

Transition to Y12 Economics

Well done for choosing to study Economics at A-Level! You should find this an interesting and enjoyable subject that is relevant to everyday life. There are endless examples of economics in action in the news that will make this subject even more engaging. Now you have some extra time you should prepare for studying Economics as follows.

Stay up to date with the news, to help do this follow @econdj on Twitter

(https://twitter.com/econdj?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor) and use the following websites:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business/economy>
- <https://www.ft.com/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/business/economics>
- <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/>
- <https://www.ifs.org.uk/>
- <https://www.weforum.org/>

1. Familiarise yourself with the whole Economics specification available here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/economics-a-2015.html>.

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Economics/2015/teaching-and-learning-materials/Getting_Started_Guide_new.pdf

2. In particular focus on the following key topics and watch the YouTube links below:

1.1.1 Economics as a social science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Thinking like an economist: the process of developing models in economics, including the need to make assumptions b) The use of the <i>ceteris paribus</i> assumption in building models c) The inability in economics to make scientific experiments
1.1.2 Positive and normative economic statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Distinction between positive and normative economic statements b) The role of value judgements in influencing economic decision making and policy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eG-6_lI9daA&list=PLWeicFreBUYCOFC2A0SIKrpEYgwaSF63t&index=39&t=0s

1.1.3 The economic problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The problem of scarcity – where there are unlimited wants and finite resources b) The distinction between renewable and non-renewable resources c) The importance of opportunity costs to economic agents (consumers, producers and government)
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9JktFC9Tg&list=PLWeicFreBUYCOFC2A0SIKrpEYgwaSF63t&index=2&t=0s>

1.1.4 Production possibility frontiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The use of production possibility frontiers to depict: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the maximum productive potential of an economy o opportunity cost (through marginal analysis) o economic growth or decline o efficient or inefficient allocation of resources o possible and unobtainable production b) The distinction between movements along and shifts in production possibility curves, considering the possible causes for such changes c) The distinction between capital and consumer goods
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzccVWoulxM&list=PLWeicFreBUYCOFC2A0SIKrpEYgwaSF63t&index=3&t=0s>

1.1.5 Specialisation and the division of labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Specialisation and the division of labour: reference to Adam Smith b) The advantages and disadvantages of specialisation and the division of labour in organising production c) The advantages and disadvantages of specialising in the production of goods and services to trade d) The functions of money (as a medium of exchange, a measure of value, a store of value, a method of deferred payment)
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4PBbx4qRa0&list=PLWeicFreBUYCOFC2A0SIKrpEYgwaSF63t&index=40&t=0s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBol1EdKMKA&list=PLWeicFreBUYCOFC2A0SIKrpEYgwaSF63t&index=41&t=0s>

3. Read a book from the Year 12 and 13 Reading List overleaf, there are plenty to choose from.

Economics Reading List

1. 23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism (Ha-Joon Chang) – challenges conventional thinking
2. Age of Discovery: Navigating the Risks and Rewards of Our New Renaissance: (Ian Goldin & Chris Kutarna)
3. Alibaba: The House that Jack Ma Built (Duncan Clark) – The rise of the Chinese corporate giant
4. Almighty Dollar (Dharshini David) – follows the journey of a single \$ to show how the global economy works
5. Capitalism Without Capital: The Rise of the Intangible Economy (Haskel and Westlake)
6. Capitalism: 50 Ideas You Really Need to Know (Jonathan Portes) – compact and excellent reference material
7. Choice Factory (Richard Shotton) – a story of 25 behavioural biases that influence what we buy
8. Doughnut Economics (Kate Raworth) – challenges much of orthodox thinking in the subject
9. Drunkard's Walk (Leonard Mlodinow) – a brilliant history of Maths with lots of relevant applications
10. Economics for the Common Good (Jean Tirole) – applied micro from a recent Nobel prize winner
11. GDP: A Brief but Affectionate History (Professor Diane Coyle) – really good on the GDP / well-being debate
12. Grave New World: (Stephen King) – Former head of Econ at HSBC looks at the fracturing global economy
13. Great Economists: How Their Ideas Can Help Us Today (Linda Yueh) – perspectives on contemporary issues
14. Growth Delusion: The Wealth and Well-Being of Nations (David Pilling) – antidote to gospel of GDP
15. Inequality (Anthony Atkinson) – a superb book on one of the defining economic/political issues of the age
16. Inner Lives of Markets: How People Shape Them—And They Shape Us (Sharman and Fishman)
17. Limits of the Market: The Pendulum Between Government and the Market (Paul De Grauwe)
18. Misbehaving: The Making of Behavioural Economics (Richard Thaler) – a truly superb biography
19. Plundered Planet: How to Reconcile Prosperity with Nature: (Professor Paul Collier) – development classic
20. Poor Economics: Rethinking Ways to Fight Global Poverty (Banerjee & Duflo) – development economics
21. Positive Linking – Networks and Nudges (Paul Ormerod) – good introduction to network economics
22. Rise and Fall of Nations: Ten Rules of Change in the Post-Crisis World (Richir Sharma)
23. Risk Savvy - How to make good decisions (Gerd Gigerenzer) – the world of heuristics and risk management
24. Ten Great Economists (Philip Thornton) – biographical background, well worth a read
25. The Box - How the Shipping Container Made the World Smaller and the World Economy Bigger, (Levinson)
26. The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon (Brad Stone) – a great business page turner
27. The Great Divide (Professor Joseph Stiglitz) – one of the classic critiques of globalisation
28. The Great Escape (Professor Angus Deaton) – a broad sweep of economic history and poverty reduction

29. The Undoing Project: (Michael Lewis) – Tracks the birth of behavioural economics, Kahneman and Tversky
30. Thinking Fast and Thinking Slow: (Professor Daniel Kahneman) – the classic Kahneman epic on psychology
31. Upstarts: How Uber and Airbnb are changing the world (Brad Stone) Follow up to his work on Amazon
32. What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets (Michael Sandel) – Pure PPE bliss
33. Who Gets What - And Why: Understand the Choices You Have; Improve the Choices You Make (Al Roth)
34. Why Information Grows: The Evolution of Order, from Atoms to Economies (Cesar Hidalgo) – challenging
35. World of Three Zeroes (Muhammad Yunus) – new book from founder of the Grameen Bank
36. Talking to My Daughter: A Brief History of Capitalism by Yanis Varoufakis
37. The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism by Naomi Klein
38. The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone by Kate Pickett
39. Stolen: How to Save the World from Financialisation by Grace Blakeley
40. Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything You Need to Know About Global Politics by Tim Marshall
41. Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness by Richard H Thaler
42. The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine by Michael Lewis
43. The Undercover Economist by Tim Harford
44. Freakonomics and Superfreakonomics by Steven Levitt
45. There's no such thing as a free lunch Milton Friedman
46. Too big to fail by Andrew Ross Sorkin