

# Economics Transition Tasks: Thinking Like An Economist

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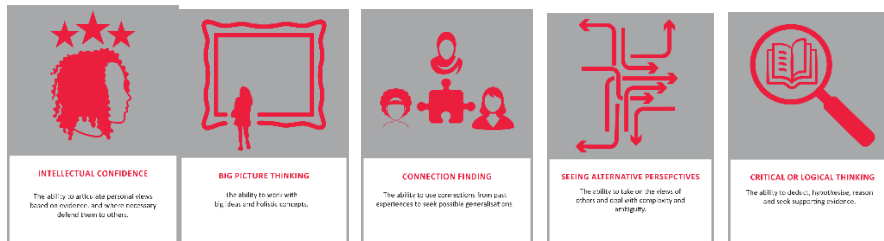
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“Economics is the study of how people make choices, while considering how these choices are constrained because of limited resources such as money, time, and information.”

Source: [What is economics? | The British Academy](#)

## Introduction

Economics is a social science that studies the way in which resources can be allocated and utilised in order to meet the needs and wants of an economy. Economics touches every part of our daily lives, especially since it is related to policies and practices that affect the way in which we make choices.



## Task

To think like an economist, we need to be economically aware. Your task for this summer is to create a digital scrapbook of news articles related to economics. Anything to do with cost of living, taxes, inflation, employment, etc is relevant to this task. You can put links/screenshots of articles in a Word document, PowerPoint presentation or, my preferred method, in a Padlet ([www.padlet.com](http://www.padlet.com)). You need to include at least one news item per week.

*Please note that you will be utilising this scrap book from the first week of lessons and will be adding to it throughout the two years of the A Level course.*

## Wider Reading Challenge

You should aim to read **at least two** of the following books and **write a summary of what you have learnt** from the reading about economics:

- **The Undercover Economist by Tim Harford**  
A great introduction to the course, easy to read, if not a little slow at the start. I recommend starting the book, by first reading the chapter on China.
- **Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner**  
A hugely popular book, which has recently been turned into a film. Investigates the “hidden reasons,” behind rational choice.
- **Super Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner**  
The sequel to Freakonomics
- **Free Lunch: Easily Digestible Economics by David Smith**

Very easy to access, another good all-round introduction to the course, written by one of the UK's leading financial journalists.

- **Age of Instability by David Smith**

Explains the reasons behind the global financial crash.

- **The Economic Naturalist Robert H Frank**

Easy to read, lots of short examples, centred around the theme of incentives.

- **The Ascent of Money: by Niall Ferguson**

How money and economics have shaped world history, recommended for students who also study A Level History.

- **New Ideas from Dead Economists by Todd G. Buchholz**

Outlines the ideas of influential economists, many of whom will be studied over the next two years. Perhaps a little difficult to access.

- **The Bottom Billion by Paul Collier**

Looks at the barriers to development faced by the world's poorest countries.