

# Economics A Gap Task Booklet - 2026/27



**GUISELEY  
SCHOOL**

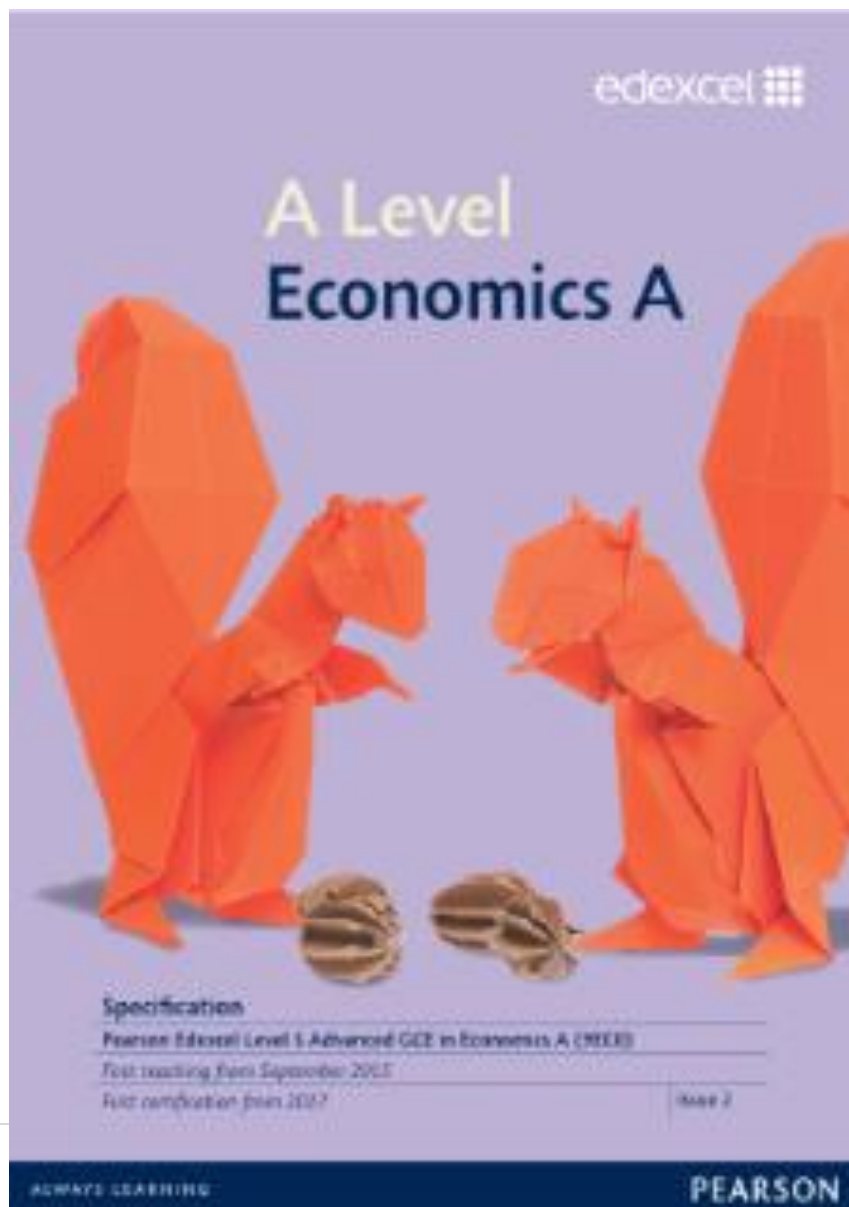
**Student name:**

This booklet contains clear information about starting this A level. Please read it carefully before starting in September.

Complete all the tasks set in this booklet before beginning your A-Level Economics course in September.

Before joining the course officially, this book could be totally complete and handed in on your first day at Guiseley 6<sup>th</sup> form.

***THE WEBSITE FOR THE EXAMINER - EDEXCEL AS AND A LEVEL ECONOMICS A 2015 / PEARSON QUALIFICATIONS***



# Course breakdown and exam overview

Year 12 – Theme 1 & Theme 2

Year 13 – Theme 3 & Theme 4

## Content & course delivery over Year 12 & 13

### **Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure**

This theme focuses on microeconomic concepts. Students will develop an understanding of:

- nature of economics
- how markets work
- market failure
- government intervention.

### **Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies**

This theme focuses on macroeconomic concepts. Students will develop an understanding of:

- measures of economic performance
- aggregate demand
- aggregate supply
- national income
- economic growth
- macroeconomic objectives and policy.

### **Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market**

This theme develops the microeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 1 and focuses on business economics. Students will develop an understanding of:

- business growth
- business objectives
- revenues, costs and profits
- market structures
- labour market
- government intervention.

### **Theme 4: A global perspective**

This theme develops the macroeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 2 and applies these concepts in a global context. Students will develop an understanding of:

- international economics
- poverty and inequality
- emerging and developing economies
- the financial sector
- role of the state in the macroeconomy.

## Exam Overview

<b>Paper 1: Markets and business behaviour</b>		<b>*Paper code: 9EC0/01</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Externally assessed</li><li>Availability: May/June</li><li>First assessment: 2017</li></ul>	<b>35% of the total qualification</b>	
<b>Overview of content</b> Paper 1 will assess microeconomics and questions will be drawn from Themes 1 and 3.		
<b>Overview of assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Written examination.</li><li>The paper comprises three sections. Students answer all questions from Section A and Section B, and one from Section C.</li><li>Section A comprises a range of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.</li><li>Section B comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts.</li><li>Section C comprises a choice of extended open-response questions; students select one from a choice of two.</li><li>Duration: 2 hours.</li><li>100 marks available.</li></ul>		

<b>Paper 2: The national and global economy</b>		<b>*Paper code: 9EC0/02</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Externally assessed</li><li>Availability: May/June</li><li>First assessment: 2017</li></ul>	<b>35% of the total qualification</b>	
<b>Overview of content</b> Paper 2 will assess macroeconomics and questions will be drawn from Themes 2 and 4.		
<b>Overview of assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Written examination.</li><li>The paper comprises three sections. Students answer all questions from Section A and Section B, and one from Section C.</li><li>Section A comprises a range of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.</li><li>Section B comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts.</li><li>Section C comprises a choice of extended open-response questions; students select one from a choice of two.</li><li>Duration: 2 hours.</li><li>100 marks available.</li></ul>		

**Paper 3: Microeconomics and macroeconomics****\*Paper code: 9EC0/03**

- Externally assessed
- Availability: May/June
- First assessment: 2017

**30% of the  
total  
qualification****Overview of content**

Paper 3 will assess content across all four themes.

Students are required to apply their knowledge and understanding, make connections and transfer higher-order skills across all four themes.

**Overview of assessment**

- Written examination.
- The paper comprises two sections.
- Each section comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including a choice of extended open-response questions; students select one from a choice of two.
- Duration: 2 hours.
- 100 marks available.

# Transition Task 1: Why Are Prices Still Rising? (Macroeconomics)

### Context

Inflation has been one of the biggest economic issues in the UK in recent years. In June 2026, UK inflation remained above the Bank of England's 2% target, while interest rates were held at 3.75% as policymakers tried to balance inflation control with supporting economic growth. [\[bankofengland.co.uk\]](https://www.bankofengland.co.uk), [\[euronews.com\]](https://www.euronews.com)

### Your Task

Read a recent news article about UK inflation or interest rates and answer the following questions:

1. What is inflation?
2. How does inflation affect:
  - Households?
  - Businesses?
  - Workers?
3. Why might the Bank of England raise interest rates when inflation is high?
4. Who benefits from higher interest rates and who loses out?
5. Should the Bank of England focus more on reducing inflation or supporting economic growth? Explain your view.

### Stretch Challenge

Draw a flow diagram showing how an increase in oil or energy prices can lead to inflation across the economy.

### Economics Skills Developed

- Understanding inflation
  - Monetary policy
  - Economic growth
  - Cause-and-effect analysis
  - Evaluation
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# Transition Task 2: The Supermarket Price War (Microeconomics)

## Context

In 2026, major UK supermarkets such as Sainsbury's and Morrisons argued that Aldi and Lidl have an unfair advantage in some local markets. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) is investigating whether competition rules should be changed. [\[news.sky.com\]](https://www.sky.com/news), [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk)

## Your Task

Research the supermarket industry and answer:

1. Why do consumers choose Aldi and Lidl?
2. What do economists mean by **competition**?
3. How does competition benefit consumers?
4. Are supermarkets competing only on price? Find at least three other ways they compete.
5. Why might the government want to prevent firms becoming too powerful in a market?

## Data Collection

Visit two supermarkets (or their websites) and compare the prices of:

- Bread
- Milk
- Cereal
- Apples
- Pasta

Present your findings in a table.

## Written Response

Write 150–200 words answering:

"Is strong competition always good for consumers?"

## Economics Skills Developed

- Markets and competition
- Consumer choice
- Business behaviour
- Market power

# Transition Task 3: Can the UK Economy Keep Growing? (Macroeconomics)

## Context

The UK's economic growth forecast for 2026 has been a major topic of debate. Organisations such as the IMF have estimated growth of around 0.8–1.0%, while concerns remain about inflation, energy prices and global uncertainty. [\[imf.org\]](#), [\[commonslib...liament.uk\]](#), [\[thelondone...onomic.com\]](#)

## Your Task

Imagine you are an economic adviser to the Chancellor.

Research:

- UK GDP growth
- Unemployment
- Inflation
- Government spending

Then complete the following:

### Part A: Economic Health Check

Complete a table:

Economic Indicator	Latest Figure	Why It Matters
Inflation		
GDP Growth		
Unemployment		
Interest Rate		

### Part B: Your Recommendations

Write a short report (250–300 words) answering:

1. What is the biggest challenge facing the UK economy today?
2. What policy would you introduce to help the economy?
3. Who would benefit from your policy?
4. Are there any disadvantages?

### Extension

Find one news story about:

- trade,
- government spending,
- taxation,
- energy prices,
- or economic growth.

Summarise it in 100 words and explain how it links to economics.

#### **Economics Skills Developed**

- GDP and growth
  - Government policy
  - Economic decision-making
  - Critical thinking
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#### **Final Reflection Task (Optional)**

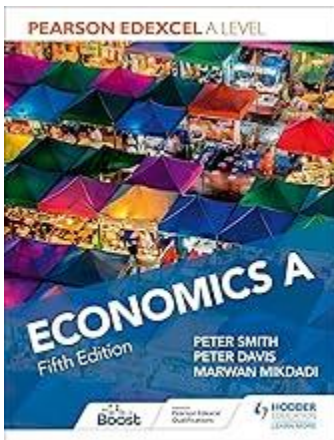
After completing all three activities, write a paragraph answering:

**"What do economists actually do, and why does economics matter to everyday life?"**

This reflection helps students see that economics is not just about money—it is about how individuals, firms and governments make choices when resources are scarce.

## Reading List & Recommendations

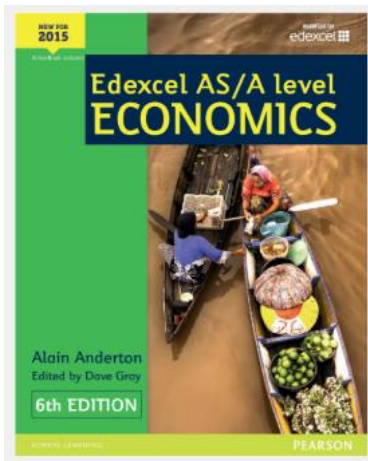
### Text Books



[Pearson Edexcel A level Economics A Fifth Edition: Amazon.co.uk: Smith, Peter, Davis, Peter, Mikdadi, Marwan: 9781398374713: Books](#)

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### More detailed – reference book



[Pearson Edexcel AS & A Level Economics Student Book \(Edexcel GCE Economics 2015\): Amazon.co.uk: Anderton, Alain, Gray, Dave: 9781447990550: Books](#)

### Recommended podcasts/documentaries to watch

**Freakonomics (2010)** – quirky economic thinking

[BBC Sounds - Politically - Available Episodes](#)

Ten Years After Brexit – Alex Forsyth

[FT News Briefing | Financial Times](#)

[BBC Radio 4 - The Briefing Room](#)

[BBC Radio 4 - More or Less - Downloads](#)

Channel 4 news at 7pm, Newsnight on BBC2 at 10.30pm

BBC Question Time

BBC Panorama – [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006t14n](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006t14n) - The long running BBC current affairs programme, featuring interviews and investigative reports on a wide variety of subjects but often economics related. In the past

there have been relevant episodes such as The Big Squeeze, How to Survive the Meltdown and The Truth about Supermarket Price Wars. These documentaries are often available for up to a year after broadcast.

Economics related documentaries (Evan Davis and Robert Peston often present topical economics documentaries on BBC & ITV)

Listen to economics related radio programmes (e.g. More or Less, presented by Tim Harford – weekly on BBC Radio 4, podcasts also available)

## Films/Documentaries:

### ✓ *The Founder (2016)*

- Story of McDonald's expansion
- Shows **franchising, economies of scale, and market power**
- Great for understanding **business growth and competition**

### ✓ *Joy (2015)*

- Entrepreneurial journey of inventing and selling products
- Links to **innovation, risk-taking, and firm behaviour**

### ✓ *The Big Short (2015)*

- Explains 2008 financial crisis
- Covers **mortgages, derivatives, market failure, and risk**
- Very engaging and beginner-friendly explanations

### ✓ *Margin Call (2011)*

- Focuses on a firm during the early stages of the crash
- Good for understanding **decision-making under uncertainty**

### ✓ *Inside Job (2010)* (Documentary)

- Detailed breakdown of the global financial crisis
- Strong on **regulation failure and banking system issues**

### *Slumdog Millionaire (2008)*

- Illustrates **poverty, inequality, and development issues**
- Useful for evaluating **quality of life and living standards**

✓ *Lion (2016)*

- Highlights **development differences between countries**
- Shows impacts of poverty and global inequality

✓ *He Named Me Malala (2015)* (Documentary)

- Focus on education as a **development factor**

✓ *I, Daniel Blake (2016)*

- Explores the UK welfare system
- Links to **government failure, inequality, and labour markets**

✓ *Thank You for Smoking (2005)*

- Shows **government regulation, externalities, and lobbying**
- Great for **market failure discussion**

✓ *American Factory (2019)* (Documentary)

- US-China business collaboration
- Excellent for **globalisation, labour markets, and productivity**

✓ *The True Cost (2015)* (Documentary)

- Fast fashion industry
- Covers **negative externalities, global supply chains, and ethics**

✓ *Moneyball (2011)*

- Data-driven decision-making in baseball
- Links to **information, efficiency, and rational behaviour**

✓ *Limitless (2011)* (use selectively)

- Shows decision-making changes with enhanced cognition

- Can link loosely to **rational vs irrational choices**

Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room (2007) YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIO731MAO4&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIO731MAO4&feature=related)

The Corporation (2006) YouTube: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2z-JVP6aAxs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2z-JVP6aAxs)

Great documentaries that expose the darker side of corporate power, greed and fraudulent behaviour.

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#### USEFUL WEBSITES

**www.tutor2u.net** – Tutor2u is an essential Economics resource for all students. It contains an excellent Blog with relevant news stories, exam advice and analysis of topical events. It also has various quizzes, revision notes and Power Points for free.

**www.bbc.co.uk/news/business & http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business/economy** - Keep up to date with current events in the economic & business world through the BBC website Business & Economy news section. Very easy to read and many helpful articles to gain real examples of the theory learnt in class. Vital for success in A2.

**https://www.theguardian.com/business/economics & https://www.theguardian.com/uk/business** - The Guardian newspaper Business & Economics section. Slightly more in-depth look at business current events and still free to access online.

**http://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Economics & www.independent.co.uk/news/business** - The Independent newspaper Economics & Business section. Another great source for Economics stories and again, still free online.