



NOISE POLLUTION

An example of negative externalities



WELCOME!

Economics gives us a framework for understanding many world problems

The underlying theory for 'Economic problems' will be taught in the year 1 course for A level but the essentials for now are below:

*The **private costs** of an individual's or business's action are only part of the story; they often cause other **costs to third parties**, which we call external costs, or '**negative externalities**'*

For example, if I throw a very loud party at my house, there is cost to my neighbours in terms of excessive noise. It might be difficult to quantify, but it certainly exists.

For now, finding out about some real case studies will help you to understand the theory and give you plenty to write about later



WHAT TO DO - 1

Listen to the whole podcast once (23 mins)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04grdbc/episodes/downloads...>

and just enjoy learning about it

Read the questions on the next slide

Listen to the whole podcast again and write some answers to the questions (on a Word doc that you can submit)



QUESTIONS

1. What is the negative externality that is the subject of this podcast?
2. What kinds of activities mentioned in the podcast are generating the negative externality?
3. What specific problems does excessive noise cause for people?
4. What does WHO consider as 'excessive' noise?
5. What kinds of specific measures are being put in place to block noise from roads and railways?
6. What kinds of things has the campaigner in India done to raise awareness of this problem in Mumbai? What have the police recently done to help? What criticisms has she faced in trying to reduce noise pollution?
7. What new mechanisms are being used to measure overall noise at different points in the UK? How should this help? Who do you think will/should pay for these measures to be put in place?
8. What has the lockdown period done to change this Economic problem of noise pollution? Will the negative externalities be reduced in the longer term, or will be go back to normal when the lockdown ends? Try to justify your response (use the word 'because' in your answer!)



WHAT TO DO - 2

Consider the problem of **negative externalities** in other contexts

Read this <https://www.economicshelp.org/micro-economic-essays/marketfailure/negative-externality/> but please don't worry about the diagrams for now – these will be taught in year 1 of the A level and you don't need them to do this activity.

Write a few more examples of the activities of individuals or businesses which cause costs to third parties and complete a box like the one below:

Activity of individual/business	Cost/s on third party
Eg smoking	Damage to others' lungs



WHAT TO DO - 3

Add a fourth column headed 'possible solutions' and try to list as many solutions that you know of/that could be used to solve these problems.

Possible solutions

Eg tax on cigarettes, ban on smoking in public places, age restrictions



WHAT TO DO - 4

Finally, for as many of your activities as possible, link it to a news article about this activity and the associated negative externalities and add it in another column – write a summary of what the article is saying, as below:

Link to a news article

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-31602414>

A Debate about extending the ban on smoking in indoor public places to outdoor public spaces; Imperial College arguing for the ban to be extended and Forest arguing the opposite



WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A BIT MORE TIME...

There are at least two more podcasts in this [series](#) 'People fixing the world' that relate to this area of work:

'The farmers moving their field indoors'

'The big transport swap'

Add an extra paragraph to your written work to explain how you think these ideas are relevant to the study of 'negative externalities.'

