



EDEXCEL A LEVEL ECONOMICS A TRANSITION WORK 2026

Transition Work 2026

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Introduction to Economics and Expectations

Welcome to Edexcel A Level Economics A

Congratulations on choosing A Level Economics! Over the next two years you will develop an understanding of how individuals, businesses and governments make decisions, and how those decisions affect society. Economics is about much more than money—it explains why prices change, why inflation rises, why unemployment exists, why governments intervene in markets and why some countries are richer than others.

Unlike many GCSE subjects, A Level Economics places a strong emphasis on **thinking critically, analysing evidence, and constructing balanced arguments**. You will apply economic theory to real-world issues and use current events to explain what is happening in the UK and global economy.

What will you study?

The Edexcel Economics A course is divided into four themes:

Year 12

Theme 1 – Introduction to Markets and Market Failure (Microeconomics)

- Scarcity, choice and opportunity cost
- Demand and supply
- Elasticity
- Market failure
- Government intervention

Theme 2 – The UK Economy: Performance and Policies (Macroeconomics)

- Inflation
- Unemployment
- Economic growth
- Aggregate demand and aggregate supply
- Fiscal and monetary policy

Year 13

Theme 3 – Business Behaviour and the Labour Market

- Business growth
- Market structures
- Competition
- Labour markets

- Government intervention

Theme 4 – A Global Perspective

- International trade
- Exchange rates
- Globalisation
- Development economics
- Financial markets
- The role of the state in the economy

The course is assessed by **three written examinations at the end of Year 13**, with no coursework. You will answer multiple-choice, short-answer, data response and extended essay questions that test your knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation.

What is expected of you?

To be successful in Economics you should aim to:

- **Attend every lesson** and arrive prepared.
- **Complete all homework** to a high standard and on time.
- **Read the news regularly**, particularly business and economic stories.
- **Develop strong numerical skills**, including percentages, index numbers and interpreting graphs.
- **Learn economic vocabulary** accurately and use it in your written answers.
- **Practise drawing and explaining economic diagrams** clearly.
- **Review your notes every week** rather than leaving revision until the exams.
- **Ask questions** whenever you are unsure—economics rewards curiosity.

Independent Study

For every hour spent in lessons, you should expect to spend some time **each week** studying independently. This might include:

- Reviewing class notes
- Completing exam questions
- Reading economics articles
- Watching revision videos
- Creating revision resources
- Learning key definitions and diagrams

What makes an excellent economist?

Successful Economics students are:

- Curious about the world around them.
- Interested in current affairs.
- Confident interpreting data and graphs.
- Able to explain *why* something has happened, not just *what* has happened.
- Willing to consider different viewpoints before reaching a justified conclusion.

Above all, remember that **Economics is not about memorising facts—it is about learning to think like an economist.** If you stay organised, keep up with current affairs, practise exam skills regularly and remain inquisitive, you will give yourself the best opportunity to succeed over the next two years.

Task 1- Economics in the News

Choose **five** economics news stories from the summer.

Suggested sources:

- BBC Business
- Financial Times (free articles)
- The Guardian Business
- Sky News Business

For each article complete:

Economics News Story 1:

Title	
Date	
Source	
Summary (100 words)	
Which economic topic does this relate to?	
Why is this important?	

Economics News Story 2:

Title	
Date	
Source	
Summary (100 words)	
Which economic topic does this relate to?	
Why is this important?	

Economics News Story 3:

Title	
Date	
Source	
Summary (100 words)	
Which economic topic does this relate to?	
Why is this important?	

Economics News Story 4:

Title	
Date	
Source	
Summary (100 words)	
Which economic topic does this relate to?	
Why is this important?	

Economics News Story 5:

Title	
Date	
Source	
Summary (100 words)	
Which economic topic does this relate to?	
Why is this important?	

Task 2: Learn Key Vocabulary

Research the meaning of each word.




Term	Defintion
Scarcity	
Choice	
Opportunity Cost	
Demand	
Supply	
Price	
Market	
Competition	
Inflation	
Interest Rates	
GDP	
Unemployment	
Taxation	
Productivity	
Economic Growth	
Government Spending	
Exports	
Imports	
Exchange Rate	
Living Standards	

Task 3- Watch and Learn

Watch at least **three** videos.

My recommended three would be:

1. **Tutor2u Economics** – Excellent for learning the specification and keeping up with current events.
2. **EconplusDal** – Probably the best free YouTube channel for Edexcel A Level Economics.
3. **Economics Help** – Great for concise explanations, evaluation points and real-world examples.:

Tutor2u Economics	EconplusDal	Economics Help
		

Channel	Video Title	Key Economic Concepts	Three Things I Learned	One Question I Still Have
Tutor2u Economics				
EconplusDal				
Economics Help				

Task 4: Math's Refresher

Economics contains mathematical skills.

Complete the following without a calculator where possible.

Percentages

1. Increase £40 by 15%

Answer _____

2. Decrease £80 by 12%

Answer _____

3. 20% of £350

Answer _____

Percentage Change

Calculate the percentage change.

Old	New	Percentage Change
100	120	
80	68	
500	550	
1200	1140	

Index Numbers

If a price index rises from:

100 → 106

What is inflation?

Ratios

Simplify:

24 : 36

Mean

Calculate the average of:

5, 8, 12, 15, 20

Task 5: Data Interpretation



Study the graph below:

Answer:

1. What trend can you see?

Answer _____

2. Which year experienced the biggest change?

Answer _____

3. Suggest one reason.

Answer _____

4. What might be the consequences?

Answer _____

Task 7: Thinking Like an Economist

Write short answers.

Why do bottled drinks cost more at airports?

Should university education be free?

Why might supermarkets reduce prices?

Why are footballers paid more than teachers?

Task 8: Research Project

Choose ONE.

Option A

Why has inflation changed over the past five years?

Option B

Why are house prices so expensive?

Option C

Should the government increase defence spending?

Produce:

- 2 pages
- At least 3 sources
- Graphs where appropriate
- A conclusion

Task 9: Reflection

After completing this booklet answer:

1. What was the most interesting thing you learned?

2. What did you enjoy most?

3. Which task did you find hardest?

4. What are you hoping to learn in Year 12?

Beyond the classroom: Recommended Reading, Watching and Listening

Edexcel A Level Economics A

Economics is everywhere. Successful A Level students develop the habit of reading about the economy, following current affairs and questioning why governments, businesses and consumers make the decisions they do.

The resources below will help you build your understanding before you begin the course.

Essential Websites

Website	Why use it?
Economics Help	Excellent explanations of economic theory with clear diagrams and real-world examples.
Tutor2u Economics	Videos, revision notes, blogs, quizzes and up-to-date economic news.
EconplusDal	One of the best YouTube channels for A Level Economics.
BBC News – Business	Daily economic and business news explained clearly.
Financial Times (Free Schools Access)	High-quality articles on business and global economics.
The Economist	Weekly magazine covering global economic issues (many schools have subscriptions).
Office for National Statistics (ONS)	Official UK data on inflation, unemployment, GDP and living standards.
Bank of England	Information on inflation, interest rates and monetary policy.

Books for Beginners

These books are enjoyable introductions rather than textbooks.

Freakonomics

Steven Levitt & Stephen Dubner

Shows how economists think about everyday problems.

★★★★★ Recommended starting point.

The Undercover Economist

Tim Harford

Explains why prices exist, how markets work and why businesses behave the way they do.

★★★★★ Essential reading.

50 Economics Ideas You Really Need to Know

Edmund Conway

Short chapters introducing many key concepts you'll study during the course.

★★★★☆

The Economics Book (DK)

Highly visual and easy to dip into.

Excellent for Year 12 students.

Doughnut Economics

Kate Raworth

Introduces alternative ways of thinking about economic growth and sustainability.

Good preparation for evaluation questions.

The Armchair Economist

Steven Landsburg

Explores how economic reasoning applies to everyday decisions.

Talking to My Daughter About the Economy

Yanis Varoufakis

Accessible introduction to capitalism, markets and inequality.

Books for Students Wanting More Challenge

- Why Nations Fail – Daron Acemoglu & James Robinson
 - Poor Economics – Abhijit Banerjee & Esther Duflo
 - The Wealth of Nations (selected extracts) – Adam Smith
 - Nudge – Richard Thaler & Cass Sunstein
 - Misbehaving – Richard Thaler
-

Recommended Documentaries

Inside Job (2010)

Explains the causes of the 2008 Financial Crisis.

Links to:

- Financial markets
 - Banking
 - Government intervention
-

The Big Short (2015)

Excellent companion to the Financial Crisis.

Students should focus on understanding:

- Risk
 - Incentives
 - Regulation
 - Market failure
-

Money, Explained (Netflix)

Short episodes covering:

- Credit
- Debt
- Student loans
- Cryptocurrency
- Wealth

Ideal for Year 12 students.

BBC Panorama Business Documentaries

Often cover inflation, cost of living, taxation and housing.

YouTube Channels

Channel	Recommended for
EconplusDal	Entire Edexcel course
Tutor2u Economics	Topic explanations and exam skills
Economics Help	Clear theory and diagrams
Crash Course Economics	Big-picture understanding
Marginal Revolution University	Microeconomics and Macroeconomics
Bank of England	Inflation and monetary policy
Financial Times	Current affairs

Podcasts

The Rest Is Money

Robert Peston & Steph McGovern

Excellent discussions of current UK economic issues.



FT News Briefing

10-minute daily updates on global business and economics.

Excellent for independent study.

Economics Explained

Short episodes explaining economic events around the world.

Freakonomics Radio

One of the world's most popular economics podcasts.

Explores behavioural economics and everyday decision making.

Planet Money (NPR)

Fun, engaging episodes explaining economics through real stories.

Highly recommended.

More or Less (BBC Radio 4)

Explains statistics and economic claims in the news.

Very useful for developing evaluation skills.

Films with Economic Themes

Film	Economic Concepts
The Big Short	Financial markets, banking, regulation
Margin Call	Financial crisis, risk
Inside Job	Government intervention, banking
Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room	Corporate governance, market failure
Wall Street	Incentives, profit, ethics
Moneyball	Data, incentives and efficiency

Follow the News

Aim to spend **10–15 minutes each week** reading or watching business news.

Good sources include:

- BBC Business
- Sky News Business
- Financial Times
- The Economist
- Reuters
- Bank of England