

# Get ready for Economics

## About the subject

A-Level Economics is a two year course which aims to explore the ways in which people, businesses and industries use resources globally. We look at how markets work – and how they fail. Economics covers a wide variety of topics, from production, efficiency, unemployment, poverty, government macroeconomic policy, market failure and international trade. Ultimately, Economists look at how to satisfy our wants with the finite resources we have.

The course is 100% exam based, with one exam in microeconomics (the theory of the firm), one exam in macroeconomics (the national and international economy) and finally a synoptic paper which covers both micro and macro topics. Maths skills are important as well as the ability to construct arguments in essay questions.

## Your tasks

In Economics we seek to understand the dynamics of change at a micro level (within an industry) and at a macro level (within and between countries).

Mathematical skills are crucial as you need to be able to interpret figures, calculate percentage changes, draw diagrams and use Index numbers confidently. Writing skills also matter as we address many economics debate issues in essay questions, so the ability to read longer pieces of text and construct balanced arguments is important.

Prior to commencing your studies, we have some activities we would like you to undertake. Please watch this short video [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPnQiIzzZtw>] which is a brief introduction to the course.

Please complete both of the Economics numeracy test worksheets over the summer, being sure to show all your calculations and working out (you should use a calculator to help you).

Economics test 1 [<https://www.barnsleysixthformcollege.co.uk/wp/index.php?gf-download=2021%2F06%2FEcon-Initial-Numeracy-Assessment-Test1-QP.pdf&form-id=3&field-id=10&hash=a4b76129b4a8761e925ba4d420c71e44054c36c4f4c743590ab737a289996000>]

Economics test 2 [<https://www.barnsleysixthformcollege.co.uk/wp/index.php?gf-download=2021%2F06%2FEcon-Initial-Numeracy-Assessment-Test2-QP.pdf&form-id=3&field-id=10&hash=f72e857b0798ed306cd8e2d82b9c93b8d600032f9c6f5d2ec8755e09326fb1b2>]

Then, read this article:

Coronavirus: Why is the petrol price nearing £1 a litre?

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-52188448>]

Try to list as many economic issues in the article that you can.

Please bring your completed tests and topic list to your first Economics lesson at Barnsley Sixth Form College.

You can either write the answers by hand on paper, or you can word process them on a computer if you have access to one. Please bring them into your first session at college. Paper copies of the tests are available upon request.

## Essential reading

Have a look at this specification [<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics/as-and-a-level/economics-7135-7136/specification-at-a-glance>] – do you like the sound of these topics? 3.1 and 3.2 we complete in year one, with 4.1 and 4.2 building upon this in year two.

A revision book will be useful for the course. There are suggestions of suitable books to buy here:

Title : A Level Economics Complete Revision & Practice for Exam Board AQA  
Publisher : CGP  
ISBN: 978-1782943471

OR

Title: My Revision Notes – A-level Economics AQA [[https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-l-evel-Economics/dp/1471865878/ref=sr\\_1\\_6?dchild=1&keywords=aqa+economics&qid=1588263025&sr=8-6](https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-l-evel-Economics/dp/1471865878/ref=sr_1_6?dchild=1&keywords=aqa+economics&qid=1588263025&sr=8-6)]  
Publisher: Hodder  
ISBN: 978-1471865879

## Useful websites and other resources

Where can Economics take me? [<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/subjects/what-can-you-do-economics-degree>]

Further Economics studying beyond A-Levels [<https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects/economics>]

Reasons to study Economics [<http://whystudyeconomics.ac.uk/during-your-study/economics-at-school/>]

Some of the topics we will look at in the first term  
[<https://www.tutor2u.net/economics/reference/as-microeconomics-study-notes-topic-listing>]

Additional topics for the first term [<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/economics-revision/a-level-aqa/microeconomics-as/>]

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## Any questions?

Email us on [info@barnsley.ac.uk](mailto:info@barnsley.ac.uk)

Call us on **01226 216 123**