

## Summer Research Task: Economics

Economics is based upon the central problem that, while human wants are infinite (they never end) the resources we have to satisfy them are running out. This means that we must make decisions about how to use our scarce resources. Societies need to decide what to make, in what quantities, how to make them and who gets the finished goods and services. Of course everyone tends to have a different view as to the best answer to these questions. The potential outcomes of these decisions include **economic growth**, our **living standards**, the level of **unemployment**, the **rate of inflation**, **poverty and inequality** and **environmental damage** and global warming. The study of Economics can be divided into **microeconomics**: the study of individual markets, and **macroeconomics**: the study of the (UK) economy as a whole. This makes economics one of the most important studies in the world today.

**Task 1:** Firstly, you will need to do some research and learn the meanings of some basic economic terms.

Write down a definition of the following terms, try to find out (where possible) how these are measured) and produce a BRIEF analysis about why you think they're significant for individuals in the UK **and** the country as a whole.

- An economy.
- Economic growth.
- Standards of Living
- Unemployment
- The rate of Inflation
- Poverty
- Inequality
- Environmental depletion and degradation.

### **Task 2: Further research and analysis.**

There is without doubt an economic cause to the current pandemic, economic factors that influence our ability to deal with it and protect ourselves and of course major economic consequences that are likely to affect all our lives for many years to come. These effects can be felt in both in the markets for individual products (the micro economy) and in our economy as a whole (the macro economy).

### **The UK Macro Economy**

For each of the macro economic terms above see if you can produce a piece of analysis explaining an impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on that variable (and therefore on individuals and the UK economy as a whole). Include some figures to support your analysis if you find any during your research.

## **The Micro economy**

1. See if you can find out about the current situation in the market for oil (one of the world's most important markets). How has Covid 19 affected the market for oil? What impacts might the oil market have on individuals, firms and on the macro economy as a whole?
2. Find a good or service that has been positively affected by Covid 19 pandemic. What are these positive effects and how has Covid 19 created them?

### **Some possible sites to help.**

#### **Task 1**

Tutor2u- <https://www.tutor2u.net/economics>

#### **Task 2**

BBC- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/> (main headlines, but also follow the link to business)

Tutor2u- <https://www.tutor2u.net/economics>

The MoneyWeek- <https://moneyweek.com/>

The Economist- <https://www.economist.com/>

The Guardian- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk> (main headlines, but also follow the link to business)

EconomicsUk.com- <http://www.economicsuk.com/blog/> (a bit more highbrow)

The Bank of England- <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/>