

Welcome to Economics!

If you are reading this, you are likely to be considering studying economics at 6th form or degree level, or may be are just a little curious about the world around you and want to learn more. This guide is designed to take you beyond the specification to explore economics in the real world and how it affects our daily decisions. There is a range of different areas to consider across a selection of different media available that we hope you will enjoy. If there is something you come across that isn't on the list please let us know and we can share it with others.

Books:

Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner- Probably the most popular book amongst economic students. It explores the economics behind a variety of different questions that nobody has thought to ask!

The Undercover Economist by Tim Harford- This book does an excellent job of explaining real life, relatable scenarios that we might often take for granted.

The Armchair Economist by Steven E. Landsburg- This is a similar concept to the previous two books but does a fantastic job of explaining the logic behind everyday economic decisions rather than just the facts.

23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism by Ha-Joon Chang- Offers an insight into our current economic system and debunks some of the myths surrounding it

Who Runs Britain?: And Who's to Blame for the Economic Mess We're in by Robert Peston- This book was based around the financial crisis and is a great insight into the role of economic agents during the crisis.

50 Economics Ideas: You Really Need to Know by Edmund Conway- More of a theoretical book but does a good job of explaining some of the main concepts that we will be studying over the next few years.

Almighty Dollar by Dharshini David- follows the journey of a single \$ to show how the global economy works

Grave New World by Stephen King- Former head of Economics at HSBC looks at the fracturing global economy

Inequality by Anthony Atkinson – offers a fascinating insight into one of the most important economic/political issues of the age

Age of Discovery: Navigating the Risks and Rewards of Our New Renaissance by Ian Goldin & Chris Kutarna- Now is humanity's best moment. And our most fragile. Global health, wealth and education are booming. Scientific discovery is flourishing. But the same forces that make big gains possible for some of us deliver big losses to others-and tangle us together in ways that make everyone vulnerable.

News Media:

- BBC News
- Channel 4 News
- The Economist
- The Financial Times

Documentaries/TV Programmes

- **Panorama (BBC/iPlayer)** – there are lots of programmes to watch here with a focus around economics, such as 'How to Save the High Street', 'Cashing in on the Housing Crisis' and 'Amazon: What They Know About Us'
- **News Night/Question Time (BBC)** – current affairs, politics and economics all rolled in to one. Two different formats, but both offer a good debate of current economic issues both nationally and globally.
- **Top Documentary Films**- Short films about different economic issues/current affairs <https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/category/economics/>
- **Inside Europe: Ten Years of Turmoil**- Europe's presidents and prime ministers take us behind closed doors to reveal how, in crisis after crisis, they fought to preserve their union
- **Michael Portillo's Great Euro Crisis**- Michael Portillo visits Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse, and debt-stricken Greece. Is this the moment the Eurozone becomes more united, or will it be pulled apart?
- **The Bank That Almost Broke Britain**- The extraordinary story of how a small Scottish bank grew to become the biggest in the world before collapsing and triggering the largest financial bail-out in British history

Films

- **Black Diamond** – certainly not for the faint-hearted, the film explores the diamond trade in Sierra Leone amid civil war in the 1990's.
- **A Beautiful Mind** – a dramatization of the life of brilliant mathematician, John Nash, whose principles of governing dynamics (or Game Theory) are still relevant today when two parties are involved in interdependent decision making.
- **The Big Short** – a comedy-drama film telling the story of the 2007/8 financial crisis. (You could also look at 'Inside Job' or 'Too Big to Fail' which are based on the same topic but examine this from different viewpoints).

Podcasts

- <https://freakonomics.com/archive/> - from the authors of the hugely popular series of books. Each week, *Freakonomics Radio* speaks with Nobel laureates and provocateurs, intellectuals and entrepreneurs.
- <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/economics-in-ten/id1450116373> - this comes highly recommended for explaining economics in a simple but enjoyable way, it covers the way economics relates to everything from Christmas to the Coronavirus.
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nrss1/episodes/downloads> More or Less from Radio 4 goes behind the statistics to look at the economic issues within society. Led by the Undercover Economist himself, Tim Harford

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00494vv/episodes/player> 'The Crash' focuses on different aspects of the UK financial crisis

Social Media

- **Econplusdal**- very active on Twitter and Youtube to explain economic concepts and is very good at keeping up to date with current affairs
- **Kamal Ahmed**- BBC's Economic Correspondent
- **Robert Peston**- ITV's Political Correspondent
- **economicsuk.com/blog**- EconomicsUK is the personal website of David Smith, the Economics Editor of The Sunday Times, London. His easy to understand writing and clearly defined causes and consequences makes this an accessible blog for beginners.
- **Institute of Economic Affairs Blog**- 'Our mission is to improve understanding of the fundamental institutions of a free society by analysing and expounding the role of markets in solving economic and social problems.'
- **Tutor2u (on twitter)**- Lots of help with content work and applying current affairs to the spec.

TED talks:

There are a variety of different TED talks that would be a good watch. The playlists on 'emerging markets' and 'world economics' are interesting (accessed via: <https://www.ted.com/playlists/browse?topics=economics>) but you can also search for development economics or behavioural economics amongst others for some good material.

Economics Lectures:

The Royal Economics Society was set up to promote the study of the subject. Every year, prestigious speakers present at the 'Annual Public Lecture' aimed at A Level students. The back catalogue of lectures can be accessed from:

<https://www.res.org.uk/education/annual-public-lecture.html>.

The IFS undertakes research on a wide range of areas and their findings influence government policy in the UK. These lectures are aimed at undergraduates studying economics, but should be useful for students interested in these topics.

https://www.ifs.org.uk/tools_and_resources/public_economics_lectures

A bit left-field but why not...

And finally, think you could teach Boris and Rishi a thing or two about managing the economy during and after this crisis? The Adam Smith Institute are gathering feedback from members of the public on what they feel should be done. Submit your thoughts here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTBeOXdu5eFHg-HJhIpdhng24khQGECaKJ5pk-EAwKqBPEQ/viewform>