Sandringham School
'Everybody can be Somebody'

A-Level Economics

Year 12 Summer Assignment

2026

Course Leader: Mr A Rowley

Email contact : RowleyA@sandringham.aetrust.uk

Subject	**Economics**
Summer task	A range of economic issues is in the news at the moment – for example, lack of economic growth in the UK, rising inflation, the costs and benefits of shifting to renewable energy, the move to electric vehicles, lack of housing in the UK, the imposition of tariffs by the USA. Below is a list of tasks split into Business Economics, Micro Economics and Macro Economics. **Undertake at least one task from each of these sections** and create a **diary of your notes** over the coming months. Before the start of term, summarise what you have found in a **2-3 page report**. You will be asked to submit both your diary and report. **Business Economics:** 1. Select *up to 5* **companies which trade on the FTSE 100**. Keep a record of their share prices over the next few months. Identify significant rises and falls in share prices. Try and explain why the share price has changed. Use this website as a starting point (note that you can sort the FTSE 100 into sectors e.g. travel, pharmaceuticals): https://www.londonstockexchange.com/exchange/prices-and-markets/stocks/indices/constituents-indices.html?index=UKX&industrySector=&page=1 2. Research a **company which has gone into administration** and examine the reasons why it has collapsed, beyond the obvious! The BBC Business page is a good place to start looking: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business 3. Research any **'saints or sinners'** of the business world – who has shown positive and ethical leadership (known as Corporate Social Responsibility) over the last couple of years and who has not? https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business

Micro Economics:

1. Track **global oil prices** and identify reasons for changes. These webpages are helpful:
   https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cmjpj223708t/oil
   https://tradingeconomics.com/commodity/crude-oil
2. Track **average house prices** over the coming months and identify reasons for changes. Also look at the state of the rental sector. There is a shortage of housing in many parts of the UK. How can the government address affordability of house and lack of supply?:
   https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cdl8n2edgj5t/housing-market
   https://www.ft.com/indepth/uk-house-prices
   https://www.theguardian.com/business/housingmarket
3. Research what is happening in **the car market** in the UK. How is demand shifting from petrol/diesel (ICE) vehicles to EVs? How are car producers in the UK performing? What are the government regulations on production of ICE vehicles vs EVs? What factors affect demand for cars?
   https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cywd23g0g55t

Macro Economics:

1. Research the changes in the **rate of inflation**. What is inflation? What are the reasons for this cost-of-living crisis? How has the Government reacted? Are the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis fair across all groups of consumers? Who are the winners and losers? Here is a good starting point:
   https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c17rgd8e9gjo
2. Keep a record of the extent of the government financial support for households and the economy and how this is affecting the **government's budget deficit and debt**. The Office of Budget Responsibility website is useful: https://obr.uk/
3. Keep a record of **UK GDP data**. What does this suggest about the size of the UK economy? Is it growing or shrinking? Note that if it is negative in two successive quarters (i.e. 6 months), the economy is in recession. These websites are a good place to start:
   https://www.ft.com/stream/66440667-db7d-4fd4-94dd-9e756cec4143
   https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/clm1wxp5378t
4. The US has announced a range of **tariffs** (taxes on imports) on goods and services from other countries. Why has the US done this? What benefits does it expect to get? Are there any downsides to these trade barriers? Keep track of announcements of changes in these tariffs, how other countries are responding and whether any trade deals have been signed between the US and other countries. This is a useful starting point:
   https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c9vwxgl4p0dt

Key materials/ texts needed for A level course	***My Revision Notes: Edexcel A Level Economics*** by Quentin Brewer **(YOU MUST BUY A COPY)** We also recommend that you buy the very detailed ***Pearson Edexcel AS & A Level Economics Student Book (Edexcel GCE Economics 2015) Sixth edition*** by Alain Anderton **(THIS IS OPTIONAL).** It is worth seeking out a second-hand copy from sites such as World of Books. 30cm ruler, pencil, sharpener and eraser A4 Wide lever arch file Black pen Calculator Laptop Highlighter pens are also useful.
Suggested extra reading	Tim Harford—*Undercover Economist* Steven D. Levitt, Stephen J. Dubner – *Freakonomics* Daniel Kahneman – *Thinking, Fast and Slow* Cass Sunstein, Richard Thaler – *Nudge* Robert Peston – *How do we fix this mess?* Yanis Varoufakis – *Talking to my Daughter: A brief history of Capitalism* Linda Yueh - *The Great Economists: How Their Ideas Can Help Us Today*
Other Activities	Watch Economics-related films such as: • *The Big Short* – an excellent film about the Global Financial Crisis. • *Moneyball* – how the principles of Behavioural Economics have transformed sports. • *The Pursuit of Happyness* – poverty, inequality and working in finance. • *A Beautiful Mind* – The life of Nobel-prize winner John Nash. Subscribe to: • Ian Stewart, Deloitte's Chief Economist in the UK. A personal view. To subscribe and/or view previous editions just google 'Deloitte Monday Briefing'. • FT for Schools • The Economist updates Listen to podcasts such as: • *50 Things that made the Modern Economy (BBC Sounds)* • *More or less (BBC Sounds)* • *Economics in 10* • *Wake up to Money (BBC Sounds)*