



# Economics

## Student Background Questionnaire

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**2006**  
**Grade 12**

## DIRECTIONS

In the next two sections, you will be asked questions about yourself and your education. The choices for some questions will be written across the page as shown. Fill in the oval for the best answer.

### Example 1

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day
1. How often do you watch movies on TV?	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D

You should have filled in the oval below the answer that best tells how often you watch movies on TV.

The choices for some questions will be written down the page as shown. Now read Example 2 and indicate your answer.

### Example 2

2. Which event would you prefer to attend?
<input type="radio"/> A basketball game
<input type="radio"/> B car show
<input type="radio"/> C concert
<input type="radio"/> D play

Make your answer mark clear and dark in the oval. If you make a mistake or want to change your answer, be sure to completely erase any unwanted marks.

Do not go past the  sign at the end of each section until you are told to do so.

If you finish before time is called, go back and check your work on that section only. Use your time carefully. Do as much as you can in each section.



# SECTION 3

## Section 3

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 14 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet.

VB331330

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in **one or more ovals**.

- Ⓐ No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
- Ⓑ Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
- Ⓒ Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
- Ⓓ Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
- Ⓔ Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.

VB331331

2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in **one or more ovals**.

- Ⓐ White
- Ⓑ Black or African American
- Ⓒ Asian
- Ⓓ American Indian or Alaska Native
- Ⓔ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Section 3

For the rest of the questions in this section, fill in only **one** oval for each question.

3. Does your family get a newspaper at least four times a week? VB331333
- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) I don't know.
4. Does your family get any magazines regularly? VB331334
- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) I don't know.
5. About how many books are there in your home? VB331335
- (A) Few (0–10)
- (B) Enough to fill one shelf (11–25)
- (C) Enough to fill one bookcase (26–100)
- (D) Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)
6. Is there a computer at home that you use? VB331336
- (A) Yes
- (B) No
7. Is there an encyclopedia in your home? It could be a set of books, or it could be on the computer. VB331337
- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) I don't know.
8. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework? TB001101
- (A) 5 or fewer
- (B) 6–10
- (C) 11–15
- (D) 16–20
- (E) More than 20
9. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family? VB331339
- (A) Never or hardly ever
- (B) Once every few weeks
- (C) About once a week
- (D) Two or three times a week
- (E) Every day



10. How many days were you absent from school in the last month? VB331447
- Ⓐ None
  - Ⓑ 1 or 2 days
  - Ⓒ 3 or 4 days
  - Ⓓ 5 to 10 days
  - Ⓔ More than 10 days
11. How far in school did your mother go? VB330870
- Ⓐ She did not finish high school.
  - Ⓑ She graduated from high school.
  - Ⓒ She had some education after high school.
  - Ⓓ She graduated from college.
  - Ⓔ I don't know.
12. How far in school did your father go? VB330871
- Ⓐ He did not finish high school.
  - Ⓑ He graduated from high school.
  - Ⓒ He had some education after high school.
  - Ⓓ He graduated from college.
  - Ⓔ I don't know.
13. How often do people in your home talk to each other in a language other than English? VB331451
- Ⓐ Never
  - Ⓑ Once in a while
  - Ⓒ About half of the time
  - Ⓓ All or most of the time
14. Which of the following best describes your high school program? HE002549
- Ⓐ General
  - Ⓑ Academic or college preparatory
  - Ⓒ Vocational or technical



# SECTION 4

This section has 16 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Unless directed otherwise, fill in only **one** oval for each question.

VB595239

1. Which **economics-related courses** have you taken from ninth grade to the present? Count each course only once. Include courses you are currently taking as well as courses taken in summer school. Fill in **one or more ovals** on each line.

	Not taken	Taken/taking in Grade 12	Taken in Grade 11	Taken in Grade 10	Taken in Grade 9	
a. Economics course (general course <b>other than</b> Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or honors economics)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB595240
b. Government and economics course (combined course)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB595241
c. Consumer economics or personal finance course	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB595662
d. Advanced Placement Economics course	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB595663
e. International Baccalaureate Economics course	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB595664
f. Honors economics course ( <b>other than</b> Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate Economics)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB595665
g. Business course such as entrepreneurship or business principles	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB595666
h. Any other economics course (specify) _____	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB595667
i. Any other course that includes an extended (at least 8-week long) unit on economics (specify) _____	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VB595668

VB595669

2. Which of the following statements best describes your overall course-taking in economics?

- Ⓐ I have **taken at least one** of the courses listed in Question 1 → *Go to Question 3*
- Ⓑ I have **not taken any** of the courses listed in Question 1 → *Skip to Question 7*

VC099117

3. For the course(s) you marked “Taken/taking in grade 12” in **Question 1**, which of the following is true for you? Fill in **all ovals** that apply.

- Ⓐ I am not taking any of these courses in grade 12.
- Ⓑ I am currently enrolled in a year-long course.
- Ⓒ I completed a semester-long course this school year.
- Ⓓ I just started a semester-long course.

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4. Think about the course(s) in **Question 1**. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about those courses that you took? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	<b>Somewhat agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	
a. Taking the course(s) helped me understand the U.S. economy.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB595671
b. Taking the course(s) helped me understand the international economy.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB595672
c. Taking the courses(s) helped me understand what I hear on the news about current events and public policy.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB595673
d. Taking the course(s) helped me understand how to manage my personal finances, now and in the future.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB595674
e. Taking the course(s) helped me make choices about my future education and career.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB595675

VB595676

5. In your current or most recent course that included economics, how often are you or were you asked to write long answers to questions or assignments?

- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ Once or twice a year
- Ⓒ Once or twice a month
- Ⓓ At least once a week

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6. In your current or most recent course that included economics, how often do you or did you use the Internet to get economic data or information? Include both class work and homework.

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once every few weeks
- Ⓒ About once a week
- Ⓓ Two or three times a week
- Ⓔ Every day
- Ⓕ I haven't studied economics this year



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7. **Not including things you do for school**, how often do you watch, read about, or listen to information on the following topics? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a. The local economy (unemployment in your area, job opportunities, prices of goods and services, taxes, public budgets, etc.)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB595680
b. The U.S. economy (unemployment, inflation, economic growth, national economic policy, interest rates, the stock market, etc.)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB595681
c. The international economy (the state of economies in other countries, trade agreements and restrictions, globalization, etc.)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB595962
d. Personal finance (saving, investment, taxes, credit cards, etc.)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB595963

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8. To what extent do you use the following sources to learn about **economic issues**? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	
a. Newspapers and magazines	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB595965
b. Radio and television	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB595966
c. Internet	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB595967
d. Family and friends	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB595968
e. Personal experiences (such as having a job or keeping a budget)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB595969

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9. Since the beginning of ninth grade, have you ever participated in any of the following **economics-related activities**? Fill in **one or more** ovals on each line.

	Yes, did this for a class	Yes, did this, but <u>not</u> for a class	No, never did this	
a. Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB595972
b. DECA (an association of marketing students)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB595973
c. Junior Achievement	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB595974
d. Club (includes such things as an economics, entrepreneurship, or investment club)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB595975
e. Academic competition (includes such things as Fed Challenge, Economics Challenge, or Academic Decathlon)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB595976
f. Stock market game/simulation	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB595979
g. Student-managed school store	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB595980
h. Student-managed credit union or bank	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB595981
i. Other (specify) _____	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB607182

VB607183

10. **Last summer**, how much did you work? Include work you did for pay or for a family business.
- Ⓐ Did not work at all
  - Ⓑ Worked once in awhile or less than 5 hours a week
  - Ⓒ Worked between 5 and 10 hours a week
  - Ⓓ Worked between 11 and 20 hours a week
  - Ⓔ Worked more than 20 hours a week

VB607184

11. **Currently**, how much do you work? Include work you do for pay or for a family business.
- Ⓐ Do not work at all
  - Ⓑ Work once in awhile or less than 5 hours a week
  - Ⓒ Work between 5 and 10 hours a week
  - Ⓓ Work between 11 and 20 hours a week
  - Ⓔ Work more than 20 hours a week

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12. How much education do you think you will complete?
- Ⓐ I will not finish high school.
  - Ⓑ I will graduate from high school.
  - Ⓒ I will have some education after high school.
  - Ⓓ I will graduate from college.
  - Ⓔ I will go to graduate school.
  - Ⓕ I don't know.

VC101417

13. What do you expect that your main activity will be in the year after you leave high school?
- Ⓐ Working full time
  - Ⓑ Attending a vocational, technical, or business school
  - Ⓒ Attending a two-year college
  - Ⓓ Attending a four-year college, service academy, or university
  - Ⓔ Serving in the military
  - Ⓕ Other



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14. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?

- Ⓐ Easier than other tests
- Ⓑ About as hard as other tests
- Ⓒ Harder than other tests
- Ⓓ Much harder than other tests

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15. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other tests you have taken this year in school?

- Ⓐ Not as hard as on other tests
- Ⓑ About as hard as on other tests
- Ⓒ Harder than on other tests
- Ⓓ Much harder than on other tests

VB595184

16. How important was it to you to do well on this test?

- Ⓐ Not very important
- Ⓑ Somewhat important
- Ⓒ Important
- Ⓓ Very important

