Economics

JAMB UTME Syllabus: topics and objectives

Aim. This syllabus prepares you for the UTME in Economics. It tests whether you can: (1) show sound knowledge of the basic concepts and tools of economic analysis and how they are applied; (2) explain the structures, operations and roles of economic units and institutions, national and international; (3) describe the major economic activities of production, distribution and consumption; (4) identify and assess the basic and current economic problems of society; and (5) suggest solutions to the problems you identify.

How to use it. The left column lists what the topic covers. The right column lists what you should be able to do after studying it. Tick each objective off as you master it, and practise past questions on each topic.

1. ECONOMICS AS A SCIENCE

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Basic concepts: wants, scarcity, choice, scale of preference, opportunity cost, rationality, production, distribution, consumption • Economic problems: what, how and for whom to produce, and efficient use of resources • Using the production possibility frontier (PPF) to solve economic problems	1. Compare the basic concepts in economics and their applications 2. Interpret graphs and schedules linked to these concepts 3. Identify economic problems 4. Suggest solutions to economic problems

2. ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Types and features of free enterprise, centrally planned and mixed economies • How each system solves economic problems • Contemporary issues: economic reforms such as deregulation, banking sector consolidation and cash policy reform	1. Compare the different economic systems 2. Apply what you know about economic systems to current issues in Nigeria 3. Suggest solutions to economic problems under different systems

3. METHODS AND TOOLS OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Scientific approach: inductive and deductive methods; positive and normative reasoning • Basic tools: tables, charts and graphs • Measures of central tendency: mean, median and mode, and their uses • Measures of dispersion: variance, standard deviation, range, and their uses • Merits and demerits of the tools	1. Distinguish the forms of reasoning and apply them to real-life situations 2. Use the tools to interpret and analyse economic data 3. Understand the merits and demerits of the tools

4. THE THEORY OF DEMAND

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Meaning and determinants of demand; demand schedules and curves; change in quantity demanded versus change in demand • Types of demand: composite, derived, competitive and joint • Elasticity: types, nature, determinants and measurement (price, income and cross elasticity of demand) • Importance of elasticity to consumers, producers and government	1. Identify the factors that determine demand 2. Draw demand curves from demand schedules 3. Differentiate change in quantity demanded from change in demand 4. Compare the types of demand and how they relate 5. Relate the determinants to the nature of elasticity 6. Compute elasticities and interpret the coefficients in real-life situations

5. THE THEORY OF CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Utility: cardinal and ordinal; total, average and marginal utility • Indifference curve and budget line • Diminishing marginal utility and the law of demand • Consumer equilibrium using indifference curve and marginal analyses • Effects of shifts in the budget line and indifference curve • Consumer surplus and its uses	1. Explain the utility concepts 2. Apply the law of demand using marginal utility analysis 3. Use indifference curve and marginal analyses to find consumer equilibrium 4. Relate the income and substitution effects 5. Apply consumer surplus to real-life situations

6. THE THEORY OF SUPPLY

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Meaning and determinants of supply; supply schedules and curves; change in quantity supplied versus change in supply • Types of supply: joint or complementary, competitive and composite • Elasticity of supply: determinants, measurement, nature and uses	1. Identify the factors that determine supply 2. Draw supply curves from supply schedules 3. Differentiate change in quantity supplied from change in supply 4. Compare the types of supply and how they relate 5. Relate the determinants to the nature of elasticity 6. Compute elasticity coefficients and interpret them in real-life situations

7. THE THEORY OF PRICE DETERMINATION

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Concepts of market and price; functions of the price system • Equilibrium price and quantity in product and factor markets • Price legislation and its effects • Effects of changes in supply and demand on equilibrium price and quantity • Simple linear equations of demand and supply	1. Explain the concepts of market and price and the functions of the price system 2. Evaluate the effects of government interference with the price system 3. Differentiate minimum from maximum price legislation 4. Interpret the effects of changes in supply and demand on equilibrium 5. Work out the equilibrium price and quantity

8. THE THEORY OF PRODUCTION

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Meaning and types of production • TP, AP and MP and the law of variable proportion • Division of labour and specialisation • Scale of production: internal and external economies of scale • Production functions and returns to scale • Producer's equilibrium: isoquant-isocost and marginal analyses • Factors affecting productivity	1. Relate TP, AP and MP to the law of variable proportion 2. Compare internal and external economies of scale and their effects 3. Identify the types of production functions and compare returns to scale 4. Find the firm's equilibrium using isoquant-isocost and marginal analyses 5. Identify the factors affecting productivity

9. THEORY OF COSTS AND REVENUE

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Cost concepts: fixed, variable, total, average and marginal • Revenue concepts: total, average and marginal • Accountants' and economists' ideas of cost • Short-run and long-run costs • Marginal cost and the supply curve of the firm	1. Explain the cost and revenue concepts 2. Differentiate accountants' from economists' notions of cost 3. Interpret short-run and long-run cost curves 4. Show the relationship between marginal cost and the supply curve

10. MARKET STRUCTURES

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Perfect competition: assumptions, features, short-run and long-run equilibrium • Imperfect markets: pure monopoly, discriminating monopoly, monopolistic competition; short-run and long-run equilibrium • Break-even and shut-down analysis in the various markets	1. Analyse the assumptions and features of perfect competition and of imperfect markets 2. Differentiate short-run from long-run equilibrium for each type of firm 3. State the conditions for break-even and shut-down of firms

11. NATIONAL INCOME

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Concepts of GNP, GDP, NI and NNP • Measuring national income and the problems involved; its uses and limits • Circular flow of income (two- and three-sector models) • Consumption, investment and savings • The multiplier and its effects • Elementary theory of income determination and equilibrium national income	1. Identify the major national income concepts and compare ways of measuring it 2. Examine the problems, uses and limitations of national income estimates 3. Interpret the circular flow of income using the two- and three-sector models 4. Calculate the multipliers and evaluate their effects on equilibrium national income 5. Explain consumption, investment and savings

12. MONEY AND INFLATION

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Types, features and functions of money • Demand for money and supply of money • Quantity theory of money (Fisher equation) • Value of money and the price level • Inflation: types, measurement, effects and control • Deflation: measurement, effects and control	1. Explain the types, features and functions of money 2. Identify the factors affecting the demand for and supply of money 3. Relate the value of money to the price level and identify the parts of the quantity theory 4. Examine the causes, effects and control of inflation 5. Calculate and interpret the consumer price index 6. Examine the causes, measurement, effects and control of deflation

13. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Types and functions: traditional, central bank, mortgage banks, merchant banks, insurance companies, building societies • Role of financial institutions in economic development • Money and capital markets; financial sector regulation • Deposit money banks and the creation of money • Monetary policy and its instruments • Challenges facing financial institutions in Nigeria	1. Identify the types and functions of financial institutions and their role in development 2. Distinguish the money market from the capital market 3. Identify the financial sector regulators and what they do 4. Explain how money is created and the challenges of the process 5. Examine the monetary policy instruments and their effects 6. Appraise the challenges facing financial institutions in Nigeria

14. PUBLIC FINANCE

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Meaning and objectives • Fiscal policy and its instruments • Sources of government revenue: taxes, royalties, rents, grants and aids • Principles of taxation; tax incidence and its effects • Effects of public expenditure • Government budget and public debts • Revenue allocation and resource control in Nigeria	1. Identify the objectives of public finance and explain fiscal policy 2. Compare the sources of government revenue 3. Analyse the principles and incidence of taxation 4. Examine the effects of public expenditure and the types and effects of budgets 5. Highlight the criteria for revenue allocation in Nigeria and their impact

15. ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Meaning and scope • Indicators of growth and development • Factors affecting growth and development • Problems of development in Nigeria • Development planning in Nigeria	1. Distinguish economic growth from development 2. Highlight the indicators and the factors affecting growth and development 3. Examine the problems of development in Nigeria 4. Examine the role of planning in development

16. AGRICULTURE IN NIGERIA

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Types and features • Role of agriculture in economic development • Problems of agriculture • Agricultural policies and their effects • Instability in agricultural incomes: causes, effects and solutions	1. Identify the types and features of agriculture 2. Examine the characteristics and problems of agriculture 3. Assess the role of agriculture in economic development 4. Appraise agricultural policies in Nigeria 5. Evaluate the causes and effects of instability in agricultural incomes

17. INDUSTRY AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Location and localisation of industry in Nigeria: concepts and effects • Industrialisation strategies in Nigeria • Industrialisation and economic development in Nigeria	1. Differentiate location from localisation of industry and identify the factors influencing them 2. Examine the problems of industrialisation 3. Appraise some industrialisation strategies 4. Examine the role of industry in economic development

18. NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Development of major natural resources: petroleum, gold, diamond, timber and others • Contributions of the oil and non-oil sectors • Linkage effects • Upstream and downstream activities in the oil sector • Role of NNPC and OPEC • Challenges of exploiting natural resources	1. Trace the development of the major natural resources in Nigeria 2. Understand the contribution of the oil and non-oil sectors 3. Establish the linkages between natural resources and other sectors 4. Analyse the environmental effects of exploitation 5. Distinguish upstream from downstream activities and examine the roles of NNPC and OPEC 6. Suggest ways of controlling the effects of exploitation

19. BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Private enterprises: sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability companies and cooperative societies • Problems of private enterprises • Public enterprises and their problems • Funding and management of business organisations • Factors determining the size of firms • Privatisation and commercialisation as solutions to problems of public enterprises	1. Compare the types and basic features of private business organisations 2. Appreciate the financing and management problems of business organisations 3. Identify the features of public enterprises and the factors that determine firm size 4. Differentiate privatisation from commercialisation and compare their advantages and disadvantages

20. POPULATION

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Meaning and theories of population • Census: importance and problems • Size and growth: over-population, under-population and optimum population • Structure and distribution • Population policy and economic development	1. Analyse population theories and their relevance to Nigeria 2. Examine the uses and limitations of census data 3. Identify what determines the size, make-up and growth of population 4. Analyse the structure and distribution of population 5. Appraise government population policy in Nigeria

21. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Meaning and basis of international trade (absolute and comparative costs, etc.) • Balance of trade and balance of payments: problems and corrective measures • Composition and direction of Nigeria's foreign trade • Exchange rate: meaning, types and determination	1. Examine the basis of international trade and tell absolute from comparative advantage 2. Distinguish the balance of trade from the balance of payments, with their problems and corrective measures 3. Examine the composition and direction of Nigeria's foreign trade 4. Identify the types of exchange rate and how they are determined

22. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Roles and relevance to Nigeria of bodies such as ECOWAS, AU, EU, ECA, IMF, EEC, OECD, World Bank, IBRD, WTO, ADB and UNCTAD	1. Identify the international economic organisations and their functions 2. Evaluate their relevance to the Nigerian economy

23. FACTORS OF PRODUCTION AND THEIR THEORIES

TOPICS / CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES: candidates should be able to
• Types, features and rewards • Determination of wages, interest and profits • Theories: marginal productivity theory of wages and liquidity preference theory • Factor mobility and efficiency • Unemployment and its solutions	1. Identify the types, features and rewards of the factors of production 2. Analyse how wages, interest and profits are determined 3. Interpret the marginal productivity and liquidity preference theories 4. Examine factor mobility and efficiency 5. Examine the types and causes of unemployment in Nigeria and suggest solutions