

A-Level Preparation into the Sixth Form 2026

Economics

So, You Want to Study Economics at St Michael's?

Have you ever wondered why your favourite gadget is always just out of reach or why some countries swim in wealth while others barely tread water? Ever wonder why some companies, starting from a garage, turn into trillion-dollar empires while others crash and burn? Curious about what makes economies flourish and why some remain impoverished? Want to know how you can be an entrepreneur, or use economic principles to elevate poverty and reduce inequality to make a real difference in the world? Want to know why inflation, economic growth and unemployment rates matter in your life or for your business? Or why we can't print more money?

If your answer is yes, then welcome to Economics, where we decode the mysteries of money, businesses, markets, government policies, economic growth and development, and human behaviour! Economics will give you the tools to understand and explain these phenomena.

At St Michael's, we don't just teach Economics. We ignite a lifelong passion for understanding the forces that drive our world and lives – here Economics becomes a way of thinking as we apply to the real world. At our school, we push beyond conventional learning – you become an active learner not just a passive listener. We challenge you to think deeply about complex issues, cultivate critical thinking and see the bigger picture. That's why you must have a knack for reading and listening to economic & financial news/articles/books and current affairs. You must engage with real-world economic events, regularly watch the news, listen to podcasts and read high-quality newspapers/magazines.

Most of you have never tackled this subject before, so let's start with the basics. Economics isn't just about graphs and numbers—it's the story of how our society distributes scarce resources, and more importantly, why we can't have everything we want. Economics is a subject that will open your eyes to the complex and fascinating world around you. You'll see the world through the lens of an economist, where every decision, big or small, is a piece of the larger economic puzzle.

Some Economics books recommendations – Read (listen if Spotify, Audible, iBooks) at least 1-2 books from the following:

- The Complete Idiot's Guide to Economics – Terry Hill
- The Undercover Economist – Tim Harford
- Good Economic for Hard Times – Abhijit Banerjee & Esther Duflo
- Thinking Like an Economist – Elizabeth Berman
- Super-Freakonomics – Steven D Levitt & Stephen J Dubner
- Capital in the Twenty-First Century – Thomas Piketty

Some interesting Economics podcasts (from your choice listen to at least 1-2 episodes from 2 podcasts):

- Economics Explained
- The Economist Podcast – The Economist
- FT News Briefing – Financial Times
- Platypus Economics with Justin Wolfers
- Money Briefing – Wall Street Journal
- Planet Money – NPR
- Freakonomics Radio
- Trade Talks
- Unlearning Economics

And here are some valuable quality **newspapers, news channel & magazines** (use their websites/apps): The Economist, Harvard Business Review, The Guardian, The Financial Times, BBC, Sky News, & Wall Street Journal.

Pre-Coursework and Task for A-Level Economics

To ensure you are well-prepared for the rigorous A-Level Economics program at St Michael's, you must complete an introductory Economics course (click on the link below), and a **research task**. You're required to complete Lessons 1, 2 and 3, which are all part of Unit 1 from Khan Academy website – it's free. You must create an account with Khan Academy using your personal email address, as for two years economics course, we'll be using videos/material from Khan Academy along with other websites/blogs/newspapers/magazines/podcasts

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[Introduction to Economics](#)

Each lesson is assessed by a quiz; you are required to complete all 3 quizzes, and at the end of each quiz you will get your results. You must take a screenshot of your results and copy-paste the images into the last pages of your essay document i.e., after the references section. **Your name must be in the screenshot as it is always visible on the top right-hand corner of the screen showing your results.**

Now here is the **Main task/essay** you need to write and bring it into the first lesson in September:

Research Task: Current Issues in the UK Labour Market

This task aims to develop your understanding of a contemporary economic issue affecting the UK economy. You will investigate a topic of your choice, analyse its causes and consequences, evaluate existing government responses, and consider alternative policy solutions. This research task combines theoretical economic knowledge with independent investigation and develops your skills in critical thinking, analysis and written communication.

Write a 700-word essay (+/- 10%) that addresses your chosen research question.

Your essay should include:

- A clear introduction outlining the issue and its importance
- Analysis using appropriate theory and concepts
- Relevant graphs, tables, statistics and/or real-world evidence
- Evaluation of current government policies or interventions
- Discussion of possible improvements or alternative solutions
- A conclusion that answers your research question
- A reference list containing all sources used

Graphs, tables and the reference list are excluded from the word count.

Suggested research questions:

Choose one of the following, or write your own question, that suits an aspect of economics you are interested in.

- Is the UK facing a labour shortage, and what can be done to address it?
- Why has the cost-of-living crisis affected some households more than others?
- Why is housing affordability a growing issue in the UK?
- Should the UK introduce stronger policies to achieve net-zero emissions?
- Are current policies effective in reducing regional inequalities in the UK?
- Will artificial intelligence create more jobs than it destroys?
- How has Brexit affected the UK economy?

You will not receive written feedback on this task, however it is an important opportunity to develop deeper background knowledge in an area of interest, and demonstrate to your teacher your enthusiasm for and critical thinking in the study of economics.

At St Michael's we follow **Edexcel A-Level Economics A**. The course consists of three exam papers: Paper 1 Micro, Paper 2 Macro, Paper 3 Micro and Macro, each worth 100 marks – a total of 300 marks. You can explore exam papers, and your course specifications by clicking the link below:

[Edexcel A-Level Economics Qualification](#)

Please purchase the A-Level Economics textbook, "Pearson Edexcel A-Level Economics A – Fifth Edition". The physical copy is preferred. The textbook includes clear explanations of economics concepts and activities to target knowledge and skill development throughout the course. It was published in 2023 and therefore the content is contextualised within recent economic developments in the UK and beyond.

