



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SIXTH FORM
ECONOMICS
BRIDGING UNIT

Economics

Dear Student,

Welcome to the Economics Bridging Unit! This unit is designed to help you transition from GCSE to A-Level Economics. You'll be introduced to key economic concepts, theories, and real-world applications. Below are the activities you'll be undertaking over the next few weeks.

1. Reading Assignment:

Please read "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. (There are plenty of second-hand copies available or find a copy of the audiobook on Audible or BorrowBox). This book applies economic theory to unusual topics and will help you understand how economics can be applied in the real world. After reading, write a one-page summary of the main ideas and concepts you've learned- bring this to our first lesson.

2. Data Analysis:

Choose a country from the website <https://tradingeconomics.com/> and look at its Macroeconomic indicators (e.g., unemployment, inflation, GDP). Using the data, write a brief 500 word report on your findings. This will help you develop your data interpretation skills, which are crucial for studying economics.

3. Online Course:

Watch the following clip from Crash Course Economics. This provides you with some ideas of the problems that economists face: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ez10ADR_gM

4. Economic Policy Debate:

Research about Universal Basic Income (UBI). This is a policy where every citizen receives a set amount of money on a regular basis, regardless of their employment status or income. Advocates argue that UBI could reduce poverty and inequality, while critics worry about its cost and potential disincentives to work. Write a brief 500 word argument for or against the policy. This will help you understand how economic theories are applied in policy-making and will develop your critical thinking skills.

5. Current Events Discussion:

Follow economic news and participate in a weekly online discussion about current events related to economics. This will help you understand how economics influences everyday life and global events. I recommend BBC News Business (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business>), The Intelligence (a daily podcast on Economics issues - <https://theintelligence.economist.com/>), and Freakonomics Radio (<https://freakonomics.com/podcasts/>).

Assessment:

At the end of the unit, you will take a multiple-choice quiz based on the activities above. The quiz will be self-marking, with immediate feedback provided. This will help you assess your understanding of the material and prepare you for the types of assessments you'll encounter at A-Level. You can find the quiz here: <https://forms.office.com/e/j5S1Q1BZd8>

Remember, the goal of this bridging unit is to prepare you for A-Level studies. The activities should be challenging but achievable. If you struggle with any of the material, don't hesitate to ask for help. Good luck, and enjoy your journey into the fascinating world of economics!

Any questions, e-mail me on m.coop@st-christophers.org.

Regards,

M. Coop Rushworth
Head of Economics

Introduction to Economics

Pick one or two of these documentaries to watch. Most streaming services catered for!

NETFLIX

Inside Job

A look at the 2008 causes and consequences of the Global Financial Crisis.

Boom Bust Boom

Gives a basic (and funny) overview of Economics and the Global Financial Crisis.

Requiem for the American Dream

Looks at the issues surrounding neo-capitalism. A bit heavy-going, but very useful.



BBC/All4

Panorama: Universal Credit: One Year On

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000by8m/panorama-universal-credit-one-year-on>)

Looks at how the universal benefit system has changed life in the UK

Dispatches: HS2: The Great Train Robbery

(<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/69215-001>)

Looks at the impact of HS2 on the UK economy

Dispatches: Born on the Breadline

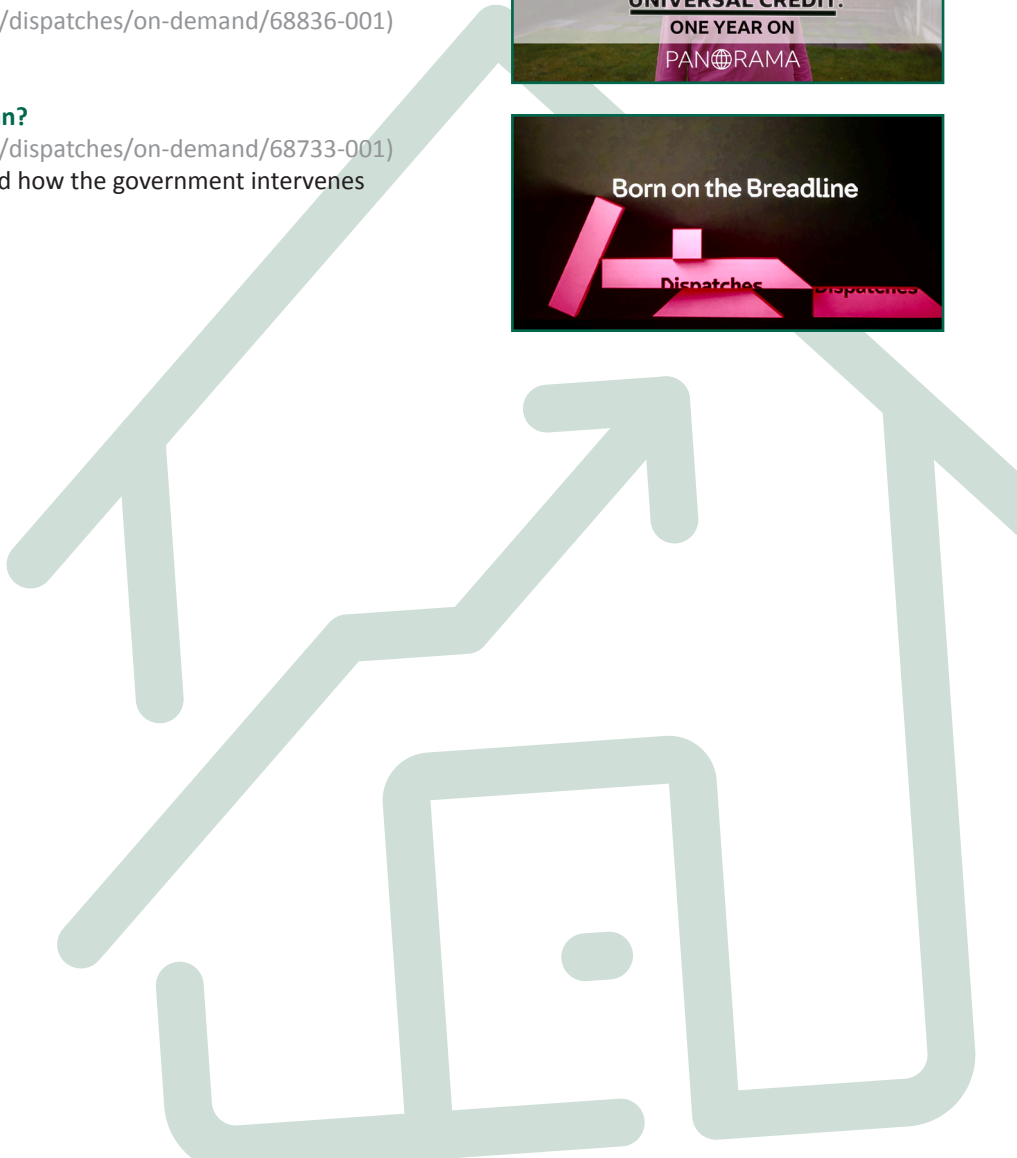
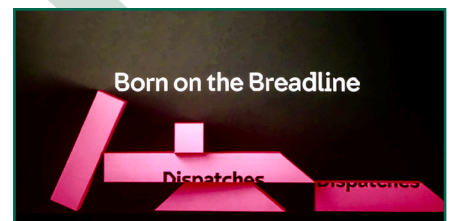
(<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/68836-001>)

Looks at poverty within the UK

Dispatches: Cannabis: Time to End the Ban?

(<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/68733-001>)

Looks at the benefits/costs of cannabis and how the government intervenes





**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”**

Jeremiah 29:11

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