



Cambridge IGCSE Economics (0455)

Frequently Asked Questions

Version 6, April 2012

What is the course book?

There are several books which are suitable for the Cambridge IGCSE Economics syllabus. The resource list gives a number of these.

Are any of the books endorsed by University of Cambridge International Examinations?

Yes and you can filter the resource list to find their details. The endorsed series of resources are: *Economics for IGCSE* (Nelson Thornes) by R. Dransfield, T. Cook and J. King; *Economics: A Complete Course for IGCSE & O Level* (Oxford University Press) by D. Moynihan and B. Titley; and *IGCSE and O Level Economics* (Cambridge University Press) by S. Grant.

Are any of the books written for teachers?

Yes, *Professional Development for Teachers: Teaching and Assessing Skills in Economics* by S. Grant is from the Professional Development for Teachers series by Cambridge University Press.

Do I need to teach the course in the order given in the syllabus?

No, the order in which you teach the course is entirely up to you.

Sometimes the questions start with a statement, e.g. about India or Kenya. Do the candidates have to know about these economies?

No, they do not. The introductory quotation or statement is intended as stimulus material only. Sometimes candidates will have to work with the data given or find examples from the extract, but they are not expected to have prior knowledge of a specific economy.

Does this mean that there is no point in the candidates knowing about their own economy?

No, it does not mean that. Candidates will receive credit for illustrating their answers, where relevant, with examples from their own economy or any economy that they have studied.

Is the use of calculators allowed?

Yes. For details of the restrictions on graphic display, databanks etc, which apply to all Cambridge examinations, see the Handbook for Centres.

Are the mark schemes published?

Yes. They are available on the Teacher Support website or on the Cambridge Publications CD-ROM.

Are marks deducted for wrong answers in the multiple choice?

No. The candidate's mark is the total number of questions answered correctly.

Are the multiple choice questions arranged in any particular order on the paper?

They are broadly arranged in the same order as the topics appear in the syllabus booklet.

How many marks are necessary to achieve the various grades?

This varies from year to year in the light of the difficulty of the papers. The most recent 'grade thresholds' are published on the Teacher Support website.

Where can I find the answer keys to the multiple choice questions?

They are in the published 'Report on the Examination', which is on the Teacher Support website and the Cambridge Publications CD-ROM.

Are there any changes to the syllabus?

In some sections, the content in the 2013 syllabus has been amended, and in some cases re-worded, to help enhance the clarity of the syllabus. Where changes have been made, these are down-ruled in the margin. Please refer to the 2013 syllabus for further details.

For the 2014 examinations, there are some further minor changes to the content but also changes to the assessment arrangements. Paper 3 (Analysis and Critical Evaluation) will be removed and Paper 2 (Structured Questions) will be slightly longer. Paper 1 (Multiple Choice) is unchanged. There are also changes to the Assessment Objectives.

For more information, please see the Syllabus Updates Document.

<http://www.cie.org.uk/docs/qualifications/Syllabus%20updates%20for%20Cambridge%20schools%202012.pdf#page=20>