



# Learning to fly in Economics

These are the skills and habits which outstanding students of Economics develop. Do as many of these as possible to become completely independent in the subject and to develop the skills and knowledge needed to attain 8/9 at GCSE and A\* at A Level. **Remember that just doing what your teacher tells you - in your lessons and beyond - is not enough to develop your full potential in the subject.**

## In your lessons

- Contribute your ideas – don't be afraid of getting the 'wrong answer' – top economists often come up with drastically different viewpoints when using the same data
- Challenge the ideas of others – appreciating different viewpoints and being able to justify them is a crucial way of developing your evaluative skills
- Be proactive in asking questions when something doesn't make sense – this is completely normal in a subject where you are learning new theories every lesson and is not a sign of weakness (students who frequently ask questions generally end up getting top grades)
- Thinking about ways in which new theories relate to theories we've already studied – particularly important in macroeconomics

## Between your lessons

Think about how our theories relate to the wider context of the UK and global economy by:

- Regularly reviewing the economics section of **The Guardian** website
- Reading and making notes on the '**Thinking like an Economist**' section at the end of each chapter
- Subscribing to **the Economist** magazine
- Reviewing the work of a lesson - making sure you know what you have or haven't understood then addressing these areas with the support of your classmates or your teacher
- Keep a log of three big economics news stories per week
- As you become more familiar with the course practice writing answers under time constraints
- Listen to **BBC Radio 4 - The Today Programme**

## Beyond your lessons

- Discuss big economics stories with classmates and your family – if you can use these terms fluently in conversation it will make it even easier to develop clear chains of reasoning when writing
- **Tutor2u** and the **Institute for Economic Affairs** offer a range of free seminars and wider reading which will help to develop you as an economist – take advantage of these free resources
- Visit the **Bank of England** museum for an hour or two – this is free and will give you an even greater insight into Monetary policy
- Enter the **Royal Economic Society's** annual essay competition.
- **Check out the reading list below.**

**Of course we recognise that our students have busy lives and that this level of engagement is not always possible all the time - but this is what you should aim for if you want to reach the highest level in the subject. You don't need to do ALL of these things to improve - just doing one or two of them will have an impact. Decide on two or three to focus on to improve your skills.**

	Develop	Flying solo
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Freakonomics</b> (Levitt and Dubner)</li> <li>• <b>The Economics Naturalist – Why economics explains almost everything</b> (Robert H Frank)</li> <li>• <b>The Undercover Economist</b> (Tim Harford)</li> <li>• <b>23 things they don't tell you about capitalism</b> (Ha-Joon Chang)</li> <li>• <b>Happiness</b> (Richard Layard)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Worldly Philosophers</b> (Robert Heilbroner)</li> <li>• <b>The Upside of Irrationality</b> (Dan Ariely)</li> <li>• <b>Phishing for Phools: The economics of manipulation and deception</b> (Akerlof and Shiller)</li> <li>• <b>Art of Strategy</b> (Dixit and Nalebuff)</li> <li>• <b>Development as Freedom</b> (Amartya Sen)</li> <li>• <b>Bad Samaritans</b> (Ha-Joon Chang)</li> <li>• <b>What Money Can't Buy: The moral limits of markets</b> (Prof. Michael Sandel)</li> <li>• <b>Why Nations Fail: Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty</b> (Acemoglu and Robinson)</li> </ul>
Watching	<p>Radio 4 – <b>More or Less</b> with Tim Harford  TED Talks <a href="https://www.ted.com/topics/economics">https://www.ted.com/topics/economics</a></p> <p>Movies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rich Hill</b></li> <li>• <b>Margin Call</b></li> <li>• <b>Where to invade next</b></li> <li>• <b>The Pursuit of Happiness Freakonomics</b></li> <li>• <b>The big short</b></li> <li>• <b>Boom, Bust, Boom</b></li> <li>• <b>A Beautiful Mind</b></li> <li>• <b>The Iron Lady</b></li> </ul>	<p>The Story of Economics <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00zfk8t">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00zfk8t</a></p> <p>Pop Up Economics <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01q1mbn">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01q1mbn</a></p>
Following	<p>@tutor2u_econ  @bankofengland  @freakonomics  @jasonwelker @diane1859  @NYTimeskrugman  @Nouriel  @Kingeconomist</p>	<p><a href="http://www.project-syndicate.org">www.project-syndicate.org</a>  <a href="https://economistsview.typepad.com/">https://economistsview.typepad.com/</a>  <a href="https://krugman.blogs.nytimes.com/">https://krugman.blogs.nytimes.com/</a>  <a href="http://gregmankiw.blogspot.com/">http://gregmankiw.blogspot.com/</a>  <a href="https://mainlymacro.blogspot.com/">https://mainlymacro.blogspot.com/</a>  <a href="https://bankunderground.co.uk/">https://bankunderground.co.uk/</a></p>
Doing	<p>Complete your EPQ in an Economics related field  Why not enter the RSA Essay Competition?</p>	<p>LSE Public Lectures <a href="http://www.lse.ac.uk/lse-player?category=public+lectures+and+events">http://www.lse.ac.uk/lse-player?category=public+lectures+and+events</a>  The RSA Events <a href="https://www.thersa.org/events">https://www.thersa.org/events</a>  Target 2.0 <a href="https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/competitions">https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/competitions</a></p>