



GETTING STARTED

Whether you already teach our existing GCE Economics specification, teach a similar specification with another awarding body, or are considering offering this for the first time, getting started with our revised specification really couldn't be easier:

 Visit www.ccea.org.uk/specifications to view the full revised specification for your subject.

 Attend the next available support event. Go online for our up-to-date events schedule.

Go to www.ccea.org.uk/specifications to download the full GCE Economics AS & A2 Specification



CONTACT US NOW

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For queries in relation to:
Specification content
Subject-specific issues
Interpretation of exemplar papers & other materials

For queries in relation to:
Requesting a meeting
Requesting further support
General subject-specific queries

For queries in relation to:
Entries
Results

For queries in relation to:
Requesting materials

 **WHATEVER YOUR QUERY, WE GUARANTEE YOU A PROMPT, FRIENDLY AND EFFICIENT SERVICE WHEN YOU CONTACT US**

Check out our online leaflet *Customer Charter – Putting You First* at www.ccea.org.uk to view our service targets and our commitment to you.

"I'm really pleased to introduce this revised specification. We have designed it to meet the needs of learners in Northern Ireland whilst also providing a qualification that has international currency. We're proud to be your local awarding body. It is my priority to ensure that our dedicated subject team listens, responds and provides you with a first-class service."

Anne Marie Duffy – Examinations Manager, CCEA

"I'm delighted to provide robust operational systems that support all aspects of examination administration. Whether you are making entries, have a query about examinations or require assistance in relation to results, I can assure you that our specialised systems and customer-focused teams will provide you with the top-class level of service you expect."

Martin Quinn – Business Manager, Examination and Assessment Administration, CCEA

WHAT TEACHERS SAY ABOUT OUR EXAMINATIONS SERVICE....

98.9% of teachers are satisfied with the support and helpfulness of our staff.

95.5% of teachers are satisfied with the reliability and appropriateness of the materials we dispatch.

98.9% of teachers are satisfied with our administration of examinations.

* Source: CCEA's 2006 Post-Primary Customer Satisfaction Research



REVISED GCE AS & A2 SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT FOR ECONOMICS

For first teaching from September 2008

For first award of AS Level in Summer 2009

For first award of A Level in Summer 2010



SUMMARY

- AS 1: **Markets and Prices** – External exam (data response and structured essay), 1hr 30mins, 50% of AS, 25% of A Level, available January and Summer
- AS 2: **The National Economy** – External exam (data response and structured essay), 1hr 30mins, 50% of AS, 25% of A Level, available January and Summer
- A2 1: **Business Economics** – External exam (unseen case study and essay), 2 hrs, 25% of A Level, available January and Summer
- A2 2: **The Global Economy** – External exam (unseen case study and essay), 2 hrs, 25% of A Level, available January and Summer

KEY FEATURES

- Offers relevant, stimulating and manageable content
- Requires students to complete fewer assessment units: only two AS, two A2 and no coursework
- AS course broadens students' education and is a progression route to the full A Level
- Provides stretch and challenge to A2 students, establishing a sound foundation for higher education and a range of interesting careers

BENEFITS TO LEARNERS

We have designed this specification to help learners develop:

- An interest in and enthusiasm for studying economics;
- An appreciation of the subject's contribution to understanding the wider economic and social environment;
- An understanding of a range of concepts and an ability to use these in a variety of contexts;
- An enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics and an ability to think as an economist; and
- Skills, qualities and attitudes that will equip them for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult working life.



CURRENT		NEW		WHAT HAS CHANGED AND WHY?	
MODULE	TITLE	UNIT	TITLE	WHAT HAS CHANGED?	WHY HAS IT CHANGED?
AS 1	The Market Mechanism, Market Failure and Government Response	AS 1	Markets and Prices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are now two assessment units instead of three. Both exam papers are of equal length and weighting (50% of AS). Content is specified in terms of learning outcomes. We've removed some elements of long-run aggregate supply and demand analysis and there is less emphasis on the NI economy in the AS 2 unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet the subject criteria requirement To provide a clearer and simplified scheme of assessment To clarify expectations of candidates Our response to consultation with teachers
AS 2		AS 2	The National Economy		
AS 3	The National Economy				
A2 1	Production and Competition	A2 1	Business Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are now two assessment units instead of three. Both exam papers are of equal length and weighting (25% of A Level). Content is specified in terms of learning outcomes. Assessments use unseen case studies and more open-ended questions. The A2 1 content is more related to real-world business decision-making, and there is greater prominence of environmental issues. The A2 2 content includes the international economy and development economics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet the subject criteria requirement To provide a clearer and simplified scheme of assessment To clarify expectations of candidates To meet the requirement to introduce greater stretch and challenge for A2 candidates To take account of subject developments To retain important and relevant content within the new two-unit structure
A2 2	The International Economy	A2 2	The Global Economy		
A2 3	Economic Development and the Environment or Financial Economics				

COUNT ON US FOR SUPPORT...

LOCAL SUPPORT > IN PERSON

- We are your **local awarding body**, so we can provide personalised support and visits to you and your centre upon request. Contact the Specification Support Officer named on the back cover if you would like to arrange for us to visit you, your department or your students.
- If you have a query or require advice/guidance, please contact the relevant person listed on the back cover.



CONTACT US IF YOU DON'T FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR

LOCAL SUPPORT > AT TEACHER-FOCUSED EVENTS

We provide a comprehensive programme of events to support this specification which includes:

- FREE launch events** to introduce you to the revised specification; and
- FREE seminars** to support its teaching and assessment and to assist you with subject-specific issues.

We will mail invitations to Heads of Department at least three weeks in advance of each event. Alternatively, check out our full list of support events online at www.ccea.org.uk/spec-changes

SUPPORT > ONLINE

Most of the support we provide will be available on your subject microsite. The site will contain:

- The latest version of the GCE Economics specification;
- Schemes of Work;
- Chief Examiner's Reports with top tips for improving examination performance;
- Exemplar Papers and Mark Schemes; and
- Exemplification of Standards (available after the first examination series).

Visit your subject microsite by logging on to www.ccea.org.uk and selecting it from the dropdown menu.

SUPPORT > IN PRINT

Some of the materials listed above are also available in print. To find out which materials and publications are currently available for your subject:

- Contact Bernard Trainor in our Distribution Team on (028) 9026 1200 ext 2168; or
- Go to www.ccea.org.uk to view our *Examination and Assessment Sales Catalogue*.

BACKGROUND TO THE REVISION PROCESS

During the Revision of Specifications process, we consulted our stakeholders through:

- Questionnaires
- Focus Group meetings
- Subject Advisory Team meetings.

We have drawn up this revised specification with the help of:

- Teachers and Heads of Departments in post-primary schools;
- Representatives from Employer Committees;
- Members of Subject Associations; and
- Specialists from our Curriculum Development Teams.

