

ECONOMICS A-LEVEL TRANSITION WORK 2026

KEY INFORMATION

Welcome to A-Level Economics, we look forward to welcoming you in September. Economics is the invisible hand that drives the world around us. Economics will influence Politics, Technology and Business decisions every day.

This is a 2-year A Level course. Year 12 will focus on Themes 1 & 2 which delve into Micro and Macroeconomics. Themes 3 & 4 will be covered in Year 13. You will need confidence with numerical skills and preferably some familiarity with business or economic ideas. Most of the assessment will be through essay writing, so strong written English is essential. There is also a key focus on maths and statistical skills, so a grade 7 in Maths is key.

Below is the specification for the course you will undertake, which is Economics A by Edexcel.

[Edexcel GCSE and GCE 2014](#)

This booklet includes the work you will need to complete over Summer and at the end will include methods of engaging in the subject via reading, film and social media. If you can access any of these it is a great way of starting to get to know your subject - it is highly recommended you continue taking an interest in the real world as these examples will be paramount to your learning and applying theory to real life!

WHY THIS TRANSITION WORK MATTERS

Economics is a completely new subject for students starting Year 12. This transition work is vital for getting off to a strong start. It will introduce you to core concepts, ways of thinking, and language that will help you to participate fully in lessons from the very first week. On top of this it will encourage you to do wider reading and have a greater understanding of the world around you.

The A Level Economics course is content-heavy and moves quickly. On top of this, as a student at Churchdown Sixth Form, you are expected to engage with wider learning opportunities, such as reading the news, listening to podcasts and exploring the impacts of Economics in world events.

Please treat this transition work as your first piece of A Level study. The effort you put in now will pay dividends throughout the course.



HOW TO PREPARE OVER THE SUMMER

CORE CONCEPTS – RESEARCH & NOTES TASK

Visit Tutor2U's Head Start in A-Level Economics and complete **two to three pages** of notes (in any format you prefer) for of the following topics altogether:

- Macroeconomics vs Microeconomics
- Unemployment
- Opportunity Cost and Scarcity
- Financial Markets
- Currency Economics
- Rational and Irrational Behaviour
- Behavioural Economics and Gambling

Links to these resources can be found on [Tutor2U](#)

ESSAY TASK – CHOOSE ONE QUESTION

Write a short report of 250–350 words on one of the following microeconomics-based questions:

1. To what extent did the COVID pandemic create opportunities for small firms and entrepreneurs?
2. Is national happiness a more useful measure of individual welfare than consumer spending?
3. Should environmental concerns influence how firms price and produce their goods?
4. Do consumers or businesses benefit more from the rise of online retailing?

This should be submitted to your Y12 Economics Teacher in September.

RESEARCH TASK – THE IRAN WAR / AI

You will complete one research task and write up an article explaining your findings. This report will focus on current issues; the war in Iran and the prevalence of AI.

1. Research the economic impacts of the war in Iran on a microeconomic and macroeconomic scale. Consider the following points:
 - The reasons for the conflict
 - The impact on the UK – To individuals and government policy
 - The impact on Iran and the USA (consider GDP and Inflation for example)
 - The global impact.
2. Research the impact of the growth of AI on productivity. Consider the following points on a microeconomic and macroeconomic scale
 - The impact on production and efficiency
 - The impact on the labour market
 - How it may influence government policy
 - Are there any positive or negative externalities?
 - How will it impact the GDP of nations that adopt it?

STAY UPDATED – FOLLOW THE NEWS

Economics is rooted in the real world. You need to be aware of current events and how they relate to the subject.

- Read news from:
 - BBC News – [Economy Section](#)
 - LSE Blogs – [Economics](#) (all sections worth looking at)
- Listen to relevant podcasts such as [Freakonomics Radio](#), [The Economist](#), or [Planet Money](#) on Spotify or AppleMusic
- Add a news app to your phone and check it regularly & Subscribe to Economics Explained on [Spotify](#) or [YouTube](#).
- Open Instagram and add the following accounts (keep an eye out for stories over summer)

◦ @tutor2uecon	◦ @thetimes
◦ @garyseconomics	◦ @financialtimes
◦ @ftreports	◦ @bloombergbusiness
◦ @worldeconomicforum	◦ @guardian
◦ @theeconomist	◦ @econ_comics
◦ @bbcnews	◦ @bbctodayprogramme
◦ @bloombergopinion	◦ @reuters

Come prepared with 3 stories that you have found that you consider interesting to the start of the course. Make sure you can answer the following questions on each:

1. What happened?
2. What economic principle is illustrated/discussed?
3. Why is this important?
4. Are there any wider implications of this story?

RECOMMENDED BOOKS AND VIEWING

If you'd like to explore Economics further:

- The Undercover Economist – Tim Harford
- Nudge – Thaler & Sunstein
- The Shock Doctrine – Naomi Klein
- A Little History of Economics – Niall Kishtainy
- Freakonomics – Levitt & Dubner
- Film: The Big Short (2015)
- Film: A Beautiful Mind (2001)
- Film: MoneyBall (2011)

EQUIPMENT YOU'LL NEED IN SEPTEMBER

- A4 Lever Arch File
- A4 Dividers (10 pack)
- Lined A4 Paper or Refill Pad
- Optional: Highlighters, Cue Cards, Revision Resources

If you have any queries about the A Level Economics course or this summer work, feel free to email us:

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