

SJC Economics Reading List



Economics is a subject that is dynamic and up-to-date. It provides opportunities to develop a wide range of useful skills.

Perhaps the biggest benefit of studying the subject however lies in its relevance to the world around us.

Economic stories and issues are frequently reported and discussed throughout the media, providing a fantastic array of resources for students to use. To get the most out of your studies you need to be proactive in using these resources. The following list is by no means exhaustive but contains a range of suggestions that will help you make the most of your 'A' level studies and help prepare you if you're going onto an Economics degree course.

News and current affairs

It is enormously beneficial for economists to keep an eye on the news and up-to-date current affairs. There are many sources of information in this area, such as these **websites**:

www.bbc.co.uk/news

www.guardian.co.uk

www.tutor2u.net (look at the A Level economics blog section of the site)

www.economicsonline.co.uk

[Economics Help](#)

Other useful websites- excellent for up to date articles and economic data

UK Treasury - www.hm.treasury.gov.uk

The Bank of England - www.bankofengland.co.uk

The Office for National Statistics - www.ons.gov.uk/welcome.htm

Newspapers

The Times / The Sunday Times

The independent

The Guardian

Podcasts- a great way of expanding your subject knowledge! There are lots available but here are a few suggestions:

- BBC 5 Live's 'On the Money' (weekly) and 'Wake up to Money' (daily)
- The Economist's 'The week ahead' and 'Money Review' (both weekly).
- 'Freakonomics Radio' podcasts by Steven Dubner (very American but sometimes relevant and interesting).

Reading around A Level Economics

Unlike reading a novel you don't have to start at the beginning and finish at the end! Read the bits that interest you and skip the bits that don't. Make notes or annotations as you go- this makes it easier to come back to the bits that do interest you.

- **Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner-** Often described as one of the most popular Economics books of all time! A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything
- **Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky-** Written by Nobel Prize winner, Daniel Kahneman, and mathematical psychologist, Amos Tversky, this is an incredibly insightful book, which challenges the classical economic assumption that people always act rationally.
- ***The Undercover Economist* by Tim Harford-** This is a book which shows you that economics plays a massive part in every section of your life, and how knowing about the economics behind these everyday things can help you understand the world slightly better.

- ***23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism* by Ha-Joon Chang-** This book takes the biggest myths in society today and turns them upside down and inside out. For example, it explains why the washing machine has changed lives more than the internet.
- ***Animal Spirits* by Akerlof and Shiller-** makes for slightly heavier reading than some of the books on this list, but it's also one of the most important ones. The book discusses the role played by emotions in economic decision making, which is really interesting, and at the same time gives an excellent overview of basic Keynesian ideas, which is extremely useful if you're going into an economics degree course.
- ***The Armchair Economist* by Steven E. Landsburg-** Economics and Everyday Life
- ***The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable* by Nissim Nocholas Taleb-** The central idea in the book is that even if an event is extremely improbable, such as a black swan existing when no one had ever seen one, it doesn't mean the event is impossible (as black swans do exist).

If you really want to challenge yourself

- John Maynard Keynes, *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*
- Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*
- Alfred Marshall, *Principles of Economics*
- Karl Marx, *Das Kapital*
- Sunstein & Thaler, *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness*

