

## ECONOMICS: Pre-course reading and viewing

Hello! I am Mrs Baker and I teach A level Economics (AQA) at Queen's College.

As you know, Economics is a brand-new subject for students in sixth form, so if you start to learn about the way economists see the world in advance, it will really help you.

1. I suggest you start by watching the Open University's '60 second adventures in Economics'. <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/society/politics-policy-people/economics/60-second-adventures-economics-the-invisible-hand> (the other videos are linked below the first one; if this link doesn't work then enter '60 second adventures in Economics' into YouTube). There are 6 videos. Watch them all, then re-watch the one that interests you most and try explaining it to a friend or family member.
2. 'The Economics Book' by Niall Kishtainy is a great introduction to many of the ideas and thinkers behind the discipline of Economics. There is a copy in the school library. Ask the librarian to get it down for you and have a look through. You are very likely to be able to spot an issue that has been mentioned in your studies of History or Geography. Find a section that interests you and read it. At the time of writing (April 2018) it was also included free in the Kindle App on Amazon Prime.
3. There are many accessible paperbacks about Economics that are available very cheaply. Previous students have enjoyed 'The Undercover Economist' by Tim Harford and 'Freakonomics' by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner; 'Behavioural Economics Saved My Dog' by Dan Ariely is an enjoyable read about behavioural economics, while 'Dead Aid' by Dambisa Moyo is a stimulating introduction to an important international issue. These are also in the school library.
4. The week before school starts, visit the BBC news website and select three articles that you think may have something to do with Economics (they could be anywhere on the website, not just in the Business section). Print them out and bring them with you to the first lesson.
5. Although the Maths methods required in Economics are not complicated, it's important to maintain your skills. You can keep your knowledge of key techniques up to date by reading these webpages, watching the videos and completing the quizzes and activities:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/topic-group/fractions-and-percentages>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/topic-group/graphs>

I look forward to meeting you in September.

Mrs Baker

P.S. You can read about me here if you want to: <https://uk.linkedin.com/in/josie-baker-40288a79>