

## What is economics?

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### Economics

#### 1. What is economics?

- Economics studies the choices every society must make.
- What should we produce?
- Who should do the work?
- Who should receive the benefits?
- How are those decisions made?
- Economics helps us understand those choices.



#### 2. Every economy is created

- Economies do not simply happen.
- People create the rules they work by.
- Governments enforce many of those rules.
- Different rules create different economies.
- Different societies have different priorities.
- Economics explains why those differences matter.



#### 3. Markets are only part of the story

- Markets help organise many activities.
- But they are not the whole economy.
- Families, communities and governments matter too.
- Economics should explain how they work together.



#### 4. Resources are what matter

- Every economy depends on people and the world around us.
- Skills, knowledge, energy and nature all matter.
- Money helps organise these resources.
- But money is not the resource itself.
- Good economics asks whether resources are being well used.



#### 5. Power shapes every economy

- Wealth gives some people more choices than others.
- Powerful organisations can influence the rules of society.
- Those rules can shape economic outcomes.
- Economics should explain who benefits from power and why.



#### 6. Why economists disagree

- Economists often begin with different assumptions.
- Many assume markets shape economies.
- I assume economies, and economics, serve society.
- Markets exist because society creates them.
- That is how I understand the whole economy.
- Society and the people who make it up are my priority.



#### 7. What is economics for?

- Economics is not just about explaining the world.
- It should help us make better choices.
- Can everyone live well?
- Can future generations thrive?
- Are we preserving our planet?
- Those are the questions that matter.



#### 8. My definition

- Economics explains how society organises people and resources.
- It studies markets, governments and communities together.
- It asks whether they work well.
- It asks whether everyone has the chance to thrive.
- It explains how we can do things better.
- That is what economics is about.



#### Conclusion

The economy does not run itself. People create it through the choices they make, the rules they write and the institutions they build. Economics helps us understand those choices so that we can change them and help everyone thrive.



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<https://www.taxresearch.org.uk/Blog/> | Richard Murphy's  
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on political economy.

This is the first in a series of infographics which will continue with:

- \* Microeconomics
- \* Macroeconomics

- \* Political economy
- \* The household analogy
- \* And more.

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