

Outline Programme of Study for Economics at Key Stage 4

Using the Outline Programme of Study

This outline programme of study sets out the broad principles and requirements to which any approved course in economics should adhere. It provides a framework within which courses in economics can be developed, or against which courses in economics can be evaluated in order to determine if they provide appropriate learning experiences.

Pupils with physical or sensory difficulties should have access to appropriate non-visual or non-aural methods of communication, or to the technological aids which will facilitate communication and/or access to the activities outlined in the programme of study. Such pupils should have access to the time and support required to facilitate their use of aids and/or methods of communication.

Introduction

The principles and requirements set out below are underpinned by the view that economics concerns enquiry into, and understanding of, the allocation of resources to the production and distribution of wealth. In order to involve them in the learning process, pupils should be given opportunities to engage in a variety of activities. *Examples of these activities include:*

- *the use of case studies based on some aspect of the local economy;*
- *simulations;*
- *role-play;*
- *use of data response type material;*
- *economic games;*
- *fieldwork; and*
- *computer assisted learning.*

Where appropriate, pupils should have opportunities to address the objectives of the educational (cross-curricular) themes.

Principles

Any course in economics should provide opportunities for pupils to:

- make effective use of terminology, concepts and methods relevant to the subject, and to recognise the strengths and limitations of the ideas used;
- develop the ability to apply their knowledge of economics in a wide range of contexts, including Northern Ireland, distinguishing between facts and opinions, and evaluating data in order to make informed judgements;
- develop knowledge and understanding of the working of economic systems and the interdependence and dynamics in economic behaviour.

Requirements

A course in economics should provide pupils with opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding of the two essential areas which are set out below.

- 1 The basic economic problems and decisions which give rise to economics as a discipline.
- 2 The economic behaviour of individuals, groups, organisations and governments within local, national and international communities.

In relation to 1 and 2 above, pupils should be given opportunities to develop knowledge and critical understanding of:

- the concepts, theories and methods needed to analyse issues from an economics perspective;
- economic terms, classifications and indicators;
- the institutional and organisational framework within which economic behaviour takes place;
- the criteria against which economic behaviour might be assessed.