

Economics starters September 2025

Some ideas to get ahead and suggested sources for reading and viewing are to be found below.

No prior knowledge is expected as we will build the course from the basics. You will already have considerable informal knowledge through your wider informal networks and your subject related learning. Additionally, you 'live' the subject in your daily lives as so many day-to-day decisions are essentially economic ones!

One of the most useful things you can do to help yourself is to follow business and economics news. An excellent source, because it's easy to read and the extracts are quite short, is <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business/economy>. You could get the app also. We use this as a resource for discussion and latest news and, usually, the articles contain hyperlinks into the origin of the articles (so we can check the source for quality and integrity). Do get into the routine of seeing what's happening - it's one of the best things about the subject.

Hopefully over time you will develop a particular area of subject interest and specialism as this will really help you further as and when you apply for university courses. Quite a few of you will probably go on to business/economics/finance/management or related, degrees.

Obvious other good sources of topical information are *The Economist* (excellent podcasts), *The Times*, *The Guardian* (great infographics) and *The Financial Times*. All are available through the e-library portal. There are obviously plenty of other great sources of information that you will come across (*The Week*, *Evening Standard* and so on...) Do start taking an interest. Networked TV regularly includes documentaries which are economics focused.

We follow the Edexcel Economics A specification available at: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/economics-a-2015.html> You could have a look into the course content in your own time and it's helpful to download a copy of the specification onto your iPad.

There are plenty of excellent introductions to content. We would suggest in particular *Economics: The User's Guide* (Penguin Books 2014) by Ha-Joon Chang as probably the most useful all round introduction. You can dip into it also (indeed the author suggests you do!) so there's no essential need to read it cover to cover. Another excellent general book is *50 Economic Ideas You Really Need to Know* (Quercus Publishing 2009) by Edmund Conway. Again, you can dip into this. Both these books are available in the library. We also recommend *Doughnut Economics* (rh Busines Books 2017) by Kate Raworth which gives a different, more environmentally aware, slant on the subject.

Don't be restricted by these and do explore other books (the library has some that are recently published), even those with a remote link to the subject. There is more in depth reading list available -

an A5 list is available in the Sixth Form Centre (or ask Mr Ross). If you want to take things further please follow the links in the footnotes below.¹

Any questions at all, please do ask. Looking forward to getting started in September!

Mr Ross and Mrs Patience

¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ez10ADR_gM&list=PL1oDmcs0xTD-dJN1PL2N1urX0EKupBJCQ Crash Course Economics is an American source but is aligned closely to the A level and the videos are very watchable.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCHm5SdNO5U&list=PLSQI0a2vh4HDERCw_ddanXbsDpFWcpL-S Khan Academy is an outstanding source of 'free' videos covering all the A level material.
<https://www.youtube.com/@COREEcon> Core Economics is a 'free' source of videos with an outstanding pdf textbook. You need to sign up for the full availability but it is certainly worth doing so.
<https://www.tutor2u.net/economics> Very useful source of theory and videos. Updated regularly.