



DIXONS
SIXTH FORM
ACADEMY

SUMMER WORK: A LEVEL ECONOMICS

20

23

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About the Summer Work

This booklet contains a number of tasks that students are expected to complete to a good standard in order to be able to be enrolled in this subject.

Please complete these tasks on A4 paper and bring them with you to your first economics lesson

The work handed in should be:

- written in black or blue ink on A4 lined paper
- written in full sentences with no copying and pasting from external sources
- have all compulsory tasks completed
- have student's full names on each sheet
- multiple sheet should be connected together

This booklet also contains significant additional information and a range of optional tasks. We would encourage you to complete all the tasks including the optional ones to fully prepare for Sixth Form study.

Welcome to Economics

Subject outline

There has never been a better time to study economics as the news is packed with stories about the economic impacts of a range of global events that affect us as citizens. You may have seen articles about the impact on the economy of the high rates of inflation which are above anything seen for 40 years! This follows on from the recession resulting from the Covid pandemic and the attempts to rescue the economy from a potential depression. More recently we've seen a sharp rise in interest rates which has differing impacts on savers and borrowers

Of course, there is much more to the course than the effects of the downturn, and studying economics will help you view society in a mature, rational and logical way. There are life changing skills developed in studying economics such as ability to analyse, evaluate and interpret data. Many students comment on how they suddenly see the world in a different way. Oh, and if you are motivated by money it's a great discipline to master.

There are two main strands to economics

- **Microeconomics** is the study of markets, individuals and businesses

What economic measures can be used to reduce the pollution caused by firms and individuals ? Why is the pay of professional footballers so much higher than nurses?

- **Macroeconomics** looks at entire economies. The unemployment, inflation, and monetary challenges of countries, and continents

How do we know whether the UK economy has entered a recession? What caused hyperinflation in Zimbabwe?

At Dixons we study Edexcel A Economics which is broken down into 4 Themes

Theme 1	Introduction to markets and market Failure (Micro)
Theme 2	The UK economy – performance and policies (Macro)
Theme 3	Business behaviour and the labour market (Micro)
Theme 4	A global perspective (Macro)

Outside lessons

Students should expect to study for approximately four hours per week on average outside lessons. This will include answering set questions, reviewing notes, preparing for class tests and keeping up to date with the economic news

Your official exams will take place in June 2024 and feature three, two hour exam papers. Examples can be found on the Edexcel website see link below.

Summary of assessment

Paper 1	<p>Markets and Business Behaviour</p> <p>Microeconomics</p> <p>Section A comprises a range of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.</p> <p>Section B comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts.</p> <p>Section C comprises a choice of extended open-response questions; students select one from a choice of two.</p>	2 hours
Paper 2	<p>The National and Global Economy</p> <p>Macroeconomics</p> <p>Section A comprises a range of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.</p> <p>Section B comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts.</p> <p>Section C comprises a choice of extended open-response questions; students select one from a choice of two.</p>	2 hours
Paper 3	<p>Micro and Macroeconomics</p> <p>The paper comprises two sections.</p> <p>Each section comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including a choice of extended open-response questions; students select one from a choice of two.</p>	2 hours

Careers & Higher Education

There are a number of options for students after the completion of an A Level in the subject. Many students go on to study a degree in economics or related subjects such as business, finance and accounting. Economics will also combine well with other courses leading to possible combinations with areas such as politics, history, law and sociology. A number of students also choose to pursue respected apprenticeships within the financial sector.

Economics degrees will be either Bachelor of Science (Bsc) or Bachelor of Arts (Ba). For the Bsc option students would be advised to study maths alongside economics.

There are numerous careers available to economics students as well as being an economist including accountancy, tax work, civil service, journalism, retail banking, investment banking, civil service, management consultant, marketing consultant, aid work and many, many more.

Locally, in Bradford and Leeds many companies seek to employ economist graduates in their workforce. For example, Morrisons would require business analysts who can predict sales and consumer trends. In Leeds there are many high profile financial organisations seeking accountants and consultants.

Links to key information:

Specification:

[https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Economics/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment-materials/A Level Econ A Spec.pdf](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Economics/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment-materials/A%20Level%20Econ%20A%20Spec.pdf)

Exam materials:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/economics-a-2015.coursematerials.html#%2FfilterQuery=Pearson-UK:Category%2FExam-materials>

Course information guide:

<https://www.dixons6a.com/uploads/files/dixons6a/Economics.pdf>

Examples of careers:

<https://www.discovereconomics.co.uk/what-economists-do>

Meet some economists

<https://www.discovereconomics.co.uk/blank-2>

Summer work tasks

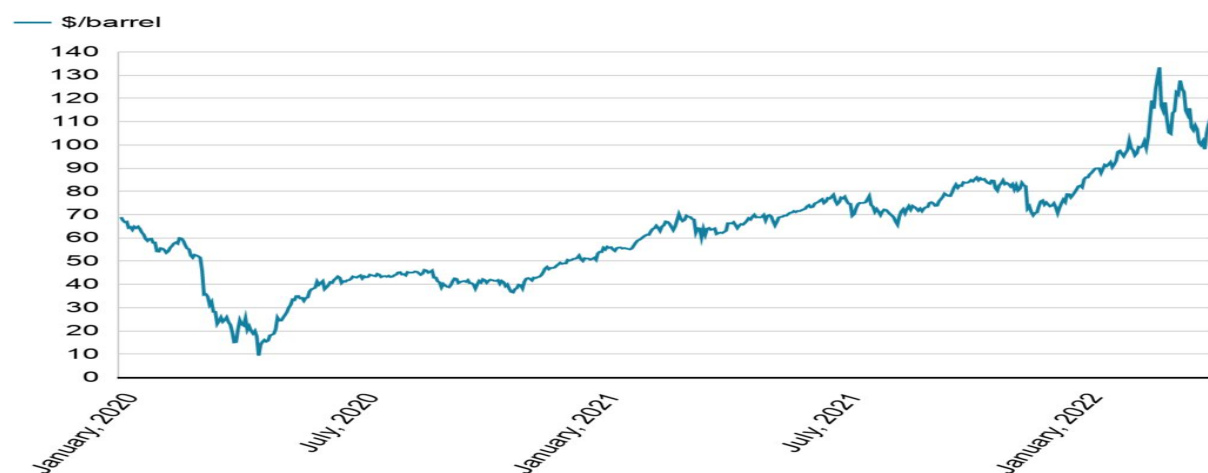
Microeconomic tasks

1. Find and write out definitions to the following terms

- a) Microeconomics
- b) Scarcity
- c) Finite resource
- d) Supply
- e) Demand

2. Choose one resource and explain why it is scarce.

3. The chart below shows the price of a barrel of oil between January 2020 and March 2022



a) Oil is a key resource for the economy. List as many uses of oil as you can

b) Describe the trend in oil prices since June 2020

c) In February 2022 oil prices were \$0.98 per barrel but in March 2022 they were \$1.35. Calculate the % change.

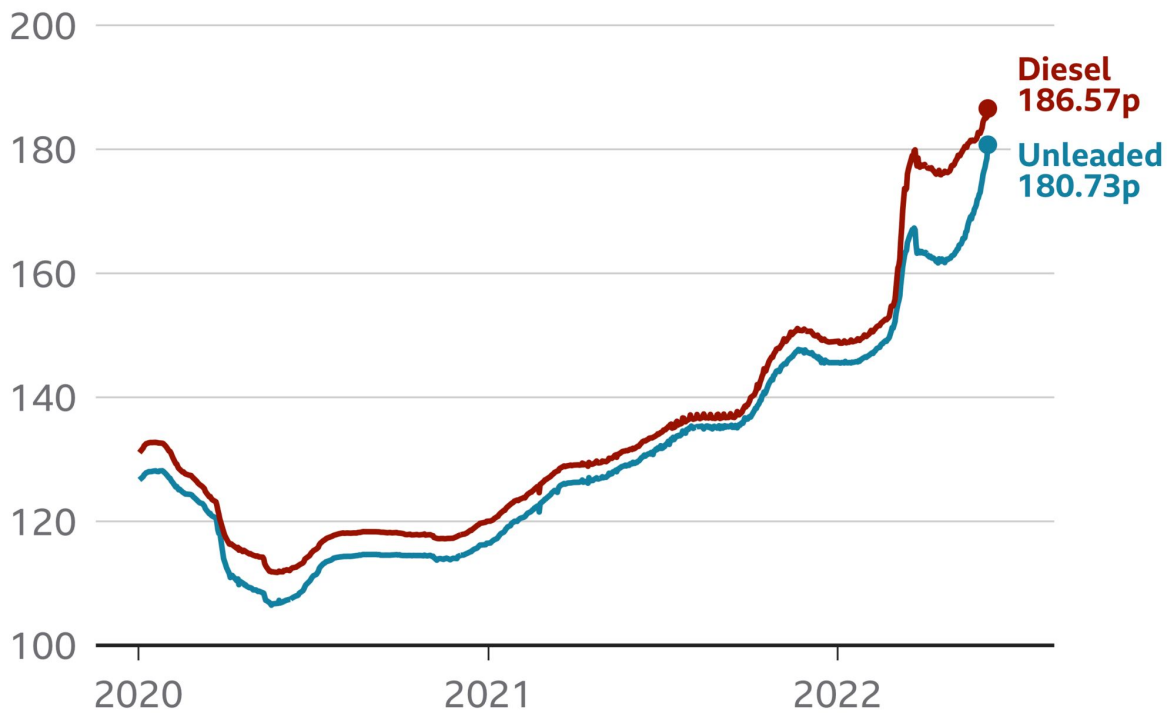
d) In January 2022 oil prices were \$0.70 per barrel but in March 2022 they were \$1.35. Calculate the % change.

e) In June 2020 oil prices were \$0.10 per barrel but in March 2022 they were \$1.35. Calculate the % change

f) Explain why the oil price has increased so significantly in 2022. Try to use the words supply and demand in your answer

g) Between March and June 2020 the Covid pandemic occurred. What do you notice about the price of oil? Why do you think this occurred? Again try to use the words supply and demand.

4. The chart below shows petrol prices for cars and lorries per litre



- a) What similarities do you notice between the oil chart and petrol chart? Why do you think this is?
- b) Explain two problems caused by rising petrol prices.
- c) Environmentalists believe that the rise in petrol prices is positive. Explain why they may say this
- d) About 60% of the price of a litre of petrol is paid to the government in tax. In 2020 a litre of petrol was £1.08. Calculate the tax paid to the government
- e) Calculate the tax paid in 2022 when the price was £1.86 per litre
- f) Would you like to see fuel prices rise or fall? Briefly justify your answer

5. Define the following micro economic terms

- a) price inelastic demand
- b) negative externality
- c) indirect tax

- d) subsidy
- e) market failure

6. Recently the government introduced a sugar tax . Use the following resources and any of your own to write about

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-43659124>

<https://www.sciencefocus.com/news/sugar-tax-drives-down-sugar-content-in-soft-drinks-study-finds/>

<https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/14884/economics/sugar-tax-debate/>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/economics/reference/economics-of-a-sugar-tax>

- a) What is the sugar tax and how it works
- b) The advantages of the sugar tax
- c) The disadvantages of the sugar tax
- d) Do you agree with the sugar tax? Why? Would you do anything differently?

Macroeconomic tasks

7. One of the key concepts in macroeconomics is gross domestic product
[Watch this video on GDP](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-i0Ok4tAho) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-i0Ok4tAho>
Then answer these questions:

- A. What does GDP stand for?
 - b. What does GDP measure?
 - c. List the 4 sectors of the economy and give an example for each sector
 - d. Which industries make the greatest contribution to UK GDP?
 - e. Explain three limitations of using GDP to measure the value of output
 - f. [Use this website: https://tradingeconomics.com/country-list/gdp-per-capita](https://tradingeconomics.com/country-list/gdp-per-capita) to find out and write down the GDP per capita figures for five countries of your choice
 - g. What is the difference between GDP and GDP per capita?
8. Globalisation has changed the macroeconomy. [Watch this video on globalisation:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIPuvHwpZ7A&t=3s)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIPuvHwpZ7A&t=3s>
Use the video to....
- a) Define globalisation

- b) What is the key feature of globalisation?
- c) Explain what is meant by trade. Use examples of products that are heavily traded
- d) List some countries that are very open to trade
- e) Why is Kit Kat linked to globalisation?
- f) Explain the global supply chain of an Iphone.
- g) Explain the trends in labour migration into and out of the UK

9. Define the following terms

- a) recession
- b) inflation
- c) unemployment

10. Use [the article: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-61780450](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-61780450) to make a list of all the problems being experienced by the UK economy

Reading list

Podcasts:

Wake up to money: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0070lr5/episodes/downloads>

Business daily: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p002vsxs/episodes/downloads>

Stephanomics: <https://www.bloomberg.com/stephanomics>

One in Ten: <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/economics-in-ten/id1450116373>

Video channels:

Khan academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/economics-finance-domain/ap-macroeconomics/basic-economics-concepts-macro/introduction-to-the-economic-way-of-thinking-macro/v/introduction-to-economics>

MJ Foodie: <https://www.youtube.com/user/mjmfoodie/featured>

Econplustal: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQbBh9Jn2IjcSPZOiNKJu0g>

Recommended Books

Microeconomics

Mark Gavin: Pearson Edexcel A-level Economics A Student Guide: Theme 1 Introduction to markets and market failure

David Smith: Free lunch

Tom Wainwright: Narconomics

Tim Harford: The Undercover Economist

Macroeconomics

Quintin Brewer: Pearson Edexcel A-level Economics A Student Guide: Theme 2 The UK economy – performance and policies

Tim Harford: The Undercover Economist Strikes Back