

A Level Economics Preparation

In September you'll be starting the Edexcel A Level Economics course (<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/economics-a-2015.html>). In order to prepare for this it would be extremely useful to start increasing your awareness of economics over the next few weeks. An understanding of current economic issues will be very important to your economic studies next year and the best way to start this process is to read a free-to-access online newspaper (e.g. The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>) and look for articles about the UK and global economy – you may not understand everything you read, but you will start to familiarise yourself with economic terminology.

We would also wholeheartedly recommend that you visit the BBC News website (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business/economy/>) on a regular basis. BBC News articles are generally quite short and readable and they may help you get an idea of what economics is all about. They may help you to understand what is happening in the UK and Global economy at the moment.

Also, watch TV news. For a good summary, we would recommend the 10 o'clock BBC news (BBC One), but for more in-depth analysis watch Channel 4 News (7pm) or Newsnight (BBC Two 10.30pm).

In advance of your first lesson in September, also please **carry out the following research task and be ready to hand-in / report back in your first Macroeconomics lesson.**

Task: Create an **A3 poster** (Create it electronically using Microsoft Publisher/PowerPoint/Word) that summarises the recent (last 5 years) performance of the UK economy.

Your poster must contain four sections:

1. **Economic Growth levels in the UK**
2. **Unemployment levels in the UK**
3. **Inflation rates in the UK**
4. **The UK trade balance**

In each section you must provide:

- A **relevant data table or chart**, showing at least **the last five year's data for the UK**
- A **brief written analysis that explains whether the UK is showing a good or poor performance on that factor. In each case, justify your reasoning.**

Useful links to help you:

- <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/united-kingdom/indicators>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/business/economicgrowth>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/business/unemployment-and-employment-statistics>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/business/inflation>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/business-65653791>
- <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-kingdom/balance-of-trade>

See you in September!

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