A Level Economics Transition Pack (2026–2027)

Welcome

This transition pack is designed to prepare you for A Level Economics by developing key skills such as numeracy, data analysis, evaluation, and independent research.

You should complete all activities before your first lesson.

Activity 1: Global Economic Awareness

Task 1: GDP Rankings

Below are 10 major economies:

- USA
- China
- Japan
- Germany
- India
- UK
- France
- Italy
- Brazil
- Canada

👉 **Task:** Rank these countries from **largest to smallest GDP**

Task 2: Living Standards

👉 Now rank the same countries by **GDP per capita**

Task 3: Analysis

Write a short paragraph explaining:

- Why rankings differ between GDP and GDP per capita
- What each measure tells us about living standards

Activity 2: Core Numeracy Skills

Show full working for all answers.

Q1: Percentage Change

A business increases output from 2,400 units to 2,760 units.
👉 Calculate the % increase

Q2: Ratios

A firm employs 150 workers. The male:female ratio is 3:2.
👉 How many female employees are there?

Q3: Reverse Percentages

Sales this year are 5,250 units, a 5% increase on last year.
👉 Calculate last year's sales

Q4: Costs and Revenue

A product sells for £800. Costs are 60% of the selling price.
👉 Calculate cost per unit

Q5: Averages

Annual sales (units):

2019: 1,200
2020: 1,500
2021: 1,650
2022: 1,800

👉 Calculate the average annual sales

Q6: Capacity Utilisation

Maximum output = 50,000 units
Actual output = 42,500 units

👉 Calculate capacity utilisation %

Q7: Exchange Rates

£1 = $1.30
A good costs £80

👉 Convert into US dollars

Q8: Costs per Employee

Total project cost = £12,000
100 employees involved
40% of cost is accommodation

👉 Calculate accommodation cost per employee

Q9: Data Interpretation

A café serves 300 customers daily:

- Tea: 30%
- Coffee: 40%
- Soft drinks: 20%
- Other: 10%

👉 Calculate:
a) Number of coffee customers
b) Number NOT buying tea
c) Fraction buying soft drinks

Activity 3: Microeconomics Mini Investigation

Write **400–800 words** answering:

Evaluate whether a government should introduce a maximum price (price cap) on essential goods

Include:

- Definition of price controls
- Aims (e.g. affordability)
- Diagram explanation (if possible)
- Advantages (e.g. helps low-income consumers)
- Disadvantages (e.g. shortages, black markets)
- Real-world examples (e.g. energy price caps)
- Judgement

Activity 4: Macro Essay

Write **500–1000 words** on:

"To what extent should governments prioritise economic growth?"

You should consider:

- What is economic growth?
- Benefits (jobs, incomes, tax revenue)
- Costs (inequality, environment)
- Alternatives (wellbeing, sustainability)
- Final judgement

Activity 5: Economic Thinking Skills

Answer briefly:

1. What is **opportunity cost**? Give an example
2. What is **scarcity**?
3. What is the difference between **positive** and **normative** statements?

4. Give a recent economic news story and explain it

Activity 6: Research Task

Choose ONE topic:

- Inflation crisis
- Cost of living
- Climate change and economics
- Minimum wage effects
- Housing market

👉 Create a **one-page summary** including:

- Key facts
- Data/statistics
- theories involved
- Who is affected
- Economic

Activity 7: Super-Curricular Engagement

Recommended Websites

- BBC Business
- The Guardian (Business/Economics)
- Tutor2u
- IMF / World Bank (simplified pages)

Podcasts

- The Rest is Money
- Freakonomics Radio
- Planet Money
- BBC More or Less

Books (Stretch Reading)

- *Doughnut Economics* – Kate Raworth
- *Freakonomics* – Levitt & Dubner
- *Can't We Just Print More Money?* – Bank of England

Final Reflection Task

Write 150 words on:

👉 *"Why I chose Economics and what I hope to gain from the course"*

✅ **Submission Checklist**

- All numeracy questions completed
- Essays written in full
- Research task completed
- Reflection included