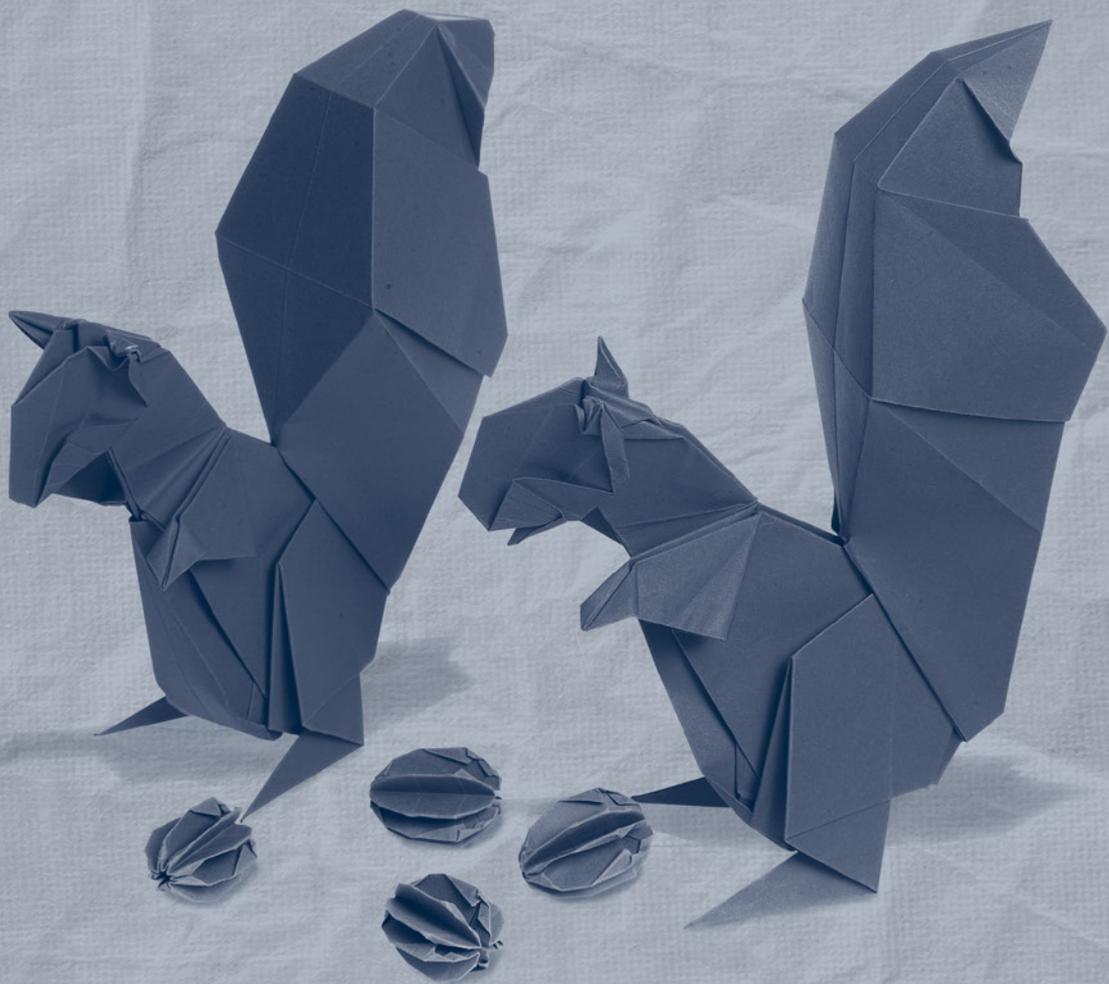


Pearson Edexcel AS and A Level in Economics A



SPECIFICATION MAPPING

Staying with or switching to Pearson Edexcel Economics A

Switching to Pearson Edexcel Economics A

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Introduction

Whether you are thinking of staying with or switching to Pearson Edexcel for the 2015 AS and A level Economics A specifications, this document is an easy reference guide to help you identify key comparisons and differences between the specifications.

The *Getting Started Guide* for AS and A level Economics A – available free on the Economics pages of the Edexcel website – includes detailed coverage of the principles behind all the changes and the support available to help you deliver the new courses from 2015.

Changes to content

In developing the 2015 specifications we have retained the strengths of the 2008 Economics specifications:

- engaging and relevant content
- development economics
- global focus

Changes have been made to the specification content and the assessments to ensure the revised subject content and assessment requirements for economics are met and to bring the specification up-to-date:

- **The nature of economics:** this introductory content supports students in developing an appreciation of the contribution of economics, developing an ability to think like an economist and understanding that economic behaviour can be considered through a range of perspectives.
- **Rational decision making and alternative views of consumer behaviour:** this introduction to behavioural economics ensures the specifications include up-to-date and contemporary issues in economics.
- **Economic history and economic thinkers:** aspects of economic history have been selected and integrated throughout the course to support contextual awareness and inform macroeconomic debate. The content demonstrates how economic events can be interpreted in different ways and how they impact on more recent economic events. The inclusion of reference to economic thinkers supports the understanding that there are different perspectives in economics, with different ways of approaching resource allocation. References to current economic policies and issues, and the requirement to develop an awareness of recent events are outlined in the specification.
- **Emerging and developing economies:** Theme 4 focuses macroeconomics in the global context, with particular reference to emerging and developing economies. This demonstrates how economic concepts and theories can be applied in different and real world contexts.
- **Financial markets:** the inclusion of the role of financial markets, the role of banks and market failure in the financial sector equip students with an understanding of this important economic influence.

Changes to assessment

Changes have been made to the approach of the AS level and A level assessments to ensure they are clear and consistent, enabling students to understand the skills they are required to demonstrate within assessments:

- A reduction in the variety of **command words** used, careful definition of the skills that comprise each command word and consistent application of the command words within and across assessments.
- **Skills based mark schemes** that focus on the qualities students are required to demonstrate in their answers rather than the quantity of points within responses. Clarity of the skills comprising each command word reflects how teachers and examiners describe the qualities of student work, so the expectations are clear for teachers and for markers which limits subjectivity.
- The introduction of short-answer questions comprising **multiple choice and short answer** elements. These questions focus on knowledge, understanding and application, ensuring questions are explicit and clear in the knowledge and understanding students are required to demonstrate.
- **Choice** is provided for the extended open-response questions, enabling students to respond to an issue based on a context they are more engaged or familiar with. There is no choice of data response question. This allows students to focus on one, broader data response context, which supports comparability across papers and reduces time spent in the exam on processing a second data response context and question that will not contribute to the overall marks.

Mapping to the 2008 specifications

This guide maps the current (2008) A level specifications for Pearson Edexcel, AQA and OCR to the new (2015) A level specification for Pearson Edexcel so you can identify key comparisons and differences to support your planning and delivery of the new specifications. The specifications must be referred to as the authoritative source of information.

Specification map: from 2008 Pearson Edexcel

2008 Pearson Edexcel specification			2015 Pearson Edexcel specification	
Unit	Section	Topic		
1	1.3.1	Scarcity	1.1.3	
		Production possibility frontiers	1.1.4	
		Specialisation and the division of labour	1.1.5	
		Free market and mixed economies	1.1.6	
		Positive and normative economics	1.1.2	
	1.3.2	Movement along the demand curve	1.2.2	
		Shifts in the demand curve	1.2.2	
		Price, income and cross elasticities of demand	1.2.3	
	1.3.3	Movement along the supply curve	1.2.4	
		Shifts in the supply curve	1.2.4, 1.2.9	
		Price elasticity of supply	1.2.5	
	1.3.4	Determination of market equilibrium	1.2.6	
		Consumer and producer surplus	1.2.8	
		Functions of the price mechanism	1.2.7	
	1.3.5	Price mechanism	1.2.7	
		Indirect taxes and subsidies	1.2.9	
	1.3.6	Demand and supply of labour	3.5.1, 3.5.2	
	1.3.7	Market failure	1.3.1	
		Externalities	1.3.2	
		Public goods	1.3.3	
		Imperfect market information	1.3.4	
		Labour immobility	3.5.2	
		Unstable commodity markets	-	
	1.3.8	Methods of government intervention	1.4.1	
	1.3.9	Government failure	1.4.2	
	2	2.3.1	Economic growth	2.1.1
			Inflation	2.1.2
Employment and unemployment			2.1.3	
Balance of Payments			2.1.4	
Measures of development – HDI			4.3.1	

		Other measures of development	4.3.1
	2.3.2	National income	2.4.1
		Income and wealth	2.4.1
		Injections and withdrawals	2.4.2
	2.3.3	The components of AD: $C + I + G + (X - M)$	2.2.1
		Consumption (C)	2.2.2
		Investment (I)	2.2.3
		Government expenditure (G)	2.2.4
		Exports – Imports (X – M)	2.2.5
		Movements along and shifts of the AD curve	2.2.1
		2.3.4	Aggregate supply
	Movements along and shifts of the AS curve		2.3.1
	2.3.5	Equilibrium level of output	2.4.3
		The multiplier	2.4.4
	2.3.6	Actual and potential growth	2.5.1
		Causes and constraints on growth	2.5.1
		Benefits of growth	2.5.4
		Costs of growth	2.5.4
	2.3.7	Current macroeconomic objectives	2.6.1
		Conflicts between objectives	2.6.4
	2.3.8	Demand-side policies	2.6.2
		Supply-side policies	2.6.3
	2.3.9	Conflicts resulting from the use of policy instruments	2.6.4
3	3.3.1	Objectives	3.2.1
	3.3.2	Company growth	3.1.1 3.1.2, 3.1.3
	3.3.3	Revenue	3.3.1
	3.3.4	Costs	3.3.2
		Economies and diseconomies of scale	3.3.3
	3.3.5	Productive and allocative efficiency	3.4.1
	3.3.6	Normal and supernormal profit	3.3.4
		Profit maximisation	3.3.4
	3.3.7	Barriers to market entry and exit	3.4.4, 3.4.7
	3.3.8	Market concentration	3.4.4
3.3.9	Perfect competition	3.4.2	
	Monopoly	3.4.3, 3.4.5	

		Monopsony	3.4.6
		Oligopoly	3.4.4
	3.3.10	Contestability	3.4.7
	3.3.11	Government intervention to maintain competition in markets	3.6.1, 3.6.2
4	4.3.1	Causes of globalisation	4.1.1
		Effects of globalisation	4.1.1
	4.3.2	Patterns of trade	4.1.3
		Specialisation and comparative advantage	4.1.2
		WTO	4.1.5
		Restrictions on free trade	4.1.6
		Protectionism	4.3.3
	4.3.3	Balance of Payments	4.1.7
		Current account deficits and surpluses	4.1.7
		Influences on exchange rates	4.1.8
		Changes in exchange rates	4.1.8
		Monetary union	4.1.5
	4.3.4	Measures of competitiveness	4.1.9
		Factors influencing competitiveness	4.1.9
		Government policy	4.3.3
	4.3.5	Absolute and relative poverty	4.2.1
		Measurements of inequality	4.2.2
	4.3.6	Limits to growth and development	4.3.2
	4.3.7	Macroeconomic policies	4.5.4
		Public expenditure	4.5.1
		Taxation	4.5.2
		Public sector borrowing and public sector debt	4.5.3
	4.3.8	Ways of promoting growth and development	4.3.3

Specification map: from 2008 AQA

2008 AQA specification			2015 Pearson Edexcel specification
Unit	Section	Topic	
1	3.1.1	The nature and purpose of economic activity	-
		Economic resources	1.1.3
		The economic objectives of individuals, firms and governments	1.2.1, 2.6.1
		Scarcity, choice and allocation of resources	1.1.3
		Production possibility diagrams	1.1.4
		Value judgements, positive and normative statements	1.1.2
	3.1.2	The determinants of the demand for goods and services	1.2.2
		Price, income and cross elasticities of demand	1.2.3
		The determinants of the supply of goods and services	1.2.4
		Price elasticity of supply	1.2.5
		The determination of equilibrium market prices	1.2.6
		Applications of demand and supply analysis to particular markets	1.2.6, 1.2.7
		The interrelationship between markets	1.2.6, 1.2.7
	3.1.3	How markets allocate resources	1.2.7
		Specialisation, division of labour and exchange	1.1.5
		Production	1.1.4, 3.4.1
	3.1.4	Economies and diseconomies of scale	3.3.3
		The meaning of market failure	1.3.1
		Public goods	1.3.3
		Positive and negative externalities in consumption	1.3.2
		Merit and demerit goods	1.3.2
		Monopoly and allocation of resources	3.4.5
		Immobility of factors of production	1.3.1
	3.1.5	Inequalities in the distribution of income and wealth	4.2.2
		Rationale for government intervention	1.4.1
		Methods of government intervention to correct	1.4.1

		distortions in individual markets	
		Government failure	1.4.2
		The impact of government intervention on market outcomes	1.4.2
2	3.2.1	Macroeconomic indicators	2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4
		The economic cycle	2.5.3
	3.2.2	The circular flow of income	2.4.1
		Aggregate demand (AD) and aggregate supply (AS) analysis	2.2.1, 2.3.1, 2.4.3
		The determinants of aggregate demand	2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5
		Aggregate demand and the level of economic activity	2.4.3, 2.4.4
		Determinants of short-run aggregate supply	2.3.2
		Determinants of long-run aggregate supply	2.3.3
	3.2.3	The objectives of economic policy	2.6.1
		Economic growth	2.5.1, 2.5.2
		Inflation and deflation	2.1.2
		Employment and unemployment	2.1.3
		The balance of payments on current account	2.1.4
	3.2.4	Fiscal policy	2.6.2
		Monetary policy	2.6.2
		Supply-side policies	2.6.3
3	3.3.1	The objectives of firms	3.2.1
		The divorce of ownership and control	3.1.1
		The law of diminishing returns and returns to scale	3.3.2
		Fixed and variable costs, marginal, average and total costs, short-run and long-run costs	3.3.2
		Economies and diseconomies of scale	3.3.3
		Technological change	-
		Total, average and marginal revenue	3.3.1
	3.3.2	The model of perfect competition	3.4.2
		Competition and the efficient allocation of resources	3.4.1
		The dynamics of competition and competitive market processes	3.4.1, 3.4.4
	3.3.3	Monopoly and oligopoly	3.4.4, 3.4.5

		Price makers and price takers	3.4.2, 3.4.5
		The growth of firms	3.1.2
		Sources of monopoly	3.4.3, 3.4.5
		The model of monopoly	3.4.5
		Collusive and non-collusive oligopoly	3.4.4
		Interdependence in oligopolistic markets	3.4.4
		Price discrimination	3.4.4
		Consumer and producer surplus	1.2.8
		Contestable and non-contestable markets	3.4.7
		Market structure, static efficiency, dynamic efficiency and resource allocation	3.4.1
	3.3.4	The demand for labour, marginal productivity theory	3.5.1
		Influences upon the supply of labour to different markets	3.5.2
		The determination of relative wage rates and levels of employment in perfectly competitive labour markets	3.5.3
		The determination of relative wage rates and levels of employment in imperfectly competitive labour markets	3.5.3
		The influence of trade unions in determining wages and levels of employment	-
		The impact of a national minimum wage rate	3.5.3
		Discrimination in the labour market	-
		The distribution of income and wealth	4.2.2
	3.3.5	Market failure and government failure	1.3, 1.4
		Competition policy	3.6.1
		Public ownership, privatisation, regulation and de-regulation of markets	3.6.1
		Notions of equity	-
		The problem of poverty	4.2.1
		Government policies to alleviate poverty and to influence the distribution of income and wealth	4.2.2
		Cost benefit analysis	-
4	3.4.1	The economic cycle and economic growth	2.5.1, 2.5.4, 4.3.2
		Uses of national income data	2.1.1, 4.3.1
		Unemployment	2.1.3, 2.6.4
		Inflation and deflation	2.1.2
	3.4.2	Macroeconomic models and policies	4.5.4

		Fiscal policy	2.6.2, 4.5.2, 4.5.3, 4.5.4
		Supply-side policies	2.6.3, 4.5.2, 4.5.4
		Monetary policy, the money supply and interest rates	2.6.2, 4.5.4
		Exchange rate policy	4.5.4
	3.4.3	Globalisation	4.1.1
		Trade	4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.1.6
		The balance of payments	4.1.7
		Exchange rate changes	4.1.8
		The European Union (EU)	4.1.5

Specification map: from 2008 OCR

2008 OCR specification			2015 Pearson Edexcel specification
Unit	Section	Topic	
F581	3.1	The reasons for individuals, organisations and societies having to make choices	1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.1.5
		Competitive markets and how they work	1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 1.2.5, 1.2.6, 1.2.7, 1.2.8
		Market failure and government intervention	1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.3, 1.4.1
F582	3.2	Aggregate demand and aggregate supply and their integration	2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5, 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4
		Government economic policy objectives and indicators of national economic performance	2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.5.1, 2.5.4, 2.6.1
		The application of macroeconomic policy instruments and the national economy	2.6.2, 2.6.3, 2.6.4, 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.6
F583	3.3	Nature of work and leisure and trends in employment and earnings	-
		Market structures and competitive behaviour in leisure markets	3.2.1, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.4.1, 3.4.3, 3.4.4, 3.4.5, 3.4.7, 3.6.1
		Labour demand, supply and wage determination	3.5.1, 3.5.2, 3.5.3
		Market failure and the role of government and unions in the labour market	3.5.2, 3.5.3
F584	3.4	Transport, transport trends and the economy	-
		Market structures and competitive behaviour in transport markets	3.2.1, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.4.1, 3.4.3, 3.4.4, 3.4.5, 3.4.7, 3.6.1
		Market failure and the role of intervention in transport markets	1.3.2, 1.4.1, 3.6.1
		Transport economics and government policy	1.3
F585	3.5	Macroeconomic performance	2.4.4, 2.5.1, 2.5.2, 2.5.3, 2.5.4, 2.6.1, 2.6.2, 2.6.3, 4.1.9, 4.5.4
		Trade and integration	2.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3,

			4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.1.6, 4.1.7, 4.1.8,
		Development and sustainability	2.1.1, 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3
		The economics of globalisation	4.1.1, 4.1.5, 4.3.3