TRANSITION PACK for A LEVEL ECONOMICS

Exam board: Edexcel

Edexcel A level Economics (A) Specification

EXPECTATIONS

Our aim is to deliver a challenging and engaging course and to support you in achieving your highest possible grade in this subject. In order for this to be possible, we have the following expectations:

- You must attend all lessons. Poor attendance equals poor grade. At A level missing 2 or 3 hours of lessons can be a lot of work to catch up. If you have to miss a lesson, ensure you get notes from your teacher or other students.

- Keep your notes, classwork and homework organised in an A4 ring binder, using dividers to help organise different topics. This will help you when it comes to revision and enable you to find work ready for assessment.

- Whilst your notes are really important, at A level, you need more! You need to listen to your teacher in class, participate in tasks and discuss topics in small groups and with your teacher, complete your homework and read about/research the topics by yourself to complement your learning and understanding.

- You also need to be aware of what is going on in the world so, read relevant online magazines, watch relevant television programmes, and keep up to date with current affairs. (See recommended resources)

- Before a lesson, refresh your knowledge about what you did in the previous lesson. Make sure you have any work ready to hand in

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Reading is an essential part of the course and you will be required to read at home and during independent study. Extra reading is necessary for the development of critical thinking and for the extension of knowledge and understanding of what is happening in the world today.

There are Economics textbooks kept in the classroom and LRC, together with copies of Economics Review. It is not necessary that you purchase any additional texts as there is so much valuable material online. We recommend the Tutor2U website http://www.tutor2u.net/economics and suggest you access this resource at least once a week.

Useful Websites

Tutor2u: http://www.tutor2u.net/

BBC News: Economics — http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/economy

Competition and Markets Authority - www.gov.uk/government/organisations/competition-and-markets-authority

David Smith's Economics UK — www.economicsuk.com

Economics Online – www.economicsonline.co.uk

National Statistics Online — www.statistics.gov.uk

The Bank of England — www.bankofengland.co.uk

The Economist — www.economist.com

The Financial Times — www.ft.com

The Guardian: Economics — http://politics.guardian.co.uk/economics

The Independent — www.independent.co.uk

The Institute For Fiscal Studies — www.ifs.org.uk

The International Monetary Fund — www.imf.org

The Telegraph — www.telegraph.com

The Times — www.the-times.co.uk

The United Nations — www.un.org

The World Bank — www.worldbank.org

UK Treasury — www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Why Study Economics? — www.whystudyeconomics.ac

Econ Films http://www.econfilms.tv/work/

Television and Film

There are plenty of TV programmes and films that will help to develop your understanding of topics covered. Any current affairs programme or documentary such as Newsnight or Panorama, will be relevant watching. There have also been plenty of films made about major economic events such as the 2008 Financial Crash - 'Inside Job', see imdb link below.

http://www.imdb.com/list/ls008806743/

http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mk25

http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006t14n

Enrichment reading

Below is a suggested reading list for broadening your appreciation of Economics. We have a certain number in the Department already, and with an ISBN number any public library will source books for you.

1. 23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism (Ha-Joon Chang)
2. Adapt: Why Success Always Starts with Failure (Tim Harford)
3. Art of Strategy (Dixit and Nalebuff) – especially good for Game Theory
4. Consolations of Economics: How We Will All Benefit from the New World Order (GerardLyons)
5. Drunkard's Walk (Leonard Mlodinow)
6. Economics: The User's Guide (Ha-Joon Chang)
7. GDP: A Brief but Affectionate History (Diane Coyle)
8. Keynes – the Return of the Master (Robert Skidelsky)
9. Made in Britain: How the nation earns its living: (Evan Davis)
10. Misbehaving: The Making of Behavioural Economics (Richard Thaler)
11. Paper Promises: Money, Debt and the New World Order (Philip Coggan)
12. Poor Economics: Rethinking Ways to Fight Global Poverty (Banerjee & Duflo)
13. Positive Linking – Networks and Nudges (Paul Ormerod)
14. Risk Savvy - How to make good decisions (Gerd Gigerenzer)
15. Ten Great Economists (Philip Thornton)
16. The Box - How the Shipping Container Made the World Smaller and the World Economy Bigger, (Levinson)
17. The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon (Brad Stone)
18. The Great Divide (Joseph Stglitz)
19. The Great Escape (Professor Angus Deaton)
20. The Idea of Justice (Amartya Sen)
21. The Plundered Planet: How to Reconcile Prosperity with Nature: (Paul Collier)
22. Thinking Fast and Thinking Slow: (Daniel Kahneman)
23. What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets (Michael Sandel)
24. Why Information Grows: The Evolution of Order, from Atoms to Economies (Cesar Hidalgo)
25. Why Nations Fail: Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty (Daron Acemoglu & James Robinson)
26. Worldly Philosophers: Lives, Times, and Ideas of Great Economic Thinkers (Robert Heilbroner)

Additional Resources

The T2U website is a fantastic resource for students of economics.

https://www.tutor2u.net/students/a-level/edexcel-a-level-economics

Use this link for any research or reference. They have also developed a new section for Y11 students which you may find useful as you begin your Economics journey.

TRANSITION WORK

Introduction to Macroeconomics

Follow the link and complete the tasks. Watch the videos and make brief notes as you go. This will give you an insight into macroeconomics.