

THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Sixth Form



**Welcome to
A Level Economics
2021**

Introductory Economics Transition Task - Smoking



Some products and services that we consume are said to be 'demerit goods'. One example of a demerit good is cigarettes. Attitudes towards smoking have evolved over the past 50 years or so as scientific research has provided us with more information on the potential consequences of smoking.

Some believe more should be done to combat smoking whilst other may suggest that more regulation is not required.

You are expected to spend around two hours on the tasks below which need typing out.

1. Definitions

Find a definition of a demerit good and suggest two other examples (other than cigarettes)

2. Data Collection

Find data on at least 3 of the following (although you may replace them with other interesting facts that you find). You will need these for parts 2 and 3

1. Rates of smoking in the UK over time
2. Rates of smoking by different groups (e.g. gender or age)
3. Spending on cigarettes in the UK over time
4. Revenue gained by the government from cigarette duties over time
5. Cost to the NHS of dealing with smoking related illnesses over time or broken down by illness type

3. Data Analysis

Comment on two interesting factors in the data you have collected. You could look at issues such as trends in smoking rates, variability in data sets, calculate percentages etc. Make sure you refer to the data in what you write

e.g. "The first interesting fact is that the rate of smoking is increasing for both men and women. Smoking rates among men increase from 17.1% to 18.2% between 2001 and 2011 and women increase from 19.5% to 20.1% over the same time period" ©

4. Essay

"Evaluate 3 policies that government could use to control and influence levels of smoking"

Below is a writing frame to help you. This should be written as an essay, not as bullet points. Amongst your three options you can include things that the government currently does (in which case I'd expect to see an analysis of how effective it is). You may also dispute the premise of the question and argue that the government should actually do nothing at all and leave smokers alone. In this case you still need to explain how 'doing nothing' would work and the impact it would have along with considering two other methods that governments could use

Introduction – try to get a nice opening statement that addresses the issue. Try to include at least one fact to show why this is a current issue.

Option 1 – pick one option that the government could use and explain how it would work, what impact it might have and why it might not work. Try to evaluate your argument by explaining how good you think these arguments are

Option 2 – etc.

Option 3 – etc.

Conclusion – make sure you actually make a recommendation and explain why you think that was the strongest argument

**Please type your essay and then email it
to itrench@thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk**

Introductory Economics Transition Task – The Economy



The Task (about 2 hours)

PART ONE

Briefly describe **in your own words** the key role the following economic institutions play.

A. The BANK of ENGLAND

B. The OFFICE OF BUDGET RESPONSIBILITY

C. The COMPETITION & MARKETS AUTHORITY

D. The EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

E. The WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION

(15 marks)

PART TWO

Briefly describe **in your own words** the contribution the following people have made to economics.

A. ADAM SMITH

B. KARL MARX

C. FRIEDRICH HAYEK

D. JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES

E. MILTON FRIEDMAN

(15 marks)

PART THREE

Choose **TWO** of the following economic theories:

A. The PARADOX of THRIFT

B. SAY'S LAW

C. The TRAGEDY of the COMMONS

D. The FALLACY of the BROKEN WINDOW

E. The DIAMOND-WATER PARADOX

- Explain **in your own words** the origins of each theory
 - Explain **in your own words** the key principles of each theory
- (20 marks)**

Please type your answers and then email it to

LEwing@thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk

By 1 July 2020

Economics Websites

These websites all offer an amazing collection of resources that you can (and should!) use again and again throughout your course.



tutor2u
Website aimed at Economics
A Level. Amazing blog and
exam prep.

www.tutor2u.net



BBC
Great source of news stories.

www.bbc.co.uk

Physics & Maths Tutor

Physics and Maths Tutor
Actually also provides plenty of notes and
resources for economics...
<http://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/economics-revision/a-level-aqa/>



Econ Plus Dal is a youtube channel with clear
explanations on a range of concepts.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EconplusDal>

The Economist

The Economist
Articles on news and current affairs. Limited
number of articles for free.
www.economist.com

TIM HARFORD

THE UNDERCOVER ECONOMIST

Tim Harford
A blog with articles and letters where people write in to get
an economist to solve their daily problems.
<http://timharford.com/>

Economics Online

News Analysis Theory Comment

Economics online
Support for A level economics with notes and general revision
materials
<http://www.economicsonline.co.uk/>

TED Talk Recommendations

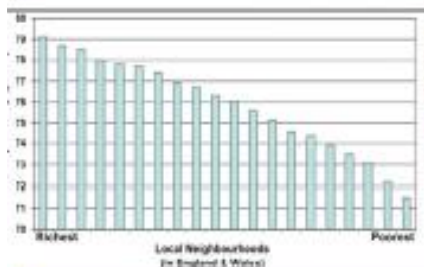
If you have 30 minutes to spare, here are some great presentations (and free!) from world leading scientists and researchers on a variety of topics. They provide some interesting answers and ask some thought-provoking questions.

How to keep rivers and streams flowing.

Available at :

https://www.ted.com/talks/rob_harmon_how_the_market_can_keep_streams_flowin#t-379059

Rob Harmon explains how economics can be used to solve the problem of people consuming too much water.



How Economic inequality hurts society

Available at : http://www.ted.com/talks/richard_wilkinson

Richard Wilkinson explains how societies with large gaps between the rich and the poor, including negative effects on health, lifespan and even trust.

The Freakonomics of Drug Dealing

Available at :

http://www.ted.com/talks/steven_levitt_analyzes_crack_economics

Steven Levitt explains why drug dealing isn't a lucrative career. It pays below minimum wage, your boss can kill you, and you're more likely to live at home with your parents.



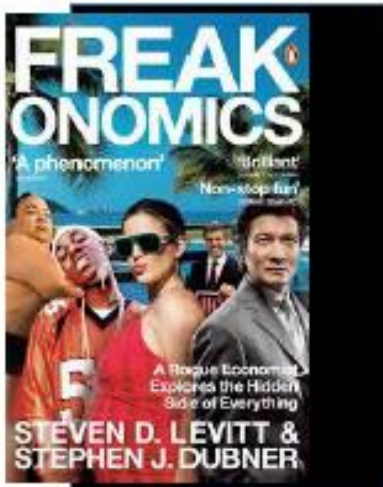
Trial, Error and the God Complex

Available at : http://www.ted.com/talks/tim_harford

Tim Harford explores the link between trial and error and progress in society. The key to progress is making more (and better) mistakes!

Interesting Books

Kick back this summer with a good read. The books below are all popular books about Economics, and great for extending your knowledge and understanding.



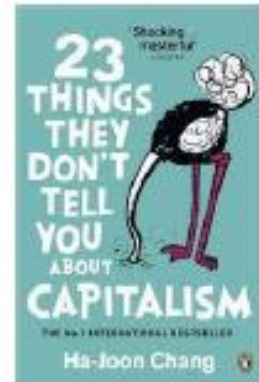
Freakonomics

A collection of articles using economics to explain people's behaviour. Including cheating by teachers and Sumo Wrestlers, the use of information in discrediting the KKK, The economics of drug dealing and the effects of naming children on their career prospects.

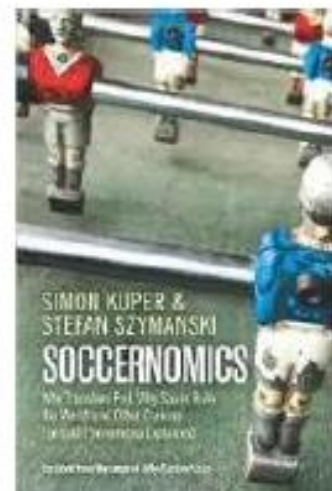
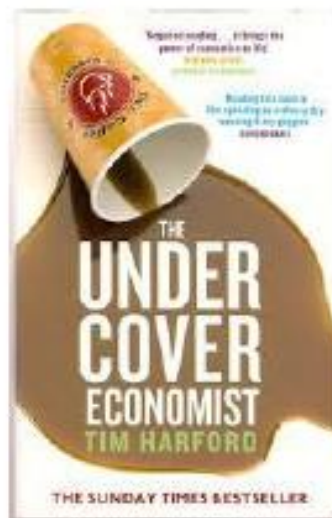
Thinking, Fast and Slow
The phenomenal *New York Times* Bestseller by Nobel Prize-winner Daniel Kahneman, *Thinking Fast and Slow* offers a whole new look at the way our minds work, and how we make decisions. Why is there more chance we'll believe something if it's in a bold type face? Why are judges more likely to deny parole before lunch? Why do we assume a good-looking person will be more competent? The answer lies in the two ways we make choices: fast, intuitive thinking, and slow, rational thinking.

23 Things they don't tell you about capitalism

A collection of articles discussing how capitalism works and how humans have been affected by the circumstances. How the washing machine is the most revolutionary invention ever.



The Undercover Economist
Explains economic concepts in simple terms and linked to everyday situations, including why poor countries remain poor, why used cars are difficult to buy and how Starbucks price their products.



Soccernomics

If you're interested in sports, a good book on using economics to judge and improve performance in football. Including how to win at penalty shootouts and the best transfer strategy.

