

Important Dates and Information
International Baccalaureate Higher Level Economics
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Information:

- IB HL Economics is a two semester course that follows IB Economics and is taken in the senior year.
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- The four sections of the syllabus are:
 - 1.) Introduction and Microeconomics
 - 2.) Macroeconomics
 - 3.) International Economics
 - 4.) Development Economics
- **This is a very challenging class that will increase in the level of difficulty as the school year progresses.** My expectations grow as the students are introduced to the variety of skills needed to do well on the exams. If a student maintains the same grade throughout the year, then they are matching my expected learning curve. If their grade improves, they are expanding their skill and knowledge base at a better rate than expected. **If their grade is growing worse, they are falling behind the learning curve. If grades are falling encourage your child to attend tutorial. I offer focused tutorials on specific skills that many students are struggling with as well as individual tutorials for better understanding of content.** Tutorial takes place on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the first fifteen minutes of the Discovery period and during lunch, and after school by appointment.
- This class will prepare the student to take the IB Standard Level or Higher Level Economics Exam. The IB HL exam is composed of three “papers”. The first paper is two longer essays each with two parts. The first essay is based on advanced microeconomics of Theory of a Firm. The second essay is based on Macroeconomics involving fiscal and/or monetary policy. The second paper is composed of answering three shorter essays. Each “essay” has four parts and is based on the reading of an article pertaining to economics. The second paper involves students using international and developmental economics in combination with basic macro and micro knowledge. Paper Three is quantitative and tests math concepts in economics. In addition, four internal assessment essays will be completed. Three of their best IA’s are turned in as a portfolio of work that accounts for 20% of their grade for IB. The standard level exam does not contain a paper 3 math component.
- Remember that Trinity awards a full letter grade boost to those taking this class.

- **Multiple choice tests are difficult. The questions are not to test memorization skills but to test analytical, synthesis and application skills.** My test will also reflect this difficulty. **I throw out questions that over half miss and use them to reteach/explain the material and “approach” needed to get the question right.**
- **Essay and Internal Assessment writing also use new skills and a reliance on reasoning/critical thinking as well as graphing. Writing is no longer just informational in nature.** A well-written thesis that is defended with both correct economic information analysis and evaluation provided by the writer is essential to do well. This writing must be clear, cogent, persuasive and different from others. A typical IB question will always ask the student to evaluate. For example:
 - 1.) A. Using an appropriate diagram, explain how a monopolist might be able to make supernormal profits in the short-run, and why these profits might continue to be earned in the long run. (10 points)
 - B. Evaluate the view that monopolistic competition is a more economically desirable market form than monopoly. (15 points)

Important Dates:

Possible Saturday/Sunday Schools: Generally two weeks advance notice is given and I only schedule them when at least 70% can make the class.. I follow Saturday/Sunday class with an immediate makeup opportunity on the following Monday after school. These classes generally start a new unit or are very early in a new unit so that the students have plenty of time to attend tutorial and get notes etc from either members of class or me.

Internal Assessment Due Dates: Students must compose a portfolio of at least three commentaries of at least 600, but not more than 750 words. Due dates for these are on the IB Squarespace page and are listed below.

Sept 24-sample, Nov. 1, Jan. 26, Feb. 9 and March 23.

Portfolios due for mailing-March 27

These dates are rough approximates given winter weather and the schedule.

First week of November-Documentation for extra time for IB Exams. First week of February-Documentation for extra time, and accommodations to Ms. Crews for AP Exams. If you think this applies to your child, please email Sue Crews and Maureen Mauck in the ARC as soon as possible. They will tell you what is needed. **Trinity’s accommodation for test taking does not necessarily satisfy the College Board or the International Baccalaureate Office regarding the ability to have accommodations for those tests.**

Tuesday, May 13-12 noon-IB HL Exam Paper One -registration done in school and families billed-location in the Estes Center

Wednesday, May 14-8am- IB HL Exam Papers Two and Three