

Preparing for A Level Economics

Welcome to my Year 11 into Year 12 Economics and congratulations on making a great decision to study Economics.

UNDERSTAND EXISTING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

As an introduction to the subject, I want you to firstly understand why economics has such an importance. Economics is a major indicator of prosperity, people in more developed economies tend to have higher incomes on average and improved access to public services such as education and health. The study of economics looks at the allocation of resources and unlimited wants but scarce resources

How can poor societies become prosperous and overcome obstacles to do so? In order to move out of poverty and into prosperity, it is important to learn about the role that government plays in society.

From Poverty to Prosperity

For this summer homework I would like you to complete this online course, led by renowned economist Sir Paul Collier, you will explore the political, social, and economic factors that drive prosperity. You will also gain a better understanding of how your community and country can flourish, wherever you are in the world.

Sir Paul Collier, Oxford University, globally renowned Professor of Economics and Public Policy and author of the acclaimed book *The Bottom Billion*, this short course examines the vital role government plays in economic development, analysing the political, social and economic factors that elevate any society from poverty to prosperity.

'From Poverty to Prosperity' presents theories on economic development and applies them to case studies of individual countries, as well as comparative analysis, readings, quizzes, assignments and discussion forums. At the end of the course, you will be able to understand the factors that influence development and the different development paths that countries across the world have taken..

This free online course uses pre-recorded video lessons is self-paced which allows you to learn at any point in your own time and you need no specific academic qualifications.



Course Outline

You will find the course, delivered by a world-leading expert on the topic, a useful tool to understand how political and social foundations interact with economic opportunities in developing countries.

Module Number	Task title	Description	Mastery Level Rate yourself (Red, Amber, Green)	Submission Date
1	From anarchy to a centralised state	Economic development needs polities that are centralised and inclusive. No society starts with such a polity. Starting from anarchy, what determines whether a centralised state emerges?		Week commencing 29/8/25
2	Power, identities & narratives	Economic development needs polities that are centralised and inclusive. No society starts with such a polity. What are the factors that develop a centralised state into an inclusive one?		Week commencing 29/8/25
3	Growth through urbanisation & industrialisation	Economic development needs an alignment between power and identities. What happens when power and identities are misaligned and how can that misalignment be addressed?		Week commencing 29/8/25
4	Natural resources and aid	Economic development depends upon exploiting scale and specialisation, but poor societies start with neither. How can government policies promote or inhibit the exploitation of scale and specialisation?		Week commencing 29/8/25
5	External influences: Trade, migration, international governance rules,	The political, social and economic processes covered in previous modules are fundamentally internal. External influences are		Week commencing 29/8/25

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	and military intervention	peripheral but may still matter, for good or ill.		
6	Final Assignment	The details of the final assignment and instructions on how to complete it will be available in this module		Week commencing 29/8/25

What do I have to do?

1. To begin you will need to Click the link/copy the link, or search Oxford University From Poverty to prosperity short course:

[MOOC: From poverty to prosperity | Blavatnik School of Government \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

[OxfordX: From Poverty to Prosperity: Understanding Economic Development | edX](#)

2. You will then need to enrol using your personal or school email address
3. The course is self-paced (where you progress at your own speed), takes 2-3 hours to per week and which will take six weeks
4. Take notes onto the A4 sheets given to you during the lesson,
5. Once completed print or screen shot out your course completion certificate. Bring this with you at the start of the new academic year, Friday 29th August 2025.

I hope that you find this amazing short course interesting, inspiring and excites you to learn more in Economics. If you have any problems, please email me and I will endeavour to help, look forward to receiving your comments and seeing your certificates.

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