

GROUP 2 - HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Economics (0455)

Content Overview

- 1.** The basic economic problem the first section of the syllabus introduces the fundamental ideas and concepts that underpin the study of economics including the basic economic problem, factors of production, opportunity cost and production possibility curves.
- 2.** The allocation of resources the fundamental principles of resource allocation are considered through the price mechanism in a market economy. The market forces of demand and supply, market equilibrium and disequilibrium, and elasticity form the core of this section.
- 3.** Microeconomic decision makers the microeconomy is an important area of study, and the approach to learning taken here is through the role of the major decision makers: banks, households, workers, trade unions and firms.
- 4.** Government and the macroeconomy Governments have different macroeconomic aims, and conflicts often arise between the choice of measures used to achieve them. Variables must be measured to consider the causes and consequences of change, and appropriate policies applied.
- 5.** Economic development as an economy develops there will be changes in population, living standards, poverty and income redistribution. Therefore, the effects of changes in the size and structure of population and of other influences on development in a variety of countries are explored.
- 6.** International trade and globalization the importance of trade between countries and the growth of globalization is explored. Principles such as specialization, the role of free trade, the role of multinational companies, foreign exchange rates and balance of payments stability are considered.

Assessment overview

All candidates take two components, Paper 1 and Paper 2. These candidates will be eligible for grades A* to E.

Environmental Management (0680)

Content Overview

The syllabus is divided into nine topics which have been designed to develop an understanding of both the natural and the human environment:

1. Rocks and minerals and their exploitation
2. Energy and the environment
3. Agriculture and the environment
4. Water and its management
5. Oceans and fisheries
6. Managing natural hazards
7. The atmosphere and human activities
8. Human population
9. Natural ecosystems and human activities.

Assessment Overview

All candidates take two papers. Candidates will be eligible for grades A* to G.

All candidates take:

Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 minutes

Theory 50%

80 marks

Section A: short and structured questions

– 20 marks

Section B: short-answer and extended response questions based on source material

– 60 marks

Externally assessed

Paper 2 - 1 hour 45 minutes

Management in context 50%

80 marks

Short, and extended response questions based on source material

Externally assessed