



NORWICH SCHOOL

A Level Economics Preparation

Preparation for studying Economics at A Level

There may be a variety of reasons you have chosen to study Economics at A level;

Maybe to have an essay based academic subject to support your numeric subjects, or that you have an interest in Economic matters. Hopefully you are all interested in current worldwide news and like to/would like to debate economics problems and solutions in more depth.

We have put together a 10-week induction course into the subject which broadly follows the EDEXCEL IGCSE specification to give you a flavour of some of the topics and the new language (terminology) that we will be using in class. You will get the chance to understand the main economics assessment criteria and how they may differ slightly from those you are familiar with at GCSE level. You will also get a chance to start thinking/talking and writing like an economist, using reputable news sources such as the BBC and Financial Times.

Internet Sources

Familiarise yourself with the following websites:

A great place to start your search for **news**: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news> - it is worth registering using the email address you link to your phone/tablet)

FT.COM - we would like you to register using the link below. This will give you free access to a fantastic news source that we will use in class. YOU MUST USE YOUR CURRENT SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS AND KEEP NOTE OF PASSWORD <https://enterprise.ft.com/en-gb/secondary-education/>

Tutor2U; an excellent website with free student resources including revision notes, presentations and quizzes <http://www.tutor2u.net/>

Economics Help is another excellent website. Particularly useful for revision notes to supplement class notes <http://economicshelp.org.uk/>

Bank of England; a helpful site that explains what the Bank of England does, the role of monetary policy and the links between interest rates and inflation. <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/>

Statistics: Free access to data produced by the Office for National Statistics and government departments. Everything from baby names, productivity, employment, inflation, share ownership and how people spend their time! <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>

Market data – start your search at <https://tradingeconomics.com/>

Scheme of Work

| Week | | Topic (Link to GCSE Specification) | Focus | |
|--------|--|---|--|--|
| Week 1 | | 1.1.1 The economic problem | a) The problem of scarcity – where there are unlimited wants and finite resources, leading to the need to make choices. b) Opportunity cost and its effect on economic agents (consumers, producers and government). c) Possible causes of positive or negative economic growth. | |
| Week 2 | | 1.1.2 Economic assumptions | a) The underlying assumptions that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consumers aim to maximise their benefit • businesses aim to maximise their profit. b) Reasons why consumers may not maximise their benefit: c) Reasons why producers may not maximise their profit: | |
| Week 3 | | 1.1.3 Demand, supply and market equilibrium | Demand a) Definition of demand. b) The use of demand curve diagram to show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes in price causing movements along a demand curve • shifts indicating increased and decreased demand. c) Factors that may cause a shift in the demand curve, Supply d) Definition of supply. e) The use of supply curve diagram to show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes in price causing movements along a supply curve • shifts indicating increased and decreased supply. f) Factors that may cause a shift in the supply curve, Market equilibrium g) Equilibrium price and quantity and how they are determined. | |
| Week 4 | | 1.1.5 The mixed economy | a) Definition of mixed economy. b) Definition of public and private sector. c) Difference between public and private sectors in terms of ownership, control and aims. d) How the problems of what to produce, how to produce and for whom to produce are solved in the mixed economy. e) Concept of market failure – linked to inefficient allocation of resources. | |

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|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | f) Why governments might need to intervene because of market failure. | |
| Week 5 | | 1.1.6 Externalities | External costs of production a) Definition of external costs. b) Examples of external costs, including pollution, congestion and environmental damage. External benefits of consumption c) Definition of external benefits. d) Examples of external benefits, including education, healthcare and vaccinations. | |
| Week 6 | | 2.1.1 Macroeconomic objectives | What is macroeconomics? Introduction To GDP Introduction to inflation Introduction to employment/unemployment Introduction to 'trade' – Impact of Exports and imports on an economy with an introduction to exchange rates | |
| Week 7 | | 2.1.2 Macroeconomic policies | How can governments protect/improve growth, employment, environment and achieve income equality? | |
| Week 8 | | The summer Economics task | What does a good Economics report/essay look like? What will you need to do to achieve a good mark? | |
| Week 9 | | The summer Economics task continues | | |
| Week 10 | | Mop up session- Summer task | | |
| Summer holiday | | | | |



Year 12 Economics Induction task 2020

Important economic issues

For this piece of work, you have the choice of researching a topic of interest from economics. You can choose one of the following approaches and then complete the task set on the next page.

Go to the following website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business/economy>

Browse the articles and find one that interests you. The 'features' section is particularly good for looking at issues in depth. Use the article from the BBC website as a starting point for further research

Listen to one of the podcasts recommended by Tim Harford here:

<http://timharford.com/2018/06/the-best-economics-podcasts-in-2018/>

Pick one of the following issues to investigate:

- The economics of crypto currencies (Bitcoin, and now 'Libra')
- The US/China trade war
- Britain's future trading arrangements with the EU (Single market? Customs Union? Free trade deal?)
- Hedge funds and their impact on the economy
- Electric cars
- 'Technological disruption' – markets where technology is transforming the way markets work e.g. online shopping; ride-sharing, entertainment industry etc
- The future of work – automation and artificial intelligence
- Something economics-related of *your choice*

Title: Why is (your choice) Important?

Whichever option you choose from the previous list, follow these guidelines:

Produce a summary of the issue, which includes:

What is happening now, what has happened in the past, what could happen in the future?

A summary of the main debates e.g. is the change good or bad? Who might it be good or bad for?

How does it affect the economy? (e.g. prices? Choice? Competition? Employment? Growth? Development? Investment? Income?)

A conclusion in which you offer a judgement (not a summary), which answers why the topic you have chosen is important, and who it is important for.

Format

Approximately 2 sides of handwritten A4. It is also acceptable to word process your work or produce a PowerPoint presentation.

- ❖ Graphs and data, where helpful
- ❖ Links to articles/podcasts you used
- ❖ Identification of key terms

Assessment

- ✓ **AO1 (Knowledge):** You use accurate economic terms, and explain these clearly
- ✓ **AO2 (Application):** You use examples, data, graphs etc to illustrate your answer
- ✓ **AO3 (Analysis):** You explain why something is the case
- ✓ **AO4 (Evaluation):** You make a clear judgement about why something is important

Economics Reading List: Ideas 2020

Wider reading provides you with opportunities to add depth and breadth to your understanding. None of the books listed below are *required* reading, but it would be good to try one or two over the course of a year. They are organised into very approximate categories to help guide your selections. The books are listed alphabetically, with particular recommendations marked out with an asterisk. Two copies of each title are held by the Norwich School library.

Introduction to economic thought

***Economics: The User's Guide: A Pelican Introduction by Ha-Joon Chang**

***Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World - Rosling**

23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism by Ha-Joon Chang

Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist by Kate Raworth

Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt, Stephen J. Dubner

Talking to My Daughter About the Economy: A Brief History of Capitalism by Yanis Varoufakis

The Great Economists: How Their Ideas Can Help Us Today by Linda Yueh

The Logic of Life – Tim Harford

The Rational Optimist – Matt Ridley

The Undercover Economist/ The Undercover Economist Strikes Back – Tim Harford

Worldly Philosophers: Lives, Times, and Ideas of Great Economic Thinkers by Robert Heilbroner

Business Management

***Adapt: Why Success Always Starts with Failure – Tim Harford**

Alibaba: The House that Jack Ma Built by Duncan Clark

Capitalism Without Capital: The Rise of the Intangible Economy- Haskel

Delivering Happiness: A Path to Profits, Passion and Purpose

Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us – Daniel Pink

Good To Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap... and Others Don't – Jim Collins

If I Could Tell You Just One Thing...: Most Valuable Advice from Remarkable People by Richard Reed

Shoe Dog: A Memoir by the Creator of NIKE – Phil Knight

Start With Why by Simon Sinek

The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon – Brad Stone

The Great Convergence by Richard Baldwin

The Halo Effect: How Managers Let Themselves Be Deceived

The New Industrial Revolution: Consumers, Globalization and the End of Mass Production

The Upstarts: How Uber and Airbnb are changing the world by Brad Stone

What They Teach You at Harvard Business School: My Two Years Inside the Cauldron of Capitalism

Economics, Maths, Physics and Finance

***Fooled by Randomness by Nassim Nicholas Taleb**

***The Signal and the Noise - Nate Silver**

Art of Strategy by Dixit and Nalebuff

Flash Boys by Michael Lewis

How to Lie with Statistics by Darrell Huff

Irrational Exuberance by Robert Schiller

Other People's Money: Masters of the Universe or Servants of the People? - John Kay

The Big Short: inside the Domsday Machine

The Black Swan: the impact of the highly improbable by Nassim Nicholas Taleb

The End of Alchemy: Money, Banking and the Future of the Global Economy by Mervyn King

Too Big To Fail by Andrew Ross Sorkin

Why Information Grows: The Evolution of Order, from Atoms to Economies by César Hidalgo

Economics and History

*Why The West Rules - For Now: The Patterns of History and what they reveal about the Future – Ian Morris
*GDP: A Brief but Affectionate History by Diane Coyle
*Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind - Harari
A History of Economics: the past as the present – JK Galbraith
A Splendid Exchange by William Bernstein
Extraordinary popular delusions and the madness of crowds Keynes: the return of the master – Lord Skidelsky
Money: The Unauthorised Biography
Paper Promises - Phillip Coggan
Progress: Ten Reasons to Look Forward to the Future by Johan Norberg
Something Will Turn Up: Britain's Economy, Past, Present and Future by David Smith
The Ascent of Money – Niall Ferguson
The Enigma of Capital: And the Crises of Capitalism by David Harvey

Economics and Politics

*What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets by Michael Sandel
Capital in the Twenty-First Century by Thomas Piketty
How to Run A Government: So that Citizens Benefit and Taxpayers Don't Go Crazy by Michael Barber
How to Spend \$75 Billion to Make the World a Better Place - Lomborg
Radical Markets: Uprooting Capitalism and Democracy for a Just Society – Posner
The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public vs. Private Sector Myths by Mariana Mazzucato
The Fourth Revolution: The Global Race to Reinvent the State by Adrian Wooldridge and John Micklethwait
The Future of Capitalism: Facing the New Anxieties by Paul Collier
The Price of Inequality by Joseph Stiglitz
Who Cooked Adam Smith's Dinner? A Story About Women and Economics by Katrine Marcal
Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty - Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson

Economics and Geography

*Guns, Germs and Steel – Jared Diamond
*The Bottom Billion - Paul Collier
*The Plundered Planet: How to Reconcile Prosperity With Nature – Paul Collier
An Edible History of Humanity by Tom Standage
Cool it: the skeptical environmentalist's guide to global warming – Bjorn Lomborg
Dead Aid: Why aid is not working and how there is another way for Africa – Dambisa Moyo
Poor Economics: Rethinking Ways to Fight Global Poverty by Banerjee & Duflo
Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything You Need To Know About Global Politics by Tim Marshall

The Box: How the Shipping Container Made the World Smaller and the World Economy Bigger – Levison
The Economics of Enough - Diane Coyle
The End of Poverty – Jeff Sachs
The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality by Angus Deaton
Winner Take All: China's Race For Resources and What It Means For Us – Dambisa Moyo

Economics and Psychology (Behavioural Economics)

*Thinking, Fast and Slow – Daniel Kahneman
Animal Spirits: How Human Psychology Drives the Economy, and Why It Matters for Global Capitalism - Akerlof
How markets Fail: an anatomy of irrationality
Identity Economics: How Our Identities Shape Our Work, Wages, and Well-Being by Akerlof and Kranton
Misbehaving: The Making of Behavioural Economics by Richard H Thaler
Risk Savvy - How to make good decisions by Gerd Gigerenzer