

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS & A LEVEL

Economics 9708

Syllabus Overview

Examinations 2026, 2027 and 2028

Understanding the whole syllabus

Economics connects choices made by individuals and firms with outcomes across the whole economy. Diagrams, numerical evidence and written arguments are different ways of explaining those connections. A policy may benefit one group while imposing costs on another, which is why assumptions and context matter.

For Economics 9708, the content map below follows the approved subject briefing and the official syllabus. Labels group related areas for orientation; the detailed syllabus remains the authority for individual learning requirements.

Content map

Syllabus area or component	What the area covers
AS: Scarcity and market allocation	At AS Level, you will begin with the central economic problem of scarcity, choice and opportunity cost. You will then examine how markets allocate resources through demand, supply and the price mechanism.
AS: Intervention, macroeconomy and international issues	The course also explores market failure, government intervention and important macroeconomic issues such as inflation, unemployment, economic growth and the balance of payments. You will study fiscal, monetary and supply-side policies, before considering international trade, exchange rates and economic development.
A Level: Advanced microeconomics and macroeconomics	At A Level, these ideas are developed in greater depth. You will analyse consumer behaviour, business costs, market structures and the objectives of firms. You will also investigate inequality, labour markets, economic efficiency, advanced macroeconomic policy and globalisation.
Economic analysis and judgement	Throughout the course, the emphasis is not only on remembering economic theory. You must be able to interpret evidence, construct logical chains of analysis, use clearly labelled diagrams and reach balanced, well-supported judgements.

These areas should be read as a connected course. Begin with the foundational knowledge identified in the first part of the map, then build towards the applications and explanations that depend on it. Study a concept, its diagram and its verbal explanation together. Keep separate records of calculation errors and gaps in reasoning, and revisit both before moving to timed data-response and essay work. Where a row describes a choice of topics or components, study the selection required by your agreed route rather than treating all alternatives as compulsory.

Qualification and component choices

Qualification route	Components	Meaning
AS Level only	1 and 2	Standalone AS qualification, graded a-e
Staged A Level	1 and 2 first; then 3 and 4	Carry forward eligible AS marks within Cambridge rules and time limits
Full A Level in one series	1, 2, 3, 4	All required components; A Level graded A*-E

AS and A Level percentages refer to different qualification totals. A component can therefore have one weighting at AS and a different weighting in the full A Level. Confirm the entry option and any carry-forward arrangements with the centre.

The assessed skills

Assessment objectives describe the abilities Cambridge looks for across the qualification. The following explanations paraphrase the syllabus objectives; they are not additional topics or separate orientation tasks.

Assessment objective	Meaning for the learner
AO1 Knowledge and understanding	Select accurate subject knowledge, terminology and examples that answer the question, and explain their meaning.
AO2 Analysis	Interpret the information, apply an appropriate method and explain the relationships or reasoning that support the answer.
AO3 Evaluation	Weigh evidence, explanations or methods, explain limitations and reach a justified judgement.

These abilities work together in an answer. Accurate knowledge supports application, while a clear explanation shows how the evidence or method leads to a conclusion. The balance varies by component, so the next lesson connects these abilities with the actual assessment formats.

Key pointers: Follow the stated examination-year syllabus, cover the required areas for your route and develop skills alongside knowledge. **Next:** Open **Assessment Overview**.