
Qualification at a glance

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Economics A is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers.

Students build knowledge and understanding of core economic models and concepts in Themes 1 and 2, and then build on this and apply their knowledge to more complex concepts and models in Themes 3 and 4.

Students will need to apply their knowledge and understanding to both familiar and unfamiliar contexts in the assessments and demonstrate an awareness of current economic events and policies.

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure

This theme focuses on microeconomic concepts. Students will develop an understanding of:

- nature of economics
- how markets work
- market failure
- government intervention.

Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies

This theme focuses on macroeconomic concepts. Students will develop an understanding of:

- measures of economic performance
- aggregate demand
- aggregate supply
- national income
- economic growth
- macroeconomic objectives and policy.

Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market

This theme develops the microeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 1 and focuses on business economics.

Students will develop an understanding of:

- business growth
- business objectives
- revenues, costs and profits
- market structures
- labour market
- government intervention.

Theme 4: A global perspective

This theme develops the macroeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 2 and applies these concepts in a global context. Students will develop an understanding of:

- international economics
- poverty and inequality
- emerging and developing economies
- the financial sector
- role of the state in the macroeconomy.

Students must complete all assessment in May/June in any single year.

Paper 1: Markets and business behaviour		*Paper code: 9EC0/01
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally assessed Availability: May/June First assessment: 2017 	35% of the total qualification	
<p>Overview of content</p> <p>Paper 1 will assess microeconomics and questions will be drawn from Themes 1 and 3.</p>		
<p>Overview of assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written examination. The paper comprises three sections. Students answer all questions from Section A and Section B, and one from Section C. Section A comprises a range of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Section B comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts. Section C comprises a choice of extended open-response questions; students select one from a choice of two. Duration: 2 hours. 100 marks available. 		

Paper 2: The national and global economy		*Paper code: 9EC0/02
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally assessed Availability: May/June First assessment: 2017 	35% of the total qualification	
<p>Overview of content</p> <p>Paper 2 will assess macroeconomics and questions will be drawn from Themes 2 and 4.</p>		
<p>Overview of assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written examination. The paper comprises three sections. Students answer all questions from Section A and Section B, and one from Section C. Section A comprises a range of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Section B comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts. Section C comprises a choice of extended open-response questions; students select one from a choice of two. Duration: 2 hours. 100 marks available. 		

Paper 3: Microeconomics and macroeconomics***Paper code: 9EC0/03**

- Externally assessed
- Availability: May/June
- First assessment: 2017

**30% of the
total
qualification****Overview of content**

Paper 3 will assess content across all four themes.

Students are required to apply their knowledge and understanding, make connections and transfer higher-order skills across all four themes.

Overview of assessment

- Written examination.
- The paper comprises two sections.
- Each section comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including a choice of extended open-response questions; students select one from a choice of two.
- Duration: 2 hours.
- 100 marks available.

*See *Appendix 5: Codes* for a description of this code and all other codes relevant to this qualification.