



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SIXTH FORM
ECONOMICS
BRIDGING UNIT

Economics

Dear Student,

Welcome to your A-Level Economics Bridging Unit! This unit is designed to help you transition from GCSE to A-Level Economics. You will engage in a variety of activities that will introduce you to key concepts, theories, and real-world applications of business.

For A-Level Economics, we study Edexcel A-Level Economics A (8EC0/9EC0), and you can find further course details from Edexcel using the following link or QR code:

[Edexcel AS and A level Economics A 2015 | Pearson qualifications](#)



Economics Task

In preparation for your start in September, I would like you to prepare a 1000 word essay (or 5 minute video/podcast/presentation) answering the following question:

“What is an economy, who does the economy work for—and who gets left out?”

Look at how an economic issue affects different groups. For example, consider:

- **The gender pay gap:** Why do women still earn less?
- **Inflation:** Why do rising food prices hit low-income families harder?
- **Universal Basic Income:** Who might benefit most—and who decides if it's possible?

Then, reflect on:

- Where do you see inequality or unfairness in how money, resources, or jobs are distributed?
- What ideas or policies could make the system work better for everyone?

Bring in this essay or presentation with you, as we will use this as the starting point of our A-Level Economics course.

Remember, the goal of this bridging unit is to prepare you for A-Level studies. The activity may be challenging, but it is designed to be achievable with effort and dedication. Don't hesitate to ask for help if you're struggling with any of the material. Good luck and enjoy your journey into the world of business!

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!

Big Picture & Global Systems:

Title	Platform	Why its great
Inside Job	Netflix	Explains the 2008 financial crisis in gripping, dramatic terms. Good for understanding financial systems, corruption, and risk.
Boom Bust Boom	YouTube/Prime Video	Terry Jones (of Monty Python!) mixes puppets, economists, and comedy to explain boom-bust cycles.
The True Cost	Prime Video / YouTube	Focuses on fast fashion and global inequality. Great for linking economics to ethics, sustainability, and labour economics.
Panic: The Untold Story of the 2008 Financial Crisis	YouTube (HBO/ VICE)	Puts a human face on macroeconomic collapse and recovery, with world leaders discussing decision-making in real time.

Inequality, Development & Power:

Title	Platform	Why its great
Requiem for the American Dream (Noam Chomsky)	Netflix	Clear and thought-provoking look at wealth concentration and economic power. Ideal for understanding inequality and power structures.
Born on the Breadline (Dispatches)	All4	Exposes poverty and its causes in the UK—powerful for understanding welfare economics and the real effects of policy.
Panorama: Universal Credit – One Year On	BBC iPlayer	Connects policy to lived experience. Great for discussions around social safety nets and government intervention.
Poverty, Inc.	Prime Video	Challenges traditional ideas about aid, charity, and development economics. Sparks debate about the economics of “helping.”

Everyday Economics & Business:

Title	Platform	Why its great
Dirty Money	Netflix	Each episode focuses on corporate greed, fraud, and power—very relevant for behavioural economics, business ethics, and financial regulation.
Tricks of the Restaurant Trade	All4	Economics meets psychology—how pricing, behaviour, and market tricks work in food retail. Great for behavioural insights.
The Restaurant That Makes Mistakes	All4	A heartwarming show about giving people with dementia roles in a functioning restaurant. Touches on labour markets and inclusion.
The Billion Dollar Code	Netflix (Drama)	Based on a true story. Highlights intellectual property, value creation, and the power of innovation—and what happens when it's stolen.

Economics Through Pop Culture & Storytelling

Title	Platform	Why its great
Planet Money Shorts	YouTube	5–10 minute visual explainers of everything from inflation to ice cream trucks.
This Giant Beast That is the Global Economy	Prime Video	Weird, funny, fast-paced series hosted by Kal Penn. Covers topics like money laundering, cryptocurrency, and corruption.
The Big Short (film)	Prime Video/ Netflix	Satirical, stylish, and a brilliant unpacking of the housing crash.
How to Make Money (BBC Three)	BBC iPlayer	Young entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds explain their business journeys.

Bonus: Podcasts for the Econ-Curious

Title	Why its great
Planet Money (NPR)	Clever, fun, real-world stories that explain economic principles in accessible ways. Good for walking/bus time.
Freakonomics Radio	Links economic thinking to everyday life with quirky and unexpected insights. A great extension of the book.
The Intelligence (The Economist)	A short daily podcast on current economic events around the globe. Useful for developing economic awareness.

Course Outline

There are four themes to the A-Level Business (Pearson):

- Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure
- Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies
- Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market
- Theme 4: A global perspective

All 4 themes are examined during the course.

Course Breakdown

Lower Sixth

Autumn-Spring: Theme 1

1. Nature of economics
2. How markets work
3. Market failure
4. Government intervention

Spring- Summer: Theme 2

1. Measures of economic performance
2. Aggregate demand
3. Aggregate supply
4. National income
5. Economic growth
6. Macroeconomic objectives and policy

The end of year examination consists of two papers: Paper 1 (Theme 1) and Paper 2 (Theme 2). This can be taken internally or externally.

Upper Sixth

Autumn-Spring: Theme 3

1. Business growth
2. Business objectives
3. Revenues, costs and profits
4. Market structures
5. Labour market
6. Government intervention

Spring-Summer: Theme 4

1. International economics
2. Poverty and inequality
3. Emerging and developing economies
4. The financial sector
5. Role of the state in the Macroeconomy

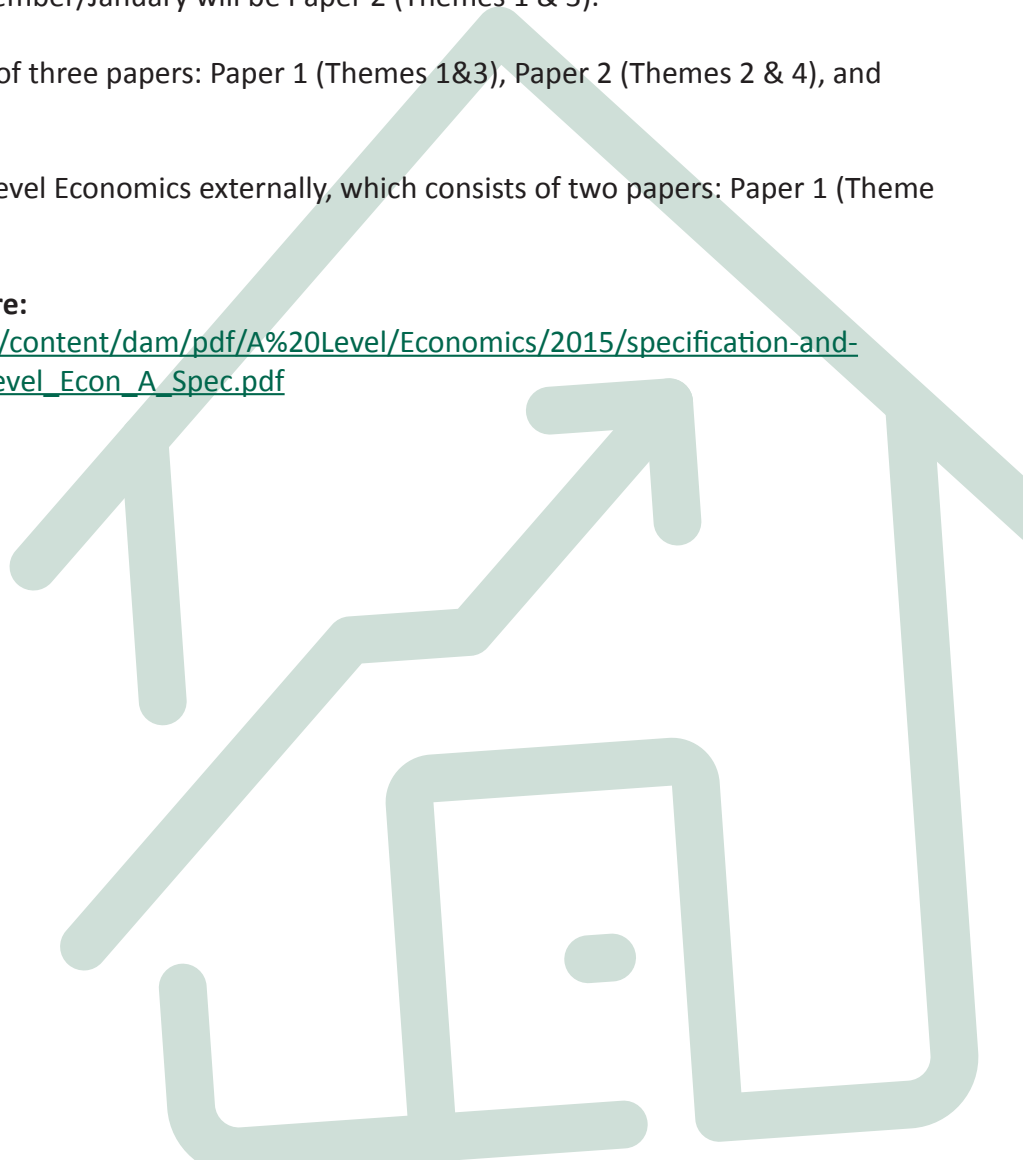
The Pre-Public Examination in December/January will be Paper 2 (Themes 1 & 3).

The external examinations consist of three papers: Paper 1 (Themes 1&3), Paper 2 (Themes 2 & 4), and Paper 3 (Themes 1-4),

There is an option to take the AS-Level Economics externally, which consists of two papers: Paper 1 (Theme 1) and Paper 2 (Theme 2).

The specification can be found here:

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Economics/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment-materials/A_Level_Econ_A_Spec.pdf







**“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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