

Y11 - 12 Economics A Level Bridging work

Yr11 Preparation Work Economics

- If you are interested in studying A' Level Economics then the most important thing you can do this Spring and Summer is to keep up with the news, particularly when it involves key economic indicators or policies (see the video below to find out what these are).
- Journalists frequently use concepts and vocabulary from Economics A Level so reading and watching the news regularly will help cement these ideas in your mind.
- Reading news-sources will also give you up to date macroeconomic data on things like inflation, unemployment and growth, as well as good examples of market failure such as monopoly power and negative externalities, as well as the government's measures to deal with these.

News Sources

- The BBC news website is worth a daily visit, particularly the Business and Economy tabs.
- Build in listening to the Today programme on Radio 4 (Mon - Sat 6:00am – 9:00am) into your morning routine. This is the one single thing you can do that will make you a better informed economist.
- Subscribe to the Economist if you can. You are unlikely to read it cover to cover every week, but skim through for interesting articles and those that map on to topics you are studying.
- The Times, Guardian, Telegraph, and Independent all have good coverage of the economy. The Guardian and Telegraph on Saturday, and the Times on Sunday are particularly strong on economic news.
- The Week – this is an excellent weekly magazine that presents the week's news in brief.
- Economic Review, Economics Today – these are magazines available to A' Level students at local Libraries, and aimed specifically at an A Level audience.

Specification & text book

- OCR A Level Economics (4th edition) (Paperback)
- Publisher: Hodder Education
- ISBN: 9781510458406
- <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/economics-h060-h460-from-2019/>
- Specification code: H460
- Qualification number: 601/4799/4
- First teaching 2019, with first assessment 2021

Economic Events - TASKS

- You should also spend some time understanding some of the historic and more recent events that have taken place which have impacted on the UK and world Economies. Specifically you should research the following:
- The Industrial Revolution in the mid 18th century
- The Great Depression in the 1930's
- Two world wars
- Joining the European Union in the 1970's
- Black Monday 1987
- Dot com bubble in the 1990's
- Credit Crisis/ Housing Market Collapse in 2008/2009
- Covid 19 - in 2020

TASK -Try to make notes on each event, think about what happened and why, then what was the impact on employment, growth, inflation, imports and exports, standards of living in the Economies affected

Bridging work to complete – Very important!

- This work we would like to see in September.
- Complete the tasks on the word document names Y12 Economic Bridging Tasks. Complete all section from a – c
- **Part I – Y11 into 12 Economics Specific Bridging Work To be completed May – Sept**

Optional additional Tasks - Read 'Economic thinkers' article on these 2 slides and complete the tasks.

Economic thinkers

Adam Smith, Friedrich Hayek and Karl Marx

This resource sheet is designed to support the AS and A level Economics A specification
Topic 1.1.6: Free market economies, mixed economy and command economy:

- a) The distinction between free market, mixed and command economies: reference to Adam Smith, Friedrich Hayek and Karl Marx.

Karl Marx (1818–1883)

Karl Marx was an extremely influential thinker whose ideas ignited the movement by a third of the world's countries towards communism in the 20th century.

Marx provided a criticism of **capitalism**. Capitalism is a system where the small minority – the 'bourgeoisie' (the owners of capital such as machines and factories) – are the ruling class, and the masses – the 'proletariat' (the labourers) – provide the labour to produce goods and services. Marx essentially believed that economic systems progress through different stages – capitalism is just one stage in this development process and, due to its weaknesses and flaws, will eventually self-destruct, leading to the final stage of communism.

Marx believed that capitalists (the owners of capital), whose objective is to make a profit, must end up exploiting workers to achieve this objective. This means that workers will earn wages lower than their true value. Capitalists will also have an incentive to replace labour with machines, creating both more monotonous jobs as well as unemployment. The combined effect will be to create an exploited and alienated workforce, leading to social unrest.

He also believed that competition would cause many firms to go bust, leading to a few firms holding monopoly power which would allow them to further exploit both workers and consumers. This would also lead to owners of the bust firms joining the ever-increasing proletariat majority, causing social tensions to further increase.

The capitalist economic system is also weak, Marx said, since it is an unplanned system which causes one crisis after another. This impacts most negatively on the proletariat.

Marx believed that revolution among the proletariat was inevitable. Revolution would enable workers to seize the capital (so that ownership would be among the majority). Economic planning would direct economic activity. As the economic system moves towards communism, there would be abolition of private property replaced by common ownership of resources. However, although Marx wrote a lot criticising capitalism, he wrote relatively little on how communism would work.

Marxism has had a resurgence lately. Many global problems, such as the Global Financial Crisis and growing inequalities observed in many economies, may have their root cause in the free market system.

AS Summer Task

- ***Task: Economic Thinkers***
Please read the following economic stimulus material on the economists Marx, Keynes and Hayek:
- a) Outline the most significant aspects of Marx's, Keynes' and Hayek's economic arguments.
- b) Research the differences between Free Market, Mixed and Planned economies.
- c) Construct an economic defence of the argument that there should be no state provision of healthcare or education.
- Additional tasks need to also be completed which are on the word document. Thank you.

Movies to Watch

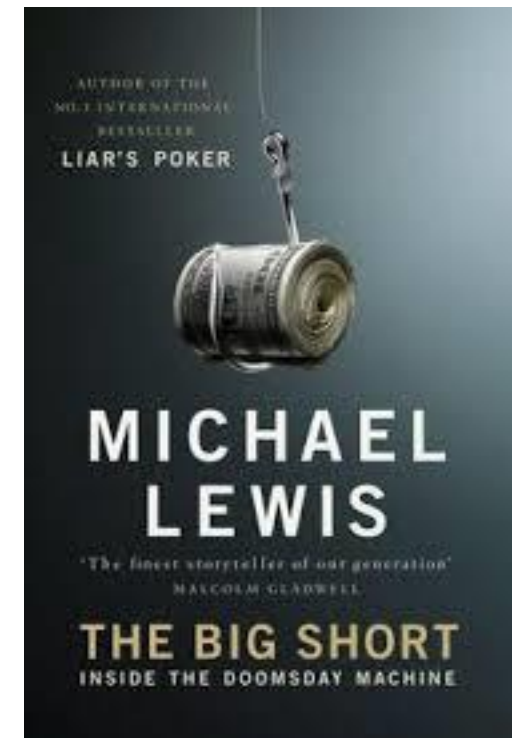
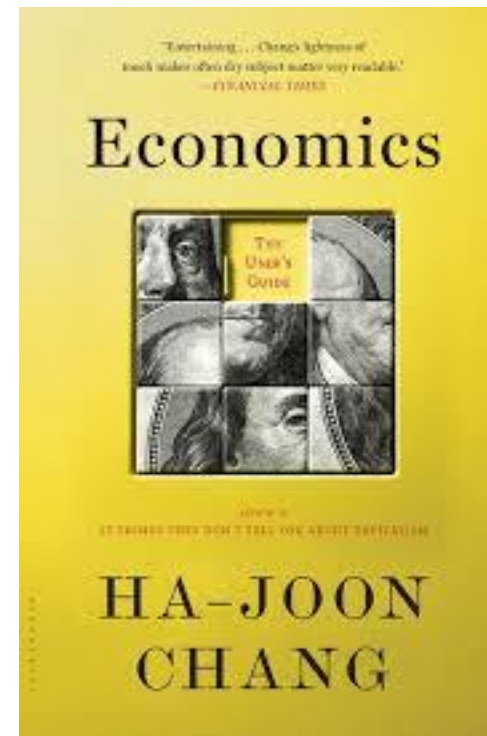
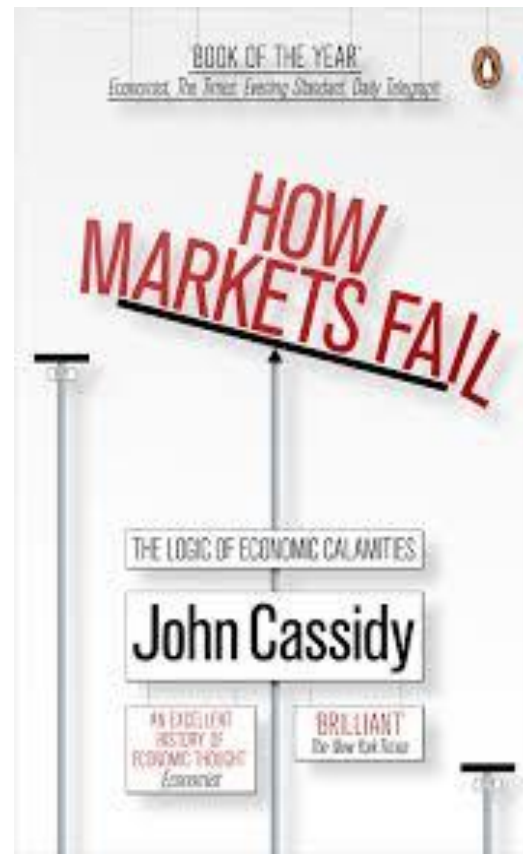
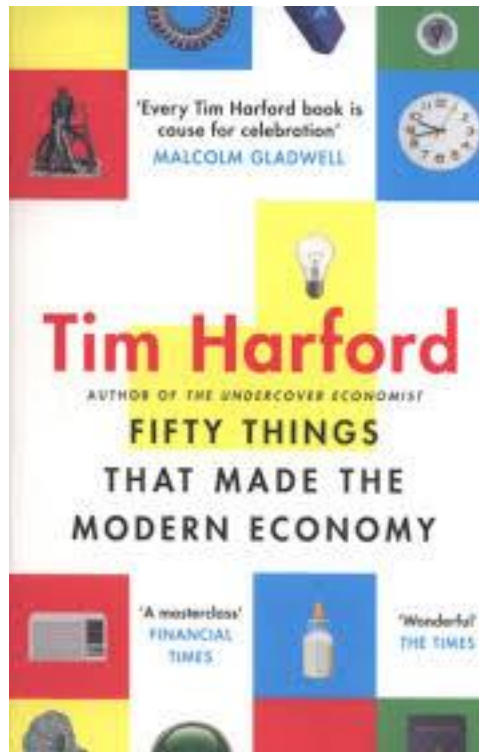
The below videos are really a fast summary of all the things you will study during the Economics A'level relating to the Macro-Economy. Of course most of this will be jibberish to you at the moment, but it shows you the level and the type of things you will learn about in lessons.



Reading

- Some books which you may want to read (below) - remember some of these will be available as AudioBooks, or you can borrow from a Library (when they open again) or ask a friend (perhaps they may have studied Economics before?) - you do not have to purchase these book yourself.

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More video to watch

- You may also wish to watch the following BBC 'Masters of Money' videos on these economic theorists:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CkHooEp3vRE>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttliCHchw4M>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbbSdRsuH7s>
- The following sources may also be of some use:
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-14366054>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-19706272>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-19620971>
<https://econ.economicshelp.org/2008/07/karl-marx-revolutionary-economist.html>

Further reading:

- You could try one of the following:
- *The Undercover Economist Paperback* – **Tim Harford**
Free Lunch: Easily Digestible Economics Paperback – **David Smith**
Economics: The User's Guide - **Ha-Joon Chang**
Capital in the Twenty First Century – **Thomas Piketty**
The Global Minotaur – **Mason and Varoufakis**
- *The Economist*
The Economic Review – a useful quarterly publication
The Economic/Business sections of the quality newspapers such as
The Observer, The Independent, The Times and The Guardian.

Further reading - Websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business/economy> - The BBC news website is a great free resource

www.tutor2u.co.uk - This is a very good website with excellent resources and is 'mostly' free
mjmfoodie - on You Tube is an accessible and popular series of introductory videos about Economics
EconplusDal – ditto!

www.economicshelp.org

www.economicsonline.co.uk

www.timharford.com

www.ft.com/comment/columnists/martin-wolf

www.economicsuk.com/blog/ **Core Resources**