



# Wages

## A Level Economics

## Wages

Split the students into pairs/small groups and ask them to pick three occupations (a high wage, medium wage and low wage occupation) and try to explain why the wages are higher for one than another. If some groups appear not to have come up with many ideas, take three jobs and get groups to call out their points to write on the interactive whiteboard.

Once they have a list, remind them that wages are determined by supply and demand for labour. Ask them to link the points they made earlier (or that are up on the whiteboard) to labour supply and demand and then put three supply and demand curves onto one diagram with each supply and demand pair representing one job.

They need to justify the position of each demand and supply curve relative to the others. In principle, jobs like doctors will have a limited supply at any given wage rate but high demand (relative to that of nurses at a given wage rate). In other words, if you could have a doctor or a nurse at £80,000 a year, other things being equal, you would go for the doctor.

There are no right and wrong answers in terms of exactly where S and D should be, but it should provoke a debate.

### Annual pay – Gross (£)

For all employee jobs: United Kingdom, 2013

	Salary (£)
Description	Median
Chief executives and senior officials	84,453
Financial managers and directors	53,114
Information technology and telecommunications directors	55,426
Chemical scientists	32,469
Medical practitioners	63,677
Teaching and educational professionals	33,102
IT operations technicians	27,209
Aircraft pilots and flight engineers	78,356
Secretarial and related occupations	14,856
Typists and related keyboard occupations	15,199
Skilled metal, electrical and electronic trades	27,792
Childminders and related occupations	12,095
Vehicle valeters and cleaners	14,802