

# BUSINESS STUDIES AND ECONOMICS

Both Business Studies and Economics are offered at AS and A level. Business Studies has been taught at Godolphin for the past 20 years and has a traditionally large uptake, while Economics, introduced into the curriculum in 1998, normally attracts a smaller cohort of students. Our aim in both subjects is to promote an excellent awareness of the current business and economic environments, as well as equipping each student with the necessary knowledge and skills to perform to the best of her ability in the corresponding public examinations. In order to enhance their knowledge of their chosen subject, students are given the opportunity to participate in the Young Enterprise programme, visit the City of London and local businesses, and take part in a bi-annual field trip abroad, which has in recent years been to the Czech Republic.

## BUSINESS STUDIES IN THE SIXTH FORM

### *Syllabus*

AQA Business Studies 5131 (AS) and 6131 (A2)

### *Assessment Pattern*

The full A level course consists of six modules. All students take one module (Marketing and Accounting) in January of the Lower Sixth, followed by the other two modules which make up the AS level at the end of the year, at which point they are free to discontinue the course if they so wish. Those intending to take the full A level study a further three modules, one of which will be examined in January of the Upper Sixth year.

### *Syllabus Content*

The main topics studied are Marketing, Accounting and Finance, Operations Management, Human Resources, External Influences, and Objectives and Strategy.

The AS exams consist of three one-hour papers, of which the latter two are based on a pre-released case study issued just before the Easter holidays. If a student is unhappy with her performance in any of the modules, then she is given the opportunity to resit in either the January or June exam series of her Upper Sixth year.

The A2 exams consist of three further papers, although a coursework option can be chosen to replace one of these. All A2 students sit the fourth module exam paper in January, and a further module in June. Those wishing to undertake coursework produce it at the beginning of the A2 course, and it can take many forms, the most popular of which is the fictitious setting up of a new business. Those not wishing to produce a piece of coursework sit a further exam paper; this comprises both a written business report and an essay. Once again, this is taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year.

Students need to have sound essay writing skills, and a reasonable degree of confidence with numbers for some of the topics, although extra lessons are offered to help in this area. GCSE English Language and Mathematics at grade B or above are therefore an advantage. Students are expected to subscribe to Business Review (approx £9 p.a.), and AS level students are recommended to have a copy of The A-Z Business Studies Dictionary (£7 approx).

### *Business Studies and University Entrance*

Many of our students choose to study business related subjects at university, and Business Management has in the last few years been the most popular course for our students to study at undergraduate level. Because of the vocational nature of the course, the career options are endless. Old Godolphins have for example set up their own companies in such diverse areas as gemology and research consulting, while others have enrolled on graduate management trainee courses, joined advertising agencies and public relations companies or studied for a PGCE in order to teach the subject.

# ECONOMICS IN THE SIXTH FORM

## *Syllabus*

Edexcel Economics 8120 (AS) and 9120 (A2)

## *Assessment Pattern*

The full A level course consists of six modules. All students take one module (How Markets Work) in January of the Lower Sixth, followed by the other two modules which make up the AS level at the end of the year, at which point they are free to discontinue the course if they so wish. Those intending to take the full A level study a further three modules, again sitting one of the modules in the January exam series, and followed by the final two modules at the end of the Upper Sixth.

## *Syllabus Content*

The course splits into four modules of microeconomics and two modules of macroeconomics. In the Lower Sixth students study the modules 'Markets – how they work' followed by 'Markets – why they fail' in order to gain a good basic knowledge of microeconomics. Running alongside these modules is the module 'Managing the economy' which introduces the student to the macroeconomic environment. If a student is unhappy with her performance in any of these modules, then she is given the opportunity to resit in either the January or June exam series of her Upper Sixth year.

There is no coursework option within this Economics course, so the A2 syllabus is examined through three further written exam papers. Students study in microeconomics the module 'Industrial Economics', examined in January of the Upper Sixth, followed by the specialist area 'Labour Markets'. Alongside these modules, they study the macroeconomic module 'The UK in the global economy'.

Each exam paper has a slightly different structure with structured choice, data response and essay questions all being used for assessment purposes. Students therefore need to have sound essay writing skills, and to be confident in dealing with numerical information, although extra lessons are offered to help in this area. GCSE English Language and Mathematics at grade B or above are therefore a requirement. Students are expected to subscribe to Economics Today (approx £9 p.a.), and AS students are recommended to have a copy of The A-Z Economics Dictionary (£7 approx).

## *Economics and University Entrance*

Many of our students choose to study business related subjects at university, and Business Management has in the last few years been the most popular course for our students to study at undergraduate level. Most years will see at least one student continuing to study Economics at university but it is worth noting that most of the popular universities will now insist upon a student having an A level in Mathematics. Economics graduates are always in much demand, particularly in the financial field with almost limitless opportunities being offered by merchant and commercial banks as well as government agencies.