

A-level Economics B

Introduction – an outline of the course

Welcome to A level Economics B. During your time in the Sixth form you will study aspects of Macro and Micro Economics and learn how the economy works! The assessment at the end of Year 13 consists of three exams in which you can show your knowledge and understanding of the topics that you cover. There will also be more of an emphasis on applying your knowledge to unfamiliar situations.

There is no NEA work in A level Economics and the A level grade that you will receive is based on your performance in three two-hour exams.

What will we be studying in the first half term?

In September you will start by looking at the fundamental concepts in Economics that will serve as a foundation to build your knowledge and skills.

You will study about Scarcity and choice.

Here you will look at the basic economic problem of allocation of resources. You will cover key concepts such as opportunity cost and factors of production and how the theories behind how the key economic problems are addressed.

You also study about the wider economic environment.

Here you will look at topics such as business objectives and the advantages to be gained from economies of scale.

For each of these topics you will apply current and past news topics to the theories you are learning. You will see that Economics is all around us and affects our everyday lives.

What can I do that will help me prepare for A level Economics?

One of the important ways that you can prepare is to make sure that you are familiar with Economics is to watch the news especially the current affairs and business news. Some of the topics that you will study at A level expect you to have a good understanding already.

You may wish to use some of your summer to carry out some background reading and preparation. You should keep up to date with websites such as

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

Or you could read some of the articles about how Economics is used in the world;

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

There are numerous books that you may be able to borrow or you can look at online publications such as

<https://www.economist.com/>

Summer Gap Tasks

The best way to prepare for your A level Economics is to complete the **two summer gap tasks** that have been set.

If you read the cases study and complete the tasks over the summer, then you will be using the skills that you have developed during your GCSEs. It is easy to let these skills lapse which will make the start of your A levels more difficult, because you will be trying to remember what you did at GCSE and learn new knowledge and skills.

On the [school website](#), if you click on Sixth Form and follow the list until you see Year 11 into 12 Gap Tasks. Click on this and find the Economics task which is a PDF document.