

Economics- 2 Unit

Economic decisions have a crucial influence on the quality of life experienced by people throughout the world. The study of economics can help individuals, groups and societies make choices that assist them to improve their quality of life.

As a subject, Economics Stage 6 is distinctive because of the range of problems and issues that it investigates and the skills that it develops. A student who has completed the Preliminary and HSC courses should have knowledge and skills enabling them to:

- comprehend the background and implications of contemporary economic issues
- discuss appropriate policies to solve economic problems and issues
- understand what a change in interest rates, share values or the value of the Australian dollar means to individuals and the economy
- identify fluctuations in the global and Australian economies and their likely effects on business
- understand reasons for changes in employment patterns
- identify, using economic thinking, appropriate strategies to protect the natural environment.

The discipline of economics has a theoretical basis and economists often debate the relative merits of different theories when assessing economic issues and proposing solutions to economic problems, including economic modelling.

Discussion of economic issues dominates the media and politics. By understanding economics, students can make informed judgements about issues and policies and participate responsibly in decision-making.

Students will benefit from the study of economics if they engage in studies that include business, accounting and finance, media, law, marketing, employment relations, tourism, history, geography or environmental studies.

If selected as a specialisation at university, economics can lead to careers in:

- share, finance or commodities markets
- business
- economic forecasting
- banking
- insurance
- tourism
- resource management
- property development and management
- government
- environmental management
- town planning
- foreign affairs or economic policy development.

The study of Economics Stage 6 allows students to develop knowledge and understanding, skills, attitudes and values using subject matter and methodology that suit their interests. The course benefits students when they pursue further education and training, employment and active participation as citizens.

The Preliminary course is essentially microeconomic in nature, focusing on aspects of the economic behaviour of consumers, business and governments. Much of this behaviour is influenced by the operation of markets. Two key markets, the labour market and the financial market, are examined in detail. The Preliminary course provides an essential foundation for the HSC course.

Preliminary Course 120 indicative hours	% of course time	Indicative Hours
1 Introduction to Economics	10	12
2 Consumers and Business	10	12
3 Markets	20	24
4 Labour Markets	20	24
5 Financial Markets	20	24
6 Government in the Economy	20	24

HSC Course

The HSC course focuses on the management of an economy and is therefore essentially macroeconomic in nature. It examines the external framework in which the Australian economy operates. The course investigates the impact of the global economy on the Australian economy and the link between economic issues and the management of an economy, with specific reference to the Australian economy.

Higher School Certificate Course 120 indicative hours	% of course time	Indicative Hours
1 The Global Economy	25	30
2 Australia's Place in the Global Economy	25	30
3 Economic Issues	25	30
4 Economic Policies and Management	25	30

The order of the topics in both the Preliminary and HSC courses is not prescriptive and may be influenced by economic events, the interests and needs of the students or the availability of resources.