other minor additions.</p>	<p>Chapter 5 (Core) but mainly Chapter 5 (Supplement)</p> <p>Also Chapter 6 (Core and Supplement)</p>
<p>5. <u>Government macro intervention</u></p> <p>New content on government failure in macro policies and Laffer curves.</p>	<p>Chapter 7 (Core and supplement)</p>