

**THE NEW CAMBRIDGE  
CURRICULUM IN ECONOMICS  
AND ASSOCIATED BRANCHES OF  
POLITICAL SCIENCE: ITS PURPOSE  
AND PLAN**

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The New Cambridge Curriculum in Economics and Associated Branches of Political Science: Its purpose and plan by Alfred Marshall

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**ALFRED MARSHALL**

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IN  
ECONOMICS**



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AND ASSOCIATED BRANCHES OF POLITICAL  
SCIENCE;

ITS PURPOSE AND PLAN

BY

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## PART I.

### PURPOSE OF THE CURRICULUM.

#### 1. *Introductory.*

ON June 6, 1903, a new curriculum was instituted by the University of Cambridge on the report of a "Syndicate" (i.e. a special committee of the Senate), appointed to inquire into the best means of enlarging the opportunities for the study in Cambridge of Economics and associated branches of Political Science. The Syndicate say :—

"The increasing importance and complexity of economic issues, and their close connexion with political problems, will be generally admitted. Nor will it be denied that the successful handling of such issues must be dependent on the concurrent development of economic science; and that in such development Universities are called upon to take an important part. Hitherto, however, the responsibilities of Universities in this respect have been more fully recognised abroad than in this country. In the United States of America, in particular, and in Germany, the subjects of Economics and Political Science are commonly represented by a strong and numerous staff, and afford the main route by which large numbers of students

obtain University Honours....England on the other hand, which long held the undisputed leadership in Economics, has suffered in recent years from the lack of adequate provision for the study of that subject at the Universities, and from the consequent scarcity of students who have been able to give it that undivided attention which is demanded by its growing breadth and difficulty."

Accordingly they propose that the University should offer opportunities for study which, they believe, "would be welcomed by many men irrespectively of the career for which they may be preparing. But in particular the Syndicate have had in view two classes of students; firstly those who are proposing to devote their lives to the professional study of Economics, and secondly those who are looking forward to a career in the higher branches of business, or in public life. That it is a proper function of the University to provide for the former class will hardly be disputed; and the Syndicate think that it ought also to provide for the latter. There is, moreover, they have reason to believe, a general and growing desire for such provision. They have had before them a number of letters from leading men of affairs, and also a resolution passed unanimously by the London Chamber of Commerce, expressing warm approval of the project of establishing a curriculum in Economics and Political Science at Cambridge\*. By these and other indications of opinion they are convinced that the organisation of such a curriculum would be welcomed by the general public and, in particular, by business men, who, while anxious to secure for their sons the advantages of residence at one of the older Universities, yet often hesitate because there is not

\* See below, p. 14.