

Economics A Level: Transition Work for September 2025

You must complete all reading/viewing in Part A and Part B and answer the questions.

Part A – Scarce resources – supply of metals

Source 1: BBC visual news article – Poisoned Water and Scarred Hills

Read and make notes on this linked BBC news article.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-66cdf862-5e96-4e6e-90b8-a407b597c8d9>

Answer the following questions using full sentences and where applicable, paragraphs.

1. What words did you not recognise when you read the article, what definitions did you find when you looked them up?
2. What are rare earths? Why are rare earths in demand? Who wants to buy them?
3. Why are rare earths hard to extract/produce/supply?
4. What has happened to the mining site over the past 25 years? Why?
5. What did the Chinese government do in 2012? Did it help? What is the Chinese developmental model with respect to this activity?
6. What impact has the mining had on other local businesses?
7. If you were the boss of the Chinese firm running the mines, how would you decide what to charge for your products? [Multiple paragraphs are expected for this answer].

Source 2: Ed Conway Sky News Broadcast – The Battle for Chile’s Critical Minerals

Watch and make notes on this linked 14-minute YouTube video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=oywE0mQnWI0>

Answer the following questions using full sentences and where applicable, paragraphs.

- I. What words did you not recognise on the video, what definitions did you find?
- II. How does copper/lithium mined in Chile get to customers in Europe and elsewhere? Who sells it?
- III. In what ways has the availability of resources of copper and lithium helped the population of Chile? In what ways has the mining of metals harmed the population of Chile?
- IV. If you were a leader in the Chilean government, how would you balance the needs for companies to make profits to collect tax to pay for schools and hospitals, with the needs of the environment and other industries? [Multiple paragraphs are expected for this answer.]

Part B – The 2008 Financial Crisis – Boom and bust in Ireland

Watch the following three YouTube videos – answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Ireland: a Celtic tiger booms and busts (2mins 11secs – Source: IMF)

- a. What is a boom? In what ways did Ireland boom?
- b. What happened during the bust?
- c. What did the government do?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sfS5o5-LsY&t=36s>

2. Ireland: the rise and fall of the economy – by Fergal Keane (27 mins 38 secs)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiCXsu_4BoA&t=89s

3. Ireland’s Property Crisis by RTE (52 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4XrOGuAdWo&t=7s>

Paperback book required for course: OCR A Level Economics (4th edition) by Peter Smith with Simon Dyer (ISBN: 978 1 5104 5840 6) – second hand prices range from £15-20, new from £48

Optional extension reading: Material World by Ed Conway (2023) ISBN 978 0 753 55917 8

The Great Economists by Linda Yueh (2018) ISBN 978 0 241 97447 6