



For Performance Measurement

**ZIMBABWE SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
(ZIMSEC)**

**ZIMBABWE GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION
(ZGCE)**

For Examinations in June/November 2013 - 2017

O-Level Syllabus

ECONOMICS (2283)

SUBJECT 2283: ECONOMICS

SUBJECT 2283 ECONOMICS

1.0 PREAMBLE

This syllabus is intended to provide a course in Economics which equips pupils in Zimbabwe with the knowledge and skills necessary for them to understand economic problems and issues affecting their lives. To this end, the teaching approach should be problem-centred, with opportunities to analyse real-life economic problems affecting Zimbabwe being provided.

2.0 AIMS

The syllabus should enable pupils to:

- 2.1 develop a sound knowledge and understanding of economic terminology and principles and elementary economic theory;
- 2.2 acquire skills necessary for understanding how the economy operates;
- 2.3 develop basic economic numeracy and literacy and the ability to handle simple data including graphs and diagrams;
- 2.4 provide a clear understanding of economic problems peculiar to Zimbabwe and other developing countries and their relationships with the developed world;
- 2.5 use tools of analysis to understand and contribute to the socialist transformation of the Zimbabwe economy;
- 2.6 participate more fully in decision-making processes, as consumers and producers in the local, national and international community;
- 2.7 identify and discriminate between differing sources of information and distinguish facts and value judgements in economic issues.

3.0 ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Pupils should be able to:

- 3.1 demonstrate knowledge with understanding in relation to economic phenomena, facts, definitions, vocabulary, terminology, conventions, concepts, principles and theories;
- 3.2 analyse, select, organise, and interpret data;
- 3.3 apply economic knowledge in verbal, numerical, diagrammatic, pictorial and graphical form;

- 3.4 use economic data to recognise patterns and to deduce relationships and to be able to make judgements and economic decisions;
- 3.5 distinguish between evidence and opinion;
- 3.6 recognise that economic theory is subject to various limitations and uncertainties;
- 3.7 evaluate the social and environmental implications of a particular course of economic action;

4.0 METHODOLOGY

To achieve the stated aims and objectives, the following approaches are advocated:

- 4.1 the frequent use of case studies to illustrate and to stimulate discussion;
- 4.2 class debates on economic issues and problems affecting pupils' lives;
- 4.3 educational visits to local producers and/or manufacturers to encourage identification of economic problems;
- 4.4 projects designed to solve local economic problems.

5.0 CONTENT

5.1 Introduction to Economics

- definition of economics
- nature and scope of economics
- scarcity and choice
- opportunity cost
- the nature of economic problems and solutions needed

5.2 Employment and Production with reference to the economic structure of Zimbabwe before and after independence

5.2.1. Population

- the optimum population
- introduction to the census size, age, geographical and occupational distribution of population
- factors affecting population growth rates and its impact on economic development: the size and composition of the labour force, dependency ratio.

5.2.2. Production in Zimbabwe

- overview of production and employment in Zimbabwe
- organisation and motives behind production in various economic systems
- direct and indirect methods of production
- factors of production
- stages of production (including primary, secondary and tertiary industries)

5.2.3. Location of industries

- factors affecting location and concentration of industries
- reasons for and methods of government intervention
- emergence of growth points
- national and international specialisation and division of labour (including individuals, firms, regions -- e.g. SADC and PTA countries)

5.2.4. Constraints of production and possible solutions

- constraints (e.g. regional policies and lack of capital investment, trained manpower and foreign currency, world economic crisis in the 1980s)
- possible solutions (e.g. Five Year National Development Plan and regional co-operation)

5.2.5. Business organisation and new economic structures

overview of the following: sole trader, partnerships, private companies, holding companies, State undertakings, multinational and transnational companies.

- new structures (cooperatives, informal sector)
- size of business units (including: vertical and horizontal integration; economic effects of integration; economies and diseconomies of scale; survival of small enterprises)

5.2.6. Employees' and employers' organisations in Zimbabwe

- worker committees
- trade unions
- employer associations

5.3 Distribution of Goods (Markets and Trade)

5.3.1. Theory of supply and demand and determination of price (including causes of changes in demand and supply conditions and their effect on price; price elasticity of demand and supply)

5.3.2. Constraints on the availability of goods in Zimbabwe

5.3.3. Free market versus Government regulations (including system of price control in Zimbabwe)

5.3.4. Types of market

- A descriptive approach with the use of diagrams is required as an elementary introduction to the concepts of perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, to include consideration of how pricing and output policies differ in markets with different degrees of competition.

5.4 Money and income

5.4.1 Functions, properties and types of money and its role in the economy.

5.4.2 Inflation

- causes, effects and types of inflation (including distinction between nominal and real values)
- measurement of inflation - General Index of Retail Prices (include the two indices in Zimbabwe)

5.4.3 The nation's income: Gross Domestic Product as a measure of output and Income.

5.4.4 Inequalities of income and wealth (with particular reference to the Zimbabwean economy)

- causes of inequalities in wages between and within occupations
- causes of inequalities in other income
- methods of reducing inequalities of income and wealth

5.4.5 Banking and Financial Institutions

- development of banking (including commercial banks and the central bank (Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe)
- functions of banks and building societies
- local financial institutions (e.g. Zimbabwe Development Bank, co-operative banks, Small Enterprise Development Corporation)
- local money markets and capital markets (brief treatment only)

5.4.6 Stock Exchange in Zimbabwe

- role of the stock exchange
- operation of the stock exchange

5.5 Organisation of an Economy

- 5.5.1 Types and organisation of economic systems: subsistence, feudal, market, centrally planned (Socialist command economy), mixed
- 5.5.2 Role of Government: wage policies, nationalised industries, state provision of goods and services, price controls and price guarantees (marketing boards)
- 5.5.3 Transition of Socialism in Zimbabwe: present organisation of the economy; government transition policy towards Socialist planning

5.6 International Trade and Economic Relations in the World

- 5.6.1 Balance of trade and balance of payments
- 5.6.2 Terms of trade
- 5.6.3 Foreign exchange: exchange rates; problems of foreign exchange shortages; possible sources of earning foreign exchange
- 5.6.4 Free trade versus protectionism (as a problem in the region)
- 5.6.5 Trade with SADC and PTA countries
- 5.6.6 Economic relations between developed and developing countries
- 5.6.7 Development Aid and Debt Crisis: a critical awareness of issues

6.0 SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

The examination will consist of two papers.

- 6.1 Paper 1 will consist of 40 objective test questions with four suggested answers A, B, C and D. Candidates are required to select the most appropriate answer. The paper will carry 40% of the marks for the subject and will be of 1¼ hours duration.

The number of multiple choice items set on each syllabus section, and the skills to be tested, will be as follows:

Syllabus Section	Skills		
	Knowledge with Understanding	Analysis and Application	Total Items
5.1 Introduction to Economics	2	2	4
5.2 Employment and Production	3	3	6
5.3 Distribution of Goods (Markets and Trade)	2	6	8
5.4 Money and Income	5	3	8
5.5 Organisation of an Economy	4	2	6
5.6 International Trade and Economic Relations	4	4	8
	20 items	20 items	40 items

In total, 4 to 6 of the items will test graphical skills and 7 to 10 items will test computational skills.

6.2 Paper 2

The paper will carry 60% of the marks and will be of 2 hours' duration. Candidates will be required to attempt FOUR questions out of at least ten set. (Essays and structured questions)

Questions will be set on the whole syllabus.