Welcome to A-level Economics 2026

We follow the Edexcel specification, and study the following topics:

Theme 1 - Introduction to markets and market failure
Theme 2 – The UK economy – performance and policies
Theme 3 – Business behaviour and the labour market
Theme 4 – A global perspective

These are divided into three papers, which are each 2-hour examinations and make up 100% of your final grades. You can find the specification here. You will need to buy a copy of the course textbook **Pearson Edexcel A Level Economics** Fifth Edition, by Peter Smith et al here, and we would recommend a revision guide, such as My Revision Notes, by Quintin Brewer, here. In addition, please purchase a lever-arch folder for storing work at home, a ring-binder for work on the current unit, a pack of at least 20 file dividers, a calculator and a set of index cards for preparing revision flashcards. Finally, an A3 sketchbook spiral bound with 30 sheets.

Bridging Work

Total time: approx. 2 - 3 hours

This work is designed to introduce you to key ideas we will study in Year 12 and help you begin thinking like an economist: critical thinking, independent judgement, application of theory to the real world and confident written communication. It is not formally assessed, but we will refer to it in lessons in September. **This work must be brought with you to your first economics lesson to refer to in class discussions and hand in a named copy.**

Task 1: Core Textbook Investigation (30 mins)

Read the first chapter of Theme 1. Write active recall questions and answers on the content, these are your own questions eg., 'What is Economics?' Write definitions for the following terms:

1. Ceteris paribus
2. Positive statement
3. Normative statement
4. Opportunity cost
5. Factors of production
6. Production possibility frontier
7. Gross domestic product
8. Free market economy
9. Command economy
10. Microeconomics

Try to: Put definitions in your own words. Include one simple example for at least 2 terms

Task 2: 'Economics' in the News (30 mins)

Every week, choose an article from one of the following websites; the BBC, The Telegraph, Financial Times or the Guardian (search economy). This is for your enjoyment and to spark your interest and enthusiasm in studying Economics. **Print and annotate** the articles including the following – highlight and explain key terms, review the data if given and a short paragraph that summarises the article. Then try and answer the following using your evaluative (critical thinking) skills:

Who benefits, who loses, what should the government do in response?

Task 3: Complete the Tutor2U Introductory Course (60 mins)

Read/listen to the resource linked below, then write a short response (300 - 400 words max) for each.

- What is the difference between microeconomics and macroeconomics? Give one example of each.
- Explain the concept of scarcity and why it leads to the need for economic choices.
- What are the four main factors of production? Briefly describe each one.
- Why is opportunity cost important in economics? Provide a real-life example.
- Identify one current economic issue in the UK and explain how it could affect consumers or businesses.

https://ondemand.tutor2u.net/students/introduction-to-edexcel-a-level-economics-getting-started

Optional Extension (not included in time):

If you are interested, you may explore an economics-themed documentary, book or podcast from the recommended list:

Documentaries / TV / Film

1. Inside Job – financial crisis; banking; inequality; global economy
2. Industry – finance; competition; capitalism; workplace pressure
3. The Big Short – financial markets; risk; incentives; 2008 crash

Books

1. Freakonomics – Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner – incentives; behavioural economics; crime; education; data analysis
2. The Armchair Economist – Steven E. Landsburg – opportunity cost; markets; rational choice; supply and demand; everyday economics

Podcasts

1. BBC World Service - Business Daily (Superb) https://www.bbc.co.uk/programm...
2. Economics in Ten Podcast: https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/...
3. Planet Money Podcast: https://www.npr.org/podcasts/5...

MOOCS

https://www.techtarget.com/searchhrsoftware/tip/A-list-of-the-most-popular-MOOCs-to-consider