



# Economics

## What will I learn about?

Ever wondered how our country's Economy works? How YOU and all of the businesses around you are all part of the World's Economy, joined together to trade with each other, from iPhones imported from China to selling cars from the UK to America. If this is what interests you, then GCSE Economics might just be for you. Even if you are not sure what you would like to do as a career, Economics is an excellent subject that opens up so many doors in the business world as you learn about economic activity through the eyes of consumers, producers and governments. After all, whether you work in the UK or abroad, it will be an organisation that is part of the UK or global economy.

## What will I learn about?

The course covers a fantastic range of topics that look at why business produce Goods and Services for us and how they decide what to produce, based on our needs and wants and how much to charge us for these things.

### **YEAR 1: HOW MARKETS WORK (Exam 50% - 1hr and 30mins = 80 Marks)**

**Economic Foundations:** The nature and purpose of our economic activity based on the production of goods and services and the satisfaction of all our needs and wants e.g. We NEED food but want a new TV.

**Allocating Resources:** We look behind reasons we produce goods and services and the decision as to what a country decides to produce e.g. wine from France, electronic gadgets from China. Also the benefits of having things made in these economies.

**How Price Is Determined:** Have you ever wondered why you pay the price you do? We look at the Supply and demand of goods and services and how the equilibrium price is determined e.g. petrol

**Production Costs and Revenues:** How a business decides how much to grow depends on many things such as the demand for their product and whether they can actually save money by growing – Economies of Scale.

**Competition:** how competition affects many things such as price and how the level of competition between businesses can be good and bad for consumers.

**Market Failure:** Here you investigate what is the impact of businesses on society and the environment (Externalities).

### **YEAR 2 : HOW THE ECONOMY WORKS (Exam 50% - 1hr and 30mins = 80 Marks)**

Here you look at how the Government tries to manage the economy. We see it all of the time on TV about what the government does. In Year 2 we discover just what tools the government has to help a country grow.

**Introduction to the economy :** We look at how the government uses Interest Rates, spending, borrowing and investment to help an economy grow.

**Government Objectives :** What does the government actually want to achieve? Does it want high employment, low unemployment, low inflation, economic growth, low environmental impact and a fair distribution of wealth?

**How Governments manage the Economy :** We look at how it controls the level of taxes we pay, the level of spending to help grow employment and businesses and the interest rates we pay on borrowing to help keep inflation low and growth high.

**International trade and global economy :** We look at why countries trade with each other, the role that money plays in helping an economy develop and how the banking system can support the population and businesses to achieve growth.

## Who can I speak to for more information?

For further information about the course please speak to Mr Staniforth, Subject Leader: Business & Economics, or contact [options@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:options@penistone-gs.uk).