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The Cambridge IGCSE Economics course has officially been published, marking the beginning of a new era in economic education. The new syllabus promises to bring about significant changes, including updated aims, changed assessment objectives, and a revised curriculum that incorporates themes of environmental sustainability and global perspectives. **####** Changes to Aims A Table 1 highlights the main differences between the outgoing and new syllabus. The new course aims to explore the purpose and role of economists in investigating economic issues and problems, while also inspiring an interest in Economics that could lead to further study or employment. **####** Assessment Changes Table 2 compares the assessment changes between the outgoing legacy syllabus and the new syllabus. Paper 1 now has a longer duration and more marks, with the introduction of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs). In contrast, Paper 2 has a shorter duration but retains the same number of marks. The weightings of the assessment objectives have also been adjusted. **####** New Content and Removed Topics The new syllabus incorporates themes such as environmental sustainability and global perspectives, with new content added on economics and the environment. Examples include topics like government intervention to address market failure and environmental sustainability as a sixth aim. Conversely, some topics have been removed, including microeconomics and macroeconomics. **####** Time Requirements The Cambridge IGCSE Economics course is designed for approximately 130 guided learning hours but can vary depending on school context and student prior knowledge or experience. The new International Education (CAIE) syllabus has brought about several changes to make it more understandable and concise. The language used in both subject content and assessment objectives has been simplified for easier comprehension. Additionally, the weightings of the assessment objectives have been adjusted, placing greater emphasis on understanding knowledge and economic analysis. The exam duration and mark allocation have also undergone changes, with Paper 1 now having a longer duration and more marks, while Paper 2 is shorter and has fewer marks. However, the overall total number of marks remains unchanged. Teachers should be aware that along with the new syllabus, updated specimen papers and mark schemes are available on the CAIE website to help students understand exam requirements and question wording. These resources will also cover command words for each exam question. Specific changes include: * Unit 1.1 has been renamed from "The nature of the economic problem" to "The nature of the basic economic problem." * The concept of scarcity is now explicitly included in Unit 1.1.1. * Resource allocation decisions are now covered in Unit 1.1.2, addressing the three basic questions that determine resource allocation. * The mobility of factors of production has been removed from the syllabus. Changes have also been made to Unit 2, including: * The role of markets in allocating resources is now covered in Unit 2.1, while microeconomics and macroeconomics have been removed from the syllabus. * Other changes include the addition of market definitions, the price mechanism, and implications for decision-making by workers. Teachers can access resources for Topic 1 of the new syllabus on the CAIE website. It is essential to note that these changes affect the outgoing syllabus, and teachers should be aware of them when referring to resources such as exam questions and mark schemes. The updated syllabus for this subject has made some significant changes to the content and structure of the topics. The new guide has made significant changes to the syllabus, removing references to the PPC and "changes in investment, technology" from some units. The table below highlights the differences between the outgoing syllabus and the new one. Table 4 - Comparing learning outcomes for the causes of economic growth | Outgoing Syllabus | New Syllabus | | --- | --- | | How changes in total demand may increase the utilisation of resources and GDP, resulting in a movement from inside toward the PPC | How changes in total demand may increase the utilisation of resources and GDP | | (i) an increase in total demand | (i) an increase in total demand | | (ii) an increase in the quantity of resources, or | (ii) an increase in the quantity of resources, or | | (iii) an increase in the quality of resources | (iii) an increase in the quality of resources | | How economic growth shifts the economy's PPC to the right and is caused by changes in investment, technology, and the quantity and quality of the factors of production | In addition, for Unit 4.5.3 (Consequences of economic growth), the wording has been simplified from "The costs and benefits of economic growth in the context of different economies," to advantages and disadvantages of economic growth. **####** ARTICLE In Thinking IGCSE Economics provides teachers with comprehensive resources to streamline lesson planning and engage learners. Key features include: Detailed coverage of the new syllabus as an e-book Comprehensive glossary of key terms Self-marked multiple-choice questions for Paper 1 preparation Embedded educational videos with accompanying worksheets Classroom activities to enhance student learning Exam tips and strategies to avoid common mistakes Weekly updates and monthly newsletters with expert advice Free access to students in subscribing schools. The new textbook can be found on the publisher's website here. Teachers can download a free sample chapter of the new textbook here. The textbook, published in March 2025, enables students to explore Economics as a real-world subject through updated case studies from around the world. The new edition provides in-depth coverage of the revised Cambridge IGCSE, IGCSE (9-1) and O Level Economics syllabuses (0455/0987/2281). It provides accessible content for all learners, with updated practice questions, ESL-friendly content, and an improved structure. Teachers can access answers to exam practice questions and class activities for free from the publisher's website here. The textbook is also available for purchase on Amazon. The 3rd edition workbook in paperback (ISBN-13: 9781036010751) is fully endorsed by Cambridge Assessment International Education. Hachette Learning's website provides more information on this. The updated workbook is an ideal course companion or homework book for use throughout the course. It reinforces learning and deepens understanding of key topics covered in the latest Cambridge IGCSE, IGCSE (9-1) and O Level Economics syllabuses (0455/0987/2281). The workbook consolidates knowledge and skills with updated exercises based on authentic contexts and problems. Hachette Learning hosted a free webinar for teachers to cover changes in the new Cambridge IGCSE (0455) Economics syllabus. You can watch the recording here. A Google Slides version of the presentation from the recent webinar about the new syllabus is available below, however it cannot be downloaded due to copyright reasons. **####** ARTICLE

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