

Recommended Reading List for A Level Economics

Reading widely in economics is extremely important for A Level success. The subject is not just about memorising diagrams and definitions, but about understanding how real economies work in practice. It helps students to apply theory to real-world examples (e.g. inflation, unemployment, global trade), improve evaluation skills, understand current economic issues, (cost of living, interest rates, government policy), develop stronger chains of analysis (essential for top grades) and gain confidence when using real data and case studies.

High-achieving students often go beyond the textbook and use books written by economists, journalists, and business leaders to strengthen their understanding.

Core A Level Economics Reading

- **The Undercover Economist** — by Tim Harford
Explains economic principles using everyday real-life examples like coffee pricing and incentives.
- **Freakonomics** — by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner
Looks at unusual data-driven economic behaviour and incentives.
- **Naked Economics** — by Charles Wheelan
A simple introduction to key macro and microeconomic ideas.
- **The Armchair Economist** — by Steven Landsburg
Focuses on incentives, decision-making, and economic thinking.

Behavioural Economics & Decision-Making

- **Thinking, Fast and Slow** — by Daniel Kahneman
Explains how people make irrational economic decisions.
- **Misbehaving** — by Richard Thaler
Shows how real human behaviour differs from traditional economic models.

Global Economics & Inequality

- **The Great Economists** — by Phil Thornton
Explains key economic thinkers and their impact on modern policy.
- **Capital in the Twenty-First Century** — by Thomas Piketty
Focuses on inequality, wealth distribution, and long-term economic trends.
- **Globalization and Its Discontents** — by Joseph Stiglitz
Critiques globalisation and international financial institutions.

Development, Policy & Real-World Economics

- **Poor Economics** — by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo
Uses real evidence to explain poverty and development economics.
- **The Economics of Inequality** — by Thomas Piketty
Focuses on income distribution and inequality trends.

Technology, Data & Modern Markets

- **Empire of AI — by Karen Hao**
Explores the rise of AI companies and market power in the digital economy.
- **The Thinking Machine — by Stephen Witt**
Covers Nvidia and the AI revolution, linking to monopolies, innovation, and market structure.
- **How Progress Ends — by Carl Benedikt Frey**
Examines innovation cycles, regulation, and why economies sometimes slow down.