

Economics Reading Suggestions for the Summer

We are looking forward to welcoming you this October. Here are some suggestions on what to do in preparation to the economics part of the first year of your degree. Separately, the Department of Economics will also send you a summer reading list, some of which may overlap with these suggestions.

Mathematics

Mathematics is an important tool for studying economics. Part of the Introductory Economics course will be devoted to revisiting some mathematical techniques you might be familiar from your mathematics course at school, and possibly learning new ones. And you will learn to apply them to analyse economic questions. Probably the best thing you can do in the coming weeks before the start of the course is to revise the mathematics you have done at school, particularly calculus. If you have not covered calculus at school do not worry, there will be classes devoted to it, but it would be a good idea to try learning some of the basics using any high school textbook that covers this topic. Or you might consult one of the following:

- Ian Jacques Mathematics for Economics and Business (The most elementary.)
- Martin Anthony and Norman Biggs Mathematics for Economics and Finance.

The Department of Economics will send you the **Maths Workbook**, which will be used throughout the first year. It will also indicate which parts are required summer reading; make sure you do study those parts prior to coming to Oxford.

Broader Readings

Specific reading for the economic course will be given in a weekly basis over the academic year. There is no essential reading that you need to do in advance, but here is a short list of books that you might find interesting and do not require specific economic knowledge:

- Banerjee, Abhijit and Duflo, Esther (2012), Poor Economics: Barefoot Hedge-fund Managers, DIY Doctors and the Surprising Truth about Life on less than 1 a Day. Penguin Books.
- Why Nations Fail, Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson (2013). Profile Books.
- Harford, Tim (2005), The Undercover Economist. Oxford Economic Press.

We also strongly recommend keeping up with current economic debates reading publications such as The Economist magazine and similar.

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