






Here are the five economic stories which have caught our eye this week:

# 1

## Clicks vs. Bricks:

Black Friday Compared to Last Year:	
	£1.45bn Store Sales (▲ 4%)
	£1.4bn Online Sales (▲ 11.7%)
	Footfall Figures (▼ 3.6%)
	Card Transactions (▲ 32%)
	4:38pm – Peak Minute

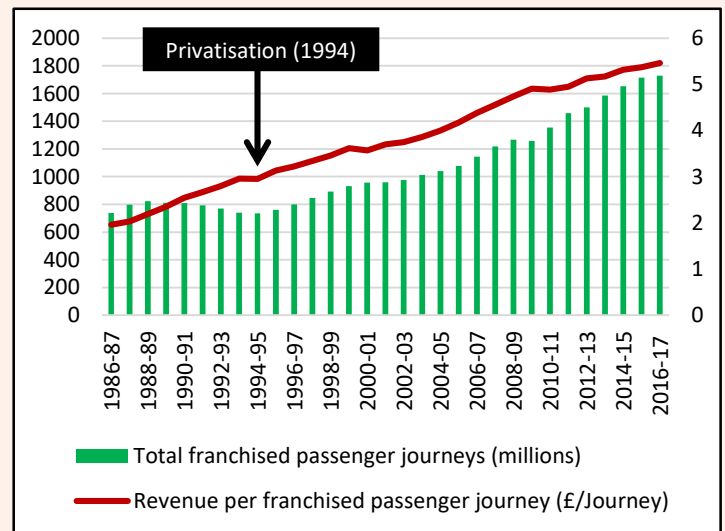
The annual Black Friday sales boom continued in 2017, with consumers waking up earlier and shopping later to capitalise on discount opportunities. The use of online shopping allowed individuals to get the best deals available.

Using a demand and supply diagram show how retailers can take advantage of elastic demand during sales days to boost revenues.



# 2

## The Privatisation Surge in the UK Rail Industry:



This week the UK government proposed a new model when awarding franchise contracts to private train operating companies (TOCs) – making TOCs responsible for both the route infrastructure and route service.

### Assess the Economic Impact on:

Quality of Service

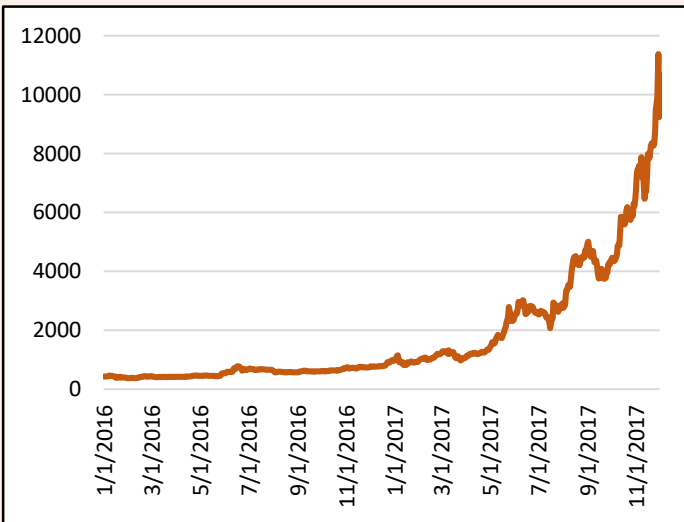
Mobility

Environment

01/12/17

# 4

## Is the Bitcoin bubble about to burst?



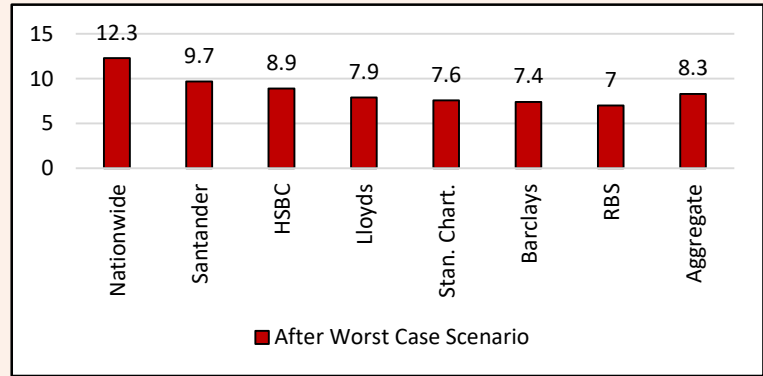
The price of the cryptocurrency Bitcoin surged this week to over \$11,000. This represented a growth rate of over 2,000% since the start of 2016. The dramatic price movements have left investors questioning whether this trading price represents fair-value or if it is all part of a wider speculative bubble.

What are the three standard functions of money?

Does Bitcoin meet the definition of 'money' we use for A Level economics?

# 3

## Bank of England Stress Test Results (Capital Ratio, %):

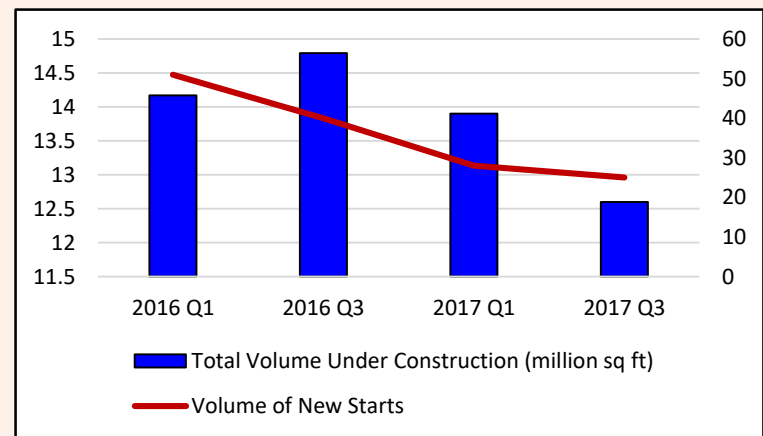


The Bank of England released the results of the latest and most severe set of stress tests. The tests attempted to model how the UK's banking system would cope with significant disruption from a global recession and a potentially 'disorderly' exit from the EU. For the first time since 2014, all major banks were found to have adequate capital buffers to absorb losses.

To what extent do you agree that bank stress tests can simulate the impact of a financial crisis such as the one seen in 2008?

# 5

## Slump in London Office Developments and New Starts:



London office developments have dropped by approximately 9% in the last two quarters (primary axis), as well as the number of office starts - dropping to just 25 in the Q3 2017 (secondary axis).

Evaluate the impact the EU referendum in 2016 has had on private business investment in the UK.