

## ECONOMICS – PROVE YOUR PASSION

Success in A Level Economics is often linked to your understanding of current affairs and issues both domestically and globally. Prior to the commencement of your studies you may wish to undertake some of the following:

### **Reading List & Recommendations Books, Newspapers, Magazines and Online Books**

A number of easy to read economics books:

- The Undercover Economist – Tim Harford  
Introduces some basic economic concepts into real life scenarios.
- Freakonomics – Steven Levitt  
The economics of drug dealing, sumo wrestling and estate agents, amongst other things.
- Made in Britain – Evan Davis  
Very good analysis of the British economy – a look at the UK's strengths and weaknesses.

Some more challenging, respected economics books which will enhance your knowledge in different areas of the course and you could talk about in a university reference. These are good to stretch yourself and give a more critical analysis of Economic study:

1. Economics: The User's Guide – Ha Joon-Chang
2. How Markets Fail: The Logic of Economic Calamities – John Cassidy
3. The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone – Richard Wilkinson & Kate Pickett
4. Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness – Cass R Sunstein & Richard H Thaler
5. Misbehaving: The Making of Behavioural Economics – Richard H Thaler
6. 23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism – Ha Joon-Chang
7. The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine – Michael Lewis
8. Adapt: Why Success Always Starts with Failure – Tim Harford
9. The Great Divide – Joseph Stiglitz

### **Online Twitter**

We recommend you follow useful business/economic news providers such as:

- BBC
- Tutor2U
- The Independent
- The Guardian
- The Economist
- SKY News

### **Newspapers**

Good quality newspapers (particularly the business and economy sections) e.g. The Guardian, The Times, The Telegraph, The Independent or The I for a more concise read.

### **Recommended Television Shows/Videos to Watch/Radio**

- Good news programmes, e.g. Channel 4 News at 7 p.m., Newsnight on BBC2 at 10.30 p.m.
- BBC Question Time, BBC Panorama ([www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006t14n](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006t14n))  
The long running BBC current affairs programme, featuring interviews and investigative reports on a wide variety of subjects but often economics related. In the past there have been relevant episodes such as The Big Squeeze, How to Survive the Meltdown and The Truth about Supermarket Price Wars. These documentaries are often available for up to a year after broadcast.
- Economics related documentaries (Evan Davis and Robert Peston often present topical economics documentaries on BBC & ITV.)
- Listen to economics related radio programmes, e.g. More or Less, presented by Tim Harford weekly on BBC Radio 4 (podcasts also available.)

## Films/Documentaries

- Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room (2007) – YouTube  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIO731MAO4&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIO731MAO4&feature=related)
- The Corporation (2006) – YouTube  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2z-JVP6aAxs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2z-JVP6aAxs)

Great documentaries that expose the darker side of corporate power, greed and fraudulent behaviour.

## Useful Websites

- [www.tutor2u.net](http://www.tutor2u.net)  
Tutor2u is an essential Economics resource for all students. It contains an excellent Blog with relevant news stories, exam advice and analysis of topical events. It also has various quizzes, revision notes and Power Points for free.
- [www.bbc.co.uk/news/business](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business)
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business/economy>  
Keep up to date with current events in the economic & business world through the BBC website Business & Economy news section. Very easy to read and many helpful articles to gain real examples of the theory learnt in class. Vital for success in A2.
- <https://www.theguardian.com/business/economics>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/business>  
The Guardian newspaper Business & Economics section. Slightly more in-depth look at business current events and still free to access on-line.
- <http://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Economics>
- [www.independent.co.uk/news/business](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business)  
The Independent newspaper Economics & Business section. Another great source for Economics stories and again still free on-line.
- <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/economics-a-2015.html>  
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