

Summer Prep for A-Level Economics (AQA)

For Students Starting Year 12 in September

Welcome to A-Level Economics! To help you get off to a strong start, spend some time over the summer exploring how economics explains the world around you. Below are some activities and resources that will help you build your general understanding before the course begins.

1. Follow the News (Weekly)

Stay up to date with key economic issues like inflation, interest rates, and unemployment.

Where to look:

- BBC News – Business & Economy section
 - The Economist (some free articles)
 - Podcasts:
 - *Planet Money*
 - *The Inquiry* (BBC)
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2. Explore Basic Economic Ideas

Spend some time on these sites to get familiar with key concepts:

- [Tutor2u](#) – “Intro to Economics” section
 - [Khan Academy](#) – Basics of Micro & Macro
 - [MRC](#) – Introduction to Microeconomics
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3. Think Like an Economist

Consider these questions:

- Why do prices go up?
- What causes unemployment?
- Is economic growth always good?
- Should the government raise the minimum wage?

No right answers — just start thinking about cause and effect, incentives, and decisions.

4. Summer Task: Plot and Analyse UK GDP

- Use online sources (like the ONS or World Bank) to find UK GDP data for the past 20 years.
- Create a graph showing GDP by year.
- Identify at least one peak and one trough in the data.
- Research what may have caused these changes (e.g. 2008 Financial Crisis, COVID-19 pandemic).
- Write a short paragraph explaining your graph and findings.

Bring it with you in September — it could be a great starting point for discussion!

5. Read an Economics Book (or Watch a Film)

These are written for everyone — no prior knowledge needed:

Books:

- The Undercover Economist - Tim Harford
- Freakonomics - Steven Levitt & Stephen Dubner
- Talking to My Daughter About the Economy - Yanis Varoufakis

Films/Documentaries:

- The Big Short (2015) - A dramatization of the 2008 financial crisis
 - Inside Job (2010) - A documentary on the causes of the financial crash
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Aim for This Over the Summer:

- ✓ Follow economic news (e.g. read an article from The Economist each week)
 - ✓ Try 1 online learning platform (e.g. Tutor2u)
 - ✓ Complete the summer task
 - ✓ Read a book or watch a film
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Enjoy your summer — I'm looking forward to seeing you in September ready to dive into the world of economics!