

# Economics Exam Breakdown

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## Economics Exam Breakdown

CSEC Economics is examined across three components. Understanding what each paper tests helps you direct your revision and avoid wasting time on material that will not appear in the form you studied.

### The Three Papers

Paper	Format	Duration	Marks	% of Total
Paper 01	60 multiple-choice items	1 hr 15 min	60	30%
Paper 02	5 compulsory structured essays	2 hr	100	50%
Paper 031 (SBA)	Research project	School-assessed	40	20%
Paper 032 (Private candidates)	Case study	1 hr 30 min	40	20%

### Paper 01 — Multiple Choice

Each of the 60 items has four options (A–D). The paper samples all eight syllabus sections proportionally. Questions test Knowledge/Comprehension, Application, and Interpretation and Analysis in a 1:2:1 ratio, which means most items require you to apply or interpret rather than simply recall.

Section	Topic	Items
1	The Nature of Economics	6
2	Production, Economic Resources and Resource Allocation	8
3	Demand and Supply	10
4	Market Structure and Market Failure	6
5	The Financial Sector	6

6	Economic Management: Policies and Goals	8
7	International Trade	8
8	Caribbean Economies in a Global Environment	8

Section 3 (Demand and Supply) carries the most items, so elasticity calculations, equilibrium shifts, and graph interpretation deserve special attention.

## Paper 02 — Structured Essays

Five compulsory questions, each worth 20 marks. Questions 1, 2, and 3 draw from Sections 1–4 (Microeconomics); Questions 4 and 5 draw from Sections 5–8 (Macroeconomics). Each question tests all three profile dimensions.

Structured essay questions typically combine:

- A short definition or identification part (low marks, quick points)
- A diagram or calculation part (requires accuracy and correct labelling)
- An explain or discuss part (requires developed reasoning, not bullet points)
- An evaluate or suggest part (requires weighing evidence or recommending a policy)

### Exam Tip

In Paper 02, show all working for calculations even if you cannot reach the final answer. Partial credit is awarded for method. A correct method with an arithmetic slip is better than a blank space.

## SBA — Research Project (Paper 031)

The School-Based Assessment is a guided research project of no more than 1,000 words (excluding appendices). It investigates a topic, issue, or problem in economics and must include:

1. Table of contents
2. Topic/issue/problem statement
3. Objectives linked to the topic
4. Background and overview
5. Methodology (at least two data-collection instruments)
6. Presentation and analysis of data (tables, charts, graphs)
7. Conclusion
8. Recommendations (at least two, based on findings)

- 9. Bibliography
- 10. Appendices

The mark scheme rewards Application (20/40 marks) most heavily, followed by Knowledge/Comprehension and Interpretation and Analysis (10 marks each).

## Profile Dimensions

Every paper tests the same three profiles, just in different proportions:

Profile	What it means	% of total exam
Knowledge/Comprehension	Define, list, identify, state concepts correctly	30%
Application	Apply concepts to solve problems and situations	40%
Interpretation and Analysis	Interpret data; organise and present arguments	30%

Application is the dominant profile. Knowing definitions is necessary but not sufficient. Practise working with data, graphs, and scenarios for every major topic.

## Syllabus Map

Sections	Branch	Key themes
1-4	Microeconomics	Scarcity, production, markets, firm behaviour, market failure
5-8	Macroeconomics	Money, government policy, national income, trade, Caribbean economies

## Revision Approach

Paper 01 rewards breadth. Work through all eight sections and drill past-paper multiple-choice sets to recognise question patterns.

Paper 02 rewards depth plus technique. For every major topic, practise: (a) drawing and labelling the relevant diagram, (b) writing a concise definition, and (c) constructing a short argument with cause and effect reasoning.

The macro sections (5–8) account for Questions 4 and 5 in Paper 02 — two of the five questions. They also account for 30 of the 60 Paper 01 items. Students who neglect the macro sections sacrifice half the exam.

Study Vault