Southend High School for Girls
Sixth FORM

Course outline

Head of Department:
Mr L Herbert

Minimum entry requirements:
Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature and Grade 6 Mathematics. Furthermore, if Economics is taken at GCSE, a minimum of a grade 6 is required.

Economics

What you will learn

A Level Economics will help you gain an understanding of how economies allocate their scarce resources to meet the needs and wants of their citizens. You will build a deeper understanding of the world around you; from your local reality to more abstract global issues. It provides a framework for you to interrogate past events, evaluate current economic conditions and assess economic predictions. It is a vibrant, stimulating and 'real time' subject which will engage and challenge all students, whether you are new to the subject in Year 12 or are building on your GCSE Economics skills learned prior to joining the SHSG Sixth Form.

What will you study in Year 12?

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure

This theme focuses on microeconomic concepts. Students will develop an understanding of:

- Nature of economics
- How markets work
- Market failure
- Government intervention

Them 2: The UK economy – performance and policies

This theme focuses on macroeconomic concepts. Students will develop an understanding of:

- Measures of economic performance
- Aggregate demand
- Aggregate supply
- National income
- Economic growth
- Macroeconomic objectives and policy

What will you study in Year 13?

Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market

This theme develops the microeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 1 and focuses on business economics. Students will develop an understanding of:

- Business growth
- Business objectives
- Revenues, costs and profits
- Market structures
- Labour markets
- Government intervention

Theme 4: A global perspective

This theme develops the macroeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 2 and focuses on business economics. Students will develop an understanding of:

- International economics
- Poverty and inequality
- Emerging and developing economies
- The financial sector
- The role of the state in the macroeconomy

How will you be assessed during the course?

Paper 1: Paper 1 will assess microeconomics, and questions will be drawn from Themes 1 and 3.

35%
2 hours 100 marks

Paper 2: Paper 2 will assess macroeconomics, and questions will be drawn from Themes 2 and 4.

35%
2 hours 100 marks

Paper 3: Paper 3 will assess content across all four themes. Students are required to apply their knowledge and understanding, make connections and transfer higher-order skills across all four themes.

30%
2 hours 100 marks

Continued over

Where could this course lead?

You will be encouraged to understand and use the technical vocabulary of the subject in all discussions and will sound and act as an economist from day one. Whether your future is within a global city-based investment bank, or a Global NGO working with grassroots micro finance the economic understanding that you develop will stand you in good stead. In recent years the SHSG Economics department has prepared students for courses at Oxford and Cambridge, LSE, Nottingham and Bath Universities. There are also a range of economic related degree apprenticeships available such as, the JP Morgan's Financial Services Degree Apprenticeship. In recent years students have gained Apprenticeships with global institutions such as Ernst and Young, KPMG and Merryll Lynch. Students of economics often combine mathematics and economics to study economics at university. It also is widely accepted as a facilitating subject for the study of Law, Mathematics, Government and politics, and Business and Management.

Super-curricular opportunities in Economics

Throughout the course you will be encouraged to take part in prestigious competitions. These include the IEA essay competition, the London Institute of Banking and Finance investor challenge and many more. It will also bring you into contact with real life working economists and economics students from other schools. This is further extended through TED talks, Gresham College lectures, and visits from alumni students and professionals working in a variety of banking and finance careers. You will also be entered into the Stock Market Game international competition. You will have the chance to attend a trip to the Bank of England and a walking tour of Canary Wharf, to learn about the history of the financial institution situated in London. You are invited to apply for a subject captaincy role within the department, and as an Economics Subject Captain you can support with the promotion of the subject across the school and mentor younger pupils in the school.

Further information

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/economics-a-2015.html

Studying economics at Southend High School for Girls is as rewarding as it is challenging. Each lesson you will be faced with a new economic idea or school of thought that you will incorporate into the ever-expanding economic landscape that you will be building in your mind. You will need to draw and redraw this map, challenging and refining your thinking so that, overtime, your arguments will be rooted in the solid foundations of economic theory and honed by an understanding of real-life evidence. You will be expected to keep up to date with current economic events through reading a reputable news source and bring this knowledge into each lesson.

Exam board: Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Economics (9EC0).