BERLIN BRITISH SCHOOL
Course overview
Economics

Grade 9	
1 The basic economic problem	Students will begin by exploring the fundamental economic problem of scarcity and how limited resources are allocated to meet unlimited wants and needs. They will study the four factors of production—land, labour, capital, and enterprise—and develop an understanding of opportunity cost and the choices involved in resource allocation. Students will also use Production Possibility Curve (PPC) diagrams to examine efficiency, resource use, and economic growth.
2 The allocation of resources	Students will then investigate how markets operate and allocate resources through the forces of demand and supply. They will learn how prices are determined and how changes in demand and supply influence market outcomes. Students will also explore price elasticity of demand and supply, different economic systems, including market and mixed economies, and the causes and consequences of market failure.
3 Microeconomic decision-makers	The final part of the unit focuses on microeconomic decision-makers, including households, workers, firms, and banks. Students will consider how households make economic choices, how workers participate in labour markets, and how firms make decisions about production, costs, revenue, and business objectives. They will also examine different types of markets and develop their ability to apply economic concepts to real-world situations, data, and diagrams.

Grade 10	
4 Government	Students will explore the role of government in managing the wider

and the macroeconomy	economy and learn how governments seek to achieve key macroeconomic objectives. They will study fiscal, monetary, and supply-side policies and consider how these policies can influence economic growth, employment, unemployment, and inflation. Students will develop an understanding of the opportunities and challenges involved in managing an economy and will apply these concepts to real-world economic situations.
5 Economic development	Students will then examine economic development and differences in living standards between individuals and countries. They will explore how living standards can be measured, the causes and consequences of poverty, and the relationship between population and economic development. Students will consider why some countries experience higher levels of development than others and investigate the economic, social, and environmental factors that contribute to differences in development.
6 International trade and globalisation	Finally, students will investigate international trade and globalisation and how countries and economies are increasingly interconnected. They will study the benefits of specialisation and free trade, as well as the reasons governments may place restrictions on trade. Students will also explore foreign exchange rates and the current account of the balance of payments, developing an understanding of how international economic activity affects countries, businesses, and consumers.

Grade 11	
Introduction to economics	What is economics? How do economists approach the world? Where do economists come from in the world?
Microeconomics 1: How do consumers and producers make choices in trying to meet their economic	Demand and supply, competitive market equilibrium and elasticity of demand and supply. A critique of the maximizing behaviour of consumers and producers. Conceptual understanding: • Interaction between consumers and producers in a market is the main mechanism through which resources are directed to meet the needs and wants in an economy.

objectives?	• Consumer and producer choices are the outcome of complex decision-making. • Welfare is maximized if allocative efficiency is achieved. • Constant change produces dynamic markets.
Microeconomics 2: When are markets unable to satisfy important economic objectives? Does government intervention help?	Role of government in microeconomics, market failure resulting from externalities, common access resources, public goods, asymmetric information, market power and the market's inability to achieve equity. Conceptual understanding: • The market mechanism may result in socially undesirable outcomes that do not achieve efficiency, environmental sustainability and/or equity. • Market failure, resulting in allocative inefficiency and welfare loss. • Resource overuse, resulting in challenges to environmental sustainability. • Inequity, resulting in inequalities. • Governments have policy tools which can affect market outcomes, and government intervention is effective, to varying degrees, in different real-world markets. How do different governments around the world answer the economic the three basic questions?
Macroeconomics 1: Why does economic activity vary over time and why does this matter?	Measuring economic activity and illustrating its variations. Variations in economic activity—aggregate demand and aggregate supply. Macroeconomic objectives. Economics of inequality and poverty. Conceptual understanding: • Change in the conditions of the demand and supply sides of the economy cause economic activity to • Vary over time. • Fluctuations in economic activity impact the economic well-being of individuals and societies. • Different schools of macroeconomic thought identify different causes and offer different solutions for • Macroeconomic problems. Real world examples to include global perspectives.
Macroeconomics 2:	Monetary and fiscal policy. Supply-side policies. Conceptual understanding:

How do governments manage their economy and how effective are their policies?	• Government intervention attempts to achieve macroeconomic objectives through a choice of policies. • Political, economic, social and environmental factors are interdependent and will influence the effectiveness of government policies. Real world examples to include global perspectives.

Grade 12	
The Global Economy 1: Who are the winners and losers of the integration of the world's economies?	Benefits of international trade. Types of trade protection. Arguments for and against trade control/protection. Economic integration. Exchange rates. Balance of payments. Conceptual understanding: • The increased interdependence of economies has benefits and costs. • Increased economic integration may result in efficiency, welfare gains and improvements in economic well-being but the benefits may not result in equity. Real world examples to include global perspectives.
The Global Economy 2: Why is economic development uneven?	Sustainable development. Measuring development. Barriers to economic growth and/or economic development. Economic growth and/or economic development strategies. Conceptual understanding: • Perceptions of the meanings of development and equity change over time and vary across cultures. • Governments and other economic agents may intervene in an attempt to promote economic wellbeing and equity in societies. • The pursuit of sustainability is subject to various constraints. • Effective strategies should take account of the relevant social, economic, and political context.