

Suggested *Reading & Viewing*



How to prepare for your A level courses - 2026

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Biology

Useful place to start:

Any David Attenborough documentary

Reading Fiction:

The Handmaid's Tale (Margaret Atwood) The Bees (Laline Paull)

The Chrysalids (John Wyndham) Surface Detail (Iain M Banks)

Translations from the natural world (Les Murray)

Non-fiction:

The Selfish Gene (Richard Dawkins) An Ancestor's Tale (Richard Dawkins) Deadly Kingdom (Gordon Grice)

The Red Queen (Matt Ridley) Bad Science (Ben Goldacre)

The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat (Oliver Sacks) Missing Microbes (Martin Blaser)

Conversations with Neil's Brain: The Natural Nature of Thought and Language (Calvin, WH and Ojamann GA)

The Logic of Life (Black J, Boyd CAR, Noble D - editors)

The Oxford Book of Modern Science Writing (Richard Dawkins-editor) The Human Brain: A Guided Tour (Susan Greenfield)

Advice to a Young Scientist (Peter Medawar)

Do No Harm: Stories of Life, Death and Brain Surgery (Henry Marsh)

Films and documentaries

'Life in the Undergrowth'. 'Interstellar'

'Jurassic Park' 'Gattaca'

The 'CSI' programs.

Business

Useful places to start:

Read up on some of the latest news stories & link to theory:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/business/bJog> <https://www.tutor2u.net/business/bJog/in-the-news>

Reading

The everything store: Jeff Bezos and the age of Amazon (Amazon) The Ride of a Lifetime, by Bob Iger. (Disney)

The Virgin Way: Everything I know about Leadership (Virgin) My Fight to the Top (Ultimo Brands)

Shoe dog: A memoir by the creator of Nike by Phil Knight - Innocent Smoothies - A Book About Innocent (Nike)

Driving Honda: Inside the World's Most Innovative Car Company (Honda) Michael O'Leary A life in Full Flight (Ryan Air)

Quiet Leadership: Winning Hearts, Minds and Matches Strong Woman, Ambition Grit and a Great Pair of Heels

Podcasts

<https://www.ted.com/podcasts/ted-business>

<https://www.secretleaders.com/episodes>

Films and documentaries

Netflix Films:

The Founder - franchising: growth of a McDonald's franchise.

The Big Short - short termism for financial investments but also the financial crisis in 2008

The Social Network- growth of Facebook

American Factory- takeovers and mergers, culture clashes, resistance to change

Money Ball - great for the role of statistics, recruitment, but also change management and culture, resistance to change

Erin Brockovich - ethics and social responsibility

Dark Waters - ethics and CSR The story dramatizes Robert Bilott's case against the chemical manufacturing corporation DuPont after they contaminated a town with unregulated chemicals.

Documentaries

Inside Bill's Brain - documentary that tells Bill Gates' life story as he pursues solutions to some of the world's most complex problems

Fyre - The greatest festival that never happened

The Great Hack- big data and data mining dangers

The True Cost - globalisation, emerging markets, supply chains, ethics Broken - episode 3 on IKEA, episode 2 on vaping

Steve Jobs (Apple) - Billion Dollar Hippie

Rotten - food supply chain and the uncomfortable truths

Dirty Money- stories of corporate corruption, securities fraud and creative accounting - episode 1 on the VW scandal

Amazon Prime

Films:

The Founder - franchising: growth of a McDonalds franchise.

Deepwater Horizon - short termism and ethics/social responsibility.

The Internship

Documentaries

Trump - What's the Deal?

Generation Start Up - the trials and tribulations of starting up a business Pepsi vs Coke- the marketing battle of the decade

Jobs vs Gates: The Hippie and The Nerd

Starbucks Unfiltered - how Starbucks conquered the world and issues due to it

Facebook - Cracking the Code

Rich and Famous Fortunes

Data Centre- The true cost of the internet

The Millennial Dream - challenges for millennials in the USA Business Mindsets for Success

Learn From the Experts - Jeff Bezos, Amazon Founder Learn From the Experts - Elon Musk, Tesla and SpaceX

Magazines and journals

Don't buy a subscription for the upcoming year as we will do that (back copies/on line subscription might be useful.)

<https://www.hoddereducationmagazines.com/magazines/business-review/>

Websites

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/>

<http://www.bloomberg.com>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/business>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business>

<http://www.economist.com> <http://www.ft.com/home/uk>

Chemistry

Useful place to start:

Chemistry Crash Course Crash Course Chemistry ([thecrashcourse.com](https://www.thecrashcourse.com))

Reading

Chemistry: A Very Short introduction (Peter Atkins) Memories of a chemical boyhood (Uncle Tungsten)

Periodic Tales: The curious lives of the elements (Hugh Aldersey-Williams)

Podcasts

Infinite Monkey Cage

Royal Society of Chemistry Podcasts Chemistry in its Element by Chemistry World

Films and documentaries

Chemistry a Volatile History (BBC)

The Magic of Chemistry with Andrew Szydlo (Royal Institute Lectures)

Magazines and journals

The New Scientist BBC Science Focus Chemistry Review Chemistry World

Young Scientists Journal

Websites

Support for students | RSC Education - <https://edu.rsc.org/student>

Compound Interest: Chemistry infographics /compoundchem.com)

What If fxcad coml - <https://Uwhat-if.xkcd.com/>

Chemistry news. research and opinions | Chemistry World

<https://www.chemaide.co.uk/>

Classical Civilisation

Topics: Homer's Odyssey; Virgil's Aeneid; Augustus' Imperial Image; Love and Relationships in ancient Greece and Rome

Useful places to start:

Reading

Any of the Very Short Introductions (Oxford University Press): Classics, Classical Mythology, The Trojan War, The Roman Empire

Adam Nicholson The Mighty Dead: Why Homer Matters 2014 Andrew Wallace-Hadrill Augustan Rome 2018

Ahuvia Kahane Homer, A guide for the Perplexed 2012 Richard Jenkyns Classical Epic; Homer and Virgil 1998

Videos

TED-Ed very short videos:

Homer's Odyssey <https://youtu.be/8Z9FOxcCAZ0?si=msZk kL74Fq8LqGU> Virgil's

Aeneid <https://youtu.be/p4mbk59rb-1E?si=3xOScL5LroYH3f2h> Augustus

<https://youtu.be/orcmojhFmzY?si=qgO67 XrokqfqOpl>

Sappho <https://youtu.be/EFcftfgpxK4?si=ohbRLW4VCmUMWuUV> Plato

[b.ll.Qs://youtu.be/1LescSIITvo?si=IAqx6Mq2FSz6GsrP](https://youtu.be/1LescSIITvo?si=IAqx6Mq2FSz6GsrP)

Podcasts

BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, The Greek Myths BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, The Augustan Age BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, The Odyssey

BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Sappho BBC Radio 4 - Great Lives, Sappho BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Stoicism BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Ovid

Literature and History Podcast

Odyssey, Aeneid, Ovid, Catullus, Horace, Propertius, Seneca

All Episodes (literatureandhistory.com)

<https://literatureandhistory.com/index.php/episodes/all-episodes>

Emperors of Rome podcast:

Episode I - The Early Years of Caesar - Emperors of Rome I Podcast on Spotify

Episode CXXVII - Augustus: The Making of an Emperor (Live in Melbourne) - Emperors of Rome I Podcast on

Films and documentaries

I, Caesar documentary: episodes 1 and 2

Watch I, Caesar: The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire I Prime Video (amazon.co.uk)

Khan Academy

Augustus and the Roman Empire (video) | Khan Academy
Caesar, Cleopatra and the Ides of March (video) | Khan Academy
Kings College London Classics videos on YouTube

Magazines and journals

(search for Aeneid, Odyssey, Augustus, Sappho, Catullus, Seneca, Ovid)
<https://www.uarchiv.org/details/omnibusmagazine>
The Collector <https://www.thecollector.com/ancient-history/>
Antigone Journal <https://l.jantigonejournal.com/>

Websites

BBC short introduction to Augustus BBC- History-Augustus
Warwick Classics Network Classical Civilisation AS and A-level Resources
(warwick.ac.uk)

Open University Introduction to Virgil's Aeneid Introducing Virgil's Aeneid | OpenLearn
- Open University <https://www.ancient.eu/article/927/women-in-ancient-greece/>
<https://www.ancient.eu/article/659/the-role-of-women-in-the-roman-world/>

Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sappho>
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seneca the Younger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seneca_the_Younger) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amores \(Ovid\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amores_(Ovid))
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symposium \(Plato\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symposium_(Plato))

Texts in translation

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PIJBRI/Greek/SapphoPoems.php>
<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PIJBRI/Latin/AmoresHome.php>
Virgil (70 BC-19 BC) - Aeneid: I / [poetryintranslation.com](https://www.poetryintranslation.com))
Homer (c.750 BC) - The Odyssey: In translation. ([poetryintranslation.com](https://www.poetryintranslation.com))
Ovid (43 BC-17) - Ars Amatoria: The Art of Love. Book III

Computer Science

Useful places to start:

Codecademy- Python course <https://www.codecademy.com/learn/learn-python>

Trinket's hour of code <https://hourofpython.com/>

Isaac computing - 'GCSE to A level transition course

<https://jsaaccomputerscience.org/>

(Create an account Topics All topicsTheory- GCSE to A Level transition)

Reading

The New Turing Omnibus-A gentle introduction to lots of Computer Science topics,

some of which we will look at during the course. Available on Amazon New Turing

Omnibus: Amazon.co.uk: DEWDNEY, A. K.: 9780805071665: Books

Computational Thinking Puzzles (free e-book .pdf). Lots of computational based logic puzzles

Tech Crunch. Biogs based on a vast range of Computer Science related fields

The Hacker News -Articles relating to cyber security

Podcasts

The Digital Human - BBC Radio 4 - The Digital Human

The Artificial Human - BBC Radio 4- The Artificial Human

Films and documentaries

The Social Network (2010) 12

The Imitation Game (2014) 12

Wargames (1983) PG

Snowden (2013) 75

Cyberbully (2012) 75

Magazines and journals

New Scientist Wired

Websites

Brilliant.Org <https://brilliant.org/home/>

Computerphile <https://www.youtube.com/@Computerphile>

Drama

Useful place to start:

If you have not studied GCSE Drama, it is definitely worth familiarising yourself with key terms and vocabulary, especially for Theatre Design.

The BBC Bitesize website will help: GCSE Drama - Edexcel - BBC Bitesize

Reading

The Empty Space by Peter Brook

Websites

The Guardian

The Stage

Economics

Useful places to start:

BBC News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

The Economist <https://www.economist.com>

Financial Times <https://www.ft.com/>

Ted talks [https://www.ted.com/playlists/272/understanding world economics](https://www.ted.com/playlists/272/understanding_world_economics)

Podcasts

The Economist <https://www.economist.com/audio/podcasts>

Macro Musings with David Beckworth <https://macromusings.libsyn.com/>

More or Less: Behind the statistics <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nrssl>

Planet Money <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510289/planet-money>

International Monetary Fund Podcasts <https://www.imf.org/en/News/podcasts>

Freakonomics radio <https://freakonomics.com/podcasts/>

Guardian Podcasts: <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/sep/14/podcasts>

Films and documentaries

The Big Short. McKay, A. (2015). Paramount Pictures

The Economics of Tomorrow <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=°IR2ho3Jtor4> Too big to fail. Hanson, C. (2011). Spring Creek Productions

Margin call. Chandor, J (2011). Myriad Pictures

Books

23 Things they don't tell you about Capitalism by Ha-Joan Chang Good economics for hard time by Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee The Big short by Mical Lewis

The Great Economists by Linda Yueh Doughnut Economics by Kate Raworth

Websites

BBC News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Econ plus dal <https://www.youtube.com/@EconplusDal> Tutor2u

[://www.tutor2u.net/economics](https://www.tutor2u.net/economics)

The Guardian www.theguardian.com Independent www.independent.co.uk

English

Useful places to start:

Life of Christopher Marlowe <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9d6>

Shakespeare's Life <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00S47ct>

The Romantics <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546ws>

Reading

Preparation for Prose component:

Atwood. Margaret: The Handmaid's Tale (1985)

Bronte, Charlotte: Jane Eyre (1847)

Huxley. Aldous: Brave New World (1932) Ishiguro. Kazuo: Never Let Me Go (2005)

Ishiguro, Kazuo: Klara and the Sun (2021) Orwell. George: 1984 (1949)

Shelley, Mary: Frankenstein (1818) Stoker. Bram: Dracula (1897)

Preparation for Post-War American Literature coursework component

Capote, Truman: In Cold Blood (1966) Heller. Joseph: Catch-22 (1961)

Kesey. Ken: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1962)

Plath. Sylvia: The Bell Jar (1963)

Williams, Tennessee: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1955)

Yates. Richard: Revolutionary Road (1961)

Podcasts

The Radio 4 programme, 'In Our Time' has some excellent podcasts on literary texts:

John Keats In Our Time - John Keats - BBC Sounds

Frankenstein BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Frankenstein

1984 BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Nineteen Eighty-Four

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

The Myth of Faustus BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Faust

Films and documentaries

A Streetcar Named Desire (dir. Elia Kazan. 1957)

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (dir. Mike Nichols. 1966)

Websites

The Sixth Form English SharePoint site English - Home (sharepoint.com)

Poetry Archive site: Poetry Archive

Digital Theatre Plus Digital Theatre+ (digitaltheatreplus.com)

Drama Online Drama Online - Home (dramaonlinelibrary.com)

Massolit MASSOLIT - English Literature

Magazines and journals

English Review - Hodder Education Magazines (Extensive back catalogue available in school)

London Review of Books

TLS | Times Literary Supplement

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Useful places to start:

It is a good idea for students to have a good grounding in English grammar before they come, so the Murphy/Swan & Walter books above will provide this. Otherwise, any good level English language reading material will be good preparation for studying all subjects in English.

Reading

The Economist – www.economist.com

National Geographic – www.nationalgeographic.com

BBC News – www.bbc.com/news

The Guardian – www.theguardian.com

The Conversation – www.theconversation.com

Listening:

Ted Talks: <https://www.ted.com>

Guardian Podcasts: <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/sep/14/podcasts> Story telling: <https://themoth.org/stories/orbit>

The Moth: www.themoth.org

Reading & Writing

Cambridge Write & Improve – www.writeandimprove.com

BBC Learning English – www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish

Biography.com – www.biography.com

Vocabulary

Recommended books:

Idioms Organiser (Jon Wright)

The Heinemann English Wordbuilder (Guy Wellman)

Online resources:

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com
Vocabulary.com

Grammar**Recommended books:**

English Grammar in Use (Raymond Murphy)
Advanced Grammar in Use (Martin Hewings)
Practical English Usage (Michael Swan)
Destination C1 & C2: Grammar and Vocabulary (Malcolm Mann & Steve Taylore-Knowles)
How English Works (Michael Swan & Catherine Walter)

Online resources:

www.test-english.com
www.englishgrammar.org
www.learnenglish.britishcouncil.org

Film Studies

Useful places to start:

Watch films, remaining within your age certificate but starting to go outside your comfort zone. Try some foreign language films, older films, or films of a genre that wouldn't normally interest you.

Reading

If you want an accessible introduction to film language, try Edward Ross's 'Filmish: A Graphic Journey Through Film'.

Podcasts

The MediaMag Podcast gives you a taste of some of the sort of theoretical perspectives we cover in Film Studies. But there are hundreds of great, accessible film podcasts - try Kermode & Mayo's Take, for example.

Films and documentaries

In the first two terms we will be watching films by Guillermo del Toro, Steve McQueen and Greta Gerwig, amongst others. If you want to get a feel for their style, you could watch other films by the same directors. For example, del Toro's 'Pinocchio', McQueen's '12 Years a Slave'; and Gerwig's 'Lady Bird' are a great introduction to the directors' style and themes.

Magazines and journals

Read film reviews in a range of different places - newspapers, Empire magazine, Sight and Sound, plus non-professional reviews on Letterboxd. Sign up for Letterboxd and start writing reviews of your own. Learning to articulate your opinions about a film, and considering the views of other film viewers, is one of the most important skills you will need in Film Studies.

Websites

<https://www.imdb.com/>

Geography

Reading

This is by no means an exhaustive list that you must read. It's more of a tempting list of interesting geography to get you started or further your interest. Reading & thinking about geographical issues can be very useful to study.

Geography (Danny Dorling and Carl Lee) FREE online readable version

<http://www.dannydorling.org/books/geography/material/>

Factfulness (Hans Rosling)

Prisoners of Geography (Tim Marshall) The Power of Geography (Tim Marshall)

Ideas in Profile (Danny Darling and Carl Lee)

Coast - The Journey Continues (Sommerville - BBC series) Collapse: How Societies

Choose to Fail or Survive (Jared Diamond) The Revenge of Gaia (James Lovelock)

Podcasts

80 days podcast (investigating little known countries) 80dayspodcast.com

National Geographic magazine

Right Ask the Geographer (interviews with geographers for schools) Player FM

Empire podcast (yes, its history but there's SO much geography in there too)

Geographical imaginations (in depth on elements of geographical learning. Season One

Magazines

Keeping up with innovations and research in Science and the Environment is recommended to A level geographers. Most are available as on line versions or podcasts direct to your phone! Going to libraries can save on subscription costs.

New Scientist New Scientist | Science news. articles. and features

Science Daily www.sciencedaily.com

National Geographic Magazine

Geographical Magazine (Royal Geographic Society)

History

Useful places to start:

These are highlighted in bold below.

Reading

History books tend to be long! So don't panic and feel like you have to read an entire book before we start in September. The recommendations below are books you can dip in and out of. There are also some suggestions of historical novels which will give you a 'feel' for the period. The** next to a book means read this first.

Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855-1964 History books

**** Orlando Figes, Revolutionary Russia, 2014** This is a short introduction to the period we are studying and will give you a good outline of events.

Martin Sixsmith, 'Russia: a 1000 year chronicle of the Wild East', 2012 - This is a reasonably easy read and an excellent introduction - but you may want to start when it gets to the 19th century.

Novels

Novels that give a great feel for Russian society and political developments:

Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina, 1878 (a tragic love story set in Tsarist Russia)

Fyodor Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment, 1866 (can a murder ever be justifiable?)

Boris Pasternak, Dr Zhivago, 1957 (living through the 1905 and 1917 Revolutions)

Helen Dunmore, The Siege, 2001 (life under siege in Leningrad during WW2)

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, 1962 (life in a Soviet gulag in the 1950s)

Vasily Grossman, Life and Fate, 1959 (a 20th century War and Peace set during WW2)

The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007

1. **** Andrew Marr, A History of Modern Britain, 2009** (A lively, opinionated, but thorough introduction to the period we are studying. Also available as an audiobook. There is also a BBC series available on DVD which is well worth watching). Don't feel you need to read it all but it would be helpful to read the first few chapters.

2. Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland, 2018 (a powerful book about the mysterious disappearance of Jean McConville, which also serves as an introduction to the Troubles. Superbly written.)

Novels that give a sense of how British society was changing in this period:

1. Zadie Smith, White Teeth, 2000 (spanning 3 generations in London)

2. Andrea Levy, Small Island, 2004 (the lives of Jamaican immigrants after they arrive in Britain)

3. Alan Sillitoe, Saturday Night and Sunday Morning, 1958 (a cult classic about working class life in Nottingham in the 1950s)

Podcasts

The Rest is History; why not start with episode 50 on 'Teenagers')

Empire; (episodes 72-94 are about Russia)

Revolutions (Series 10 is about Russia!)

History Extra

History Hit

Legacy; they have done a series of episodes on Margaret Thatcher

The Rest is Politics,

Documentaries

1. Empire of the Tsars: Romanov Russia, Lucy Worsley, BBC, 2016
2. The Russian Revolution, 2017,
3. The History of Modern Britain, Andrew Marr, 2007
4. Once Upon A Time in Northern Ireland, BBC, 2023
5. Once Upon A Time in Iraq, BBC, 2020
6. Thatcher: A Very British Revolution, BBC, 2019

Films

1. Doctor Zhivago, David Lean, 1965 (epic historical romance against the backdrop of living through the 1905 and 1917 Revolutions)
2. Enemy at the Gates, Jean-Jacques Annaud, 2001 (the first section gives a great insight into the Battle of Stalingrad)
3. Made in Dagenham, Nigel Cole, 2010, (about the strike at the Ford Dagenham plant in which female workers walked out in protest against sexual discrimination)
4. Misbehaviour, Philippa Lowthorpe, 2020 (about the protests at the Miss World Contest in 1970)
5. Pride, 2014, Matthew Marchus, (Based on a true story, following LGBT activists raising money for families affected by the miners' strike)

Magazines and journals

BBC History

History Today

Modern Languages

Reading

Your GCSE textbook (e.g. for general revision of basic vocabulary and grammar).

If you are aiming for traditional university language courses (in particular Oxbridge), it is a good idea to start reading literature (in translation is absolutely fine to start with). As a starting point, here are some examples of books on the A level specifications (not necessarily the ones we study at d'Overbroeck's).

French

Voltaire Candide

Guy de Maupassant Boule de Suif et autres contes de la guerre

Albert Camus L'etranger

Fransoise Sagan Bonjour tristesse

Claire Etcherelli Elise ou la vraie vie

German

Heinrich Böll Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum Bertolt Brecht Mutter Courage und ihre Kinder Friedrich Dürrenmatt Der Besuch der alten Dame Max Frisch Andorra Heinrich Heine Gedichte- Buch der Lieder

Spanish

Federico García Lorca Lacaña de Bernarda Alba

Gabriel García Márquez Crónica de una muerte anunciada

Laura Esquivel Como agua para chocolate

Isabel Allende Lacaña de las espíritus

Italian

Lessico familiare, Natalia Ginzburg, 1963 (novel) Marcovaldo, Italo Calvino, 1963 (short stories)

Sei personaggi in cerca d'autore, Luigi Pirandello, 1921 (play) Senza sangue, Alessandro Baricco, 2002 (novel)

Films and documentaries

Films in the foreign language with subtitles. As a starting point, here are some examples of films on the A level specifications (not necessarily the ones we study at d'Overbroeck's).

French

Les 400 coups François Truffaut (1959) Au revoir les enfants Louis Malle (1987) La Haine Mathieu Kassovitz (1995)

Un long dimanche de fiançailles Jean-Pierre Jeunet (2004)

Entre les murs Laurent Cantet (2008)

German

Das Leben der Anderen Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (2006)
Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei Hans Weingartner (2005)
Almanya- Willkommen in Deutsch/and Yasemin Samdereli (2011)
Sophie Scholl- Die letzten Tage Marc Rothemund (2005)
Lola rennt Tom Tykwer (1998)

Spanish

El laberinto de la fauna Guillermo del Toro (2006)
Ocho apellidos vascos Emilio Martfnez-Lazaro (2014) Marfa, llena eres de gracia
Joshua Marston (2004) Abel Diego Luna (2010)
Las 73 rosas Emilio Martfnez-Lazaro (2007)

Italian

I cento passi, dir. Marco Tullio Giordana (2000) Il Postino, dir. Michael Radford (1994)
La grande bellezza, dir. Paolo Sorrentino (2013)
Nuovo cinema paradiso, dir. Giuseppe Tornatore (1988) Va' dove ti porta il cuore, dir.
Cristina Comencini (1996)

Websites

Foreign radio and TV websites- access to live radio and television and podcasts.
Various languages: <https://coffeebreaklanguages.com/>
French: <https://www.myfrenchblog.com/yodcasts>

Latin

Useful places to start:

Tacitus, Annals Book XII sections 25-6, 41-3, 52-3, 56-9, 64-9
Virgil, Aeneid Book II lines 40-249
Cicero, Pro Caelio (a defence speech on a charge of 'vis' - political violence)
Ovid Fasti (a poem about origin myths of the Roman calendar of festivals)

Any of the Very Short Introductions (Oxford University Press): Classics, Classical
Mythology, The Roman Empire

Virgil's Aeneid <https://youtu.be/p4mbk59rbjE?si=3xOScL5LroVH3f2h>
Richard Jenkyns Classical Literature 2015

Podcasts

BBC Radio 4 In Our Time
BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Cicero BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time. Ovid
BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time. The Aeneid

BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Tacitus and the Decadence of Rome

Literature and History podcast

Virgil's Aeneid books J-3 Cicero's career

Films and documentaries

I, Claudius episodes I, 10, 11, 12 BBC iPlayer - L Claudius

Introduction to Virgil Book 2 <https://youtu.be/fJEvPOivuOk?sj=PEuf6eWmzCqTRsY>

Introduction to Tacitus' Annals

MASSOLIT - Tacitus; The Accession of Tiberius (Annals]): Introduction: Tacitus and his Annals I Video lecture by Prof. Christopher Whitton, University of Cambridge

Tacitus' Annals and Agrippina

MASSOLIT - Tacitus: Nero and Agrippina (Annals 12-14): The Annals and Agrippina I Video lecture by Dr Ed Bispham, University of Oxford

Introduction to the Roman Trial

MASSOLIT - Cicero: Pro Caelio: The Roman Trial I Video lecture by Dr Andrew Sillett. University of Oxford

Magazines and journals

Omnibus magazine

Omnibus Magazine: Free Texts: Free Download, Borrow and Streaming: Internet Archive

Websites

Tacitus and the Annals

Guide to the classics: Tacitus' Annals and its enduring portrait of monarchical power (theconversation.com)

Tacitus' oeuvre: opera minora and maiora I Dickinson College Commentaries

Introduction to scanning hexameters Hexameter

Open University Introduction to Virgil's Aeneid Introducing Virgil's Aeneid

Maths and Further Maths

Useful places to start:

Videos and problems to review key skills:

<https://www.pearson.com/en-gb/schools/subject-resources/mathematics/unrivalled-support/support-from-pearson/gcse-maths-transition-to-a-level.html>

Bridging GCSE and A-level Maths Student Book, 2017 Collins (Mark Rowland)

Reading

How Not to Be Wrong: The Hidden Maths of Everyday Life, 2015 (V) (Jordan Ellenberg)

Professor Stewart's Cabinet of Mathematical Curiosities, 2008 (Ian Stewart)

Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction, 2002 (Timothy Gowers)

Applied Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction, 2008 (Alain Goriely)

Websites

Puzzles and problem-solving: <https://nrich.maths.org/students/post-16>

Numberphile: <https://www.youtube.com/@numberphile>

Other resources

The Maths Department will be emailing directly in early July with information about an online course that students should complete during the summer. This course is designed to help students practise some key pre-requisite skills so they are in the best possible position to start the A level course in September. Students should aim to invest 30-60 minutes per week (on average) on this throughout the summer. Weekly practice is the most effective way to do this, but we understand that there may be weeks when this is not possible, and students may instead invest a bit more time in another week.

Media Studies

Useful places to start:

Have I Got News for You [TV- BBC] A great way to keep up-to-date with the news in an entertaining way. Try to keep up to date with the news, looking at the left (The Guardian) and the right (Daily Mail). Getting an Oxfordshire Library Card (free online registration) gives you access to free newspapers- including the above - and magazines including Variety, Empire, and Total Film via the Pressreader App.

Reading

‘Filmish’ and ‘Garnish’ by Edward Ross [Graphic Novels]. For easy and fascinating guides to the history of film and video games you can't go much better!

‘Ain't I a Woman’ by bell hooks. A book on culture, politics and the rights and treatment of black women.

‘The People Vs Tech: How the internet is killing democracy (and how we can save it)’ by Jamie Bartlett- a different view on the internet and its effects on the world.

Films

The Great Hack dir. by Karim Amer and Jehane Noujaim [Documentary, Netflix]

The Post dir. by Steven Spielberg [Drama]

The Social Dilemma dir. by Jeff Orlowski [Documentary, Netflix] The Social Network dir. by David Fincher [Drama, Prime]

Spotlight by Tom McCarthy [Drama, Prime]

The Truman Show by Peter Wier [Comedy, Paramount+]

Bowling for Columbine dir. by Micheal Moore [Documentary]

The Insider dir. by Michael Mann [Drama, Disney+]

Bombshell dir. by Jay Roach [Drama, 4oD]

Atari: Game Over by Zak Penn [Documentary, Plex- Free!]

YouTube Channels and Series

'Tropes vs Women in Video Games' Feminist Frequency- Season 1

How Social Media can Make History- Clay Shirky

The Gaming Historian

NerdWriter1 - a multimedia video essay series

Now You See It - a media analysis channel.

Sound Work Collection - a deeper dive into the sound of film. CrashCourse Film History and CrashCourse Media Literacy

Filmmaker10- these videos can help with coursework, but are very interesting too.

In class we often use videos from TheMedia Insider and Mrs Fisher and their handy guides

Podcasts

BBC's The Media Show. Social media, anti-social media, breaking news, faking news: this is the programme about a revolution in media, with Amol Rajan, the BBC's media editor.

On The Media. WNYC's weekly investigation into how the media shapes our worldview.
KermodeandMayo Film Reviews

Video Games

Undertale Simple graphics, simple gameplay, solo-developed -yet revolutionizing what video games are, can be, and how we should think of our actions in them.

Papers, Please Another solo-developed game, showing people you don't need great graphics to be the best game - honestly, this is a paperwork simulator, and it is engrossing.

The Games of Pippin Barr- do we need to actually win a game for it to count? Enter the weird world of Pippin Barr who makes a range of existential, probing, and often silly, games that make a point about the art. <https://pippinbarr.com/>

Other resources

<https://variety.com/>-from Variety one of the best know media magazines.

<https://www.cjr.org/> - The Columbia Journalism Review

<https://www.thedrum.com/>- brings you the latest news and events for the marketing and media industries.

Music

Useful place to start:

Look through this 'timeline' PowerPoint with links to works by composers from different periods and with notes about key stylistic features. Listen to as wide and varied a mix of music as you can find!

Reading

Five Straight Lines, A History of Music, 2027 Profile Books. An excellent account of the history of classical music (Gant).

The Story of Music, 2073 Chatto and Windus. A good general introduction to music history in general (Goodall).

Films and documentaries

Batman Returns (1992, dir. Tim Burton) A level set work. Score by Danny Elfman.

Psycho (1960, dir. Alfred Hitchcock) A level set work. Score by Bernard Herrmann.

Amadeus (1984, dir. Milos Forman). A brilliant introduction to Mozart. Well worth watching!

Howard Goodall's 'Story of Music' - a six-part series that looks at the entire history of music, from the Stone Age to the Digital Age.

Opera Italia - BBC (Antonio Pappano). Really good!

Podcasts

The Listening Service BBC Radio 3 -The Listening Service

A wide variety of topics presented with masses of musical illustrations. Brilliant!

Websites

If your theory is rusty (it will need to be at least Grade 5 standard for A level Music) then use these websites: <https://www.musictheoryvideos.com/grade-S/>

<https://www.mymusjctheory.com/learn-music-theory/for-students/grade-6/2B-grade-6-online-course>

Music Technology

Useful Place to start:

Music Listening: Whole Albums

Massive Attack- Mezzanine

Burial - Untrue

Jon Hopkins – Immunity

Aphex Twin - Selected Ambient Works 85 - 92
A Tribe Called Quest - The Low End Theory

Videos/websites

YouTube documentaries:

Pump Up the Volume: A History Of House
Land of the Rising Sound -A Roland Retrospective by Alex Ball
Recording Drums with Steve Albini [Third Circle Recordings]
Recording In A 1950s Style Recording Studio – Sound on Sound Magazine

Physical Education

Useful place to start:

BBC Sport website- download the app and read daily

Reading

Simon Kuper, Football Against the Enemy, 1994 Matthew Syed, Bounce, 2011
David Epstein, The Sporting Gene, 2013 Bill Bryson, The Body, 2019

Podcasts

Sport and the British (BBC Radio 4 podcast) The Sport Psych Show
The Game Changers Podcast
The Business Case for Women's Sport Podcast

Films and documentaries

Andy Murray- Resurfacing (Amazon Prime) Crossing the line (YouTube)
Icarus (Netflix)
Mind Games (Sky Sports) Remember the Titans (Disney+) Stop at Nothing (Netflix)
The Game Changers (Netflix) The Last Dance (Netflix)
The Story of Rugby (Amazon Prime)

Magazines and journals

PE Review: <https://2vwwhoddereducation.com/subjects/sport-pe/products/ll6-78/pe-review-magazine>

Websites

YouTube - James Morris YouTube - The PE Tutor
Brianmac - www.brianmac.com TeachPE - www.teachoe.com

Philosophy

Useful place to start:

Negative advice; DO NOT get any of your Philosophy from Wikipedia; and be very suspicious of any on line video guide to any issue. There is a vast amount of foolish, naive, mistaken, confused, and in many cases intellectually dishonest material masquerading as Philosophy on the internet, and as a beginner it is very hard for you to tell the good quality material apart from the junk.

If you do want to investigate a particular area online, there is one (and only one) totally reliable and high-quality source: The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy. Material there is detailed and a lot of it is difficult.

Reading

The best single introduction to Philosophy now available is probably: Peter Cave, Philosophy: A beginner's guide

Some other standard and less standard introductory books:

Simon Blackburn, Think: A compelling introduction to Philosophy

Thomas Nagel, What Does it all Mean? Nigel Warburton, Philosophy: The Basics John Searle, Mind, Language and Society

(Searle's is probably the most enjoyable of these, since it is more aggressive and controversial than the others)

Since negative advice is at least as useful as positive, AVOID anything that seems merely to try to describe what Philosophy is, or that is merely a history of what any individual philosopher thought. The history of ideas is an interesting subject, but it does not represent what we really do as philosophers. We do not say, 'Oh, Plato (or Kant, or Nietzsche, or Locke, or Nussbaum, or Anscombe, or Williams, or whoever), (s)he was an important philosopher... so I must find out what (s)he said...' Rather, we say, 'Oh, this is an interesting question; let's find out whether anyone has had anything intelligent to say by way of trying to answer it.' Or, to put it another way, what you want to be reading, if you are to get a good sense of the subject, is material that takes one or more of the philosophical issues/questions as central and actually tries to argue about them, as opposed to merely describing the problem or summarising any particular philosopher's work or world-view.

Magazines

Philosophy Now

Videos/websites

Philosophy Now: www.philosophynow.org/

Podcasts on the Philosophy Bites site: www.philosophybites.com/

The Radio 4 In Our Time archive: www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/in-our-time/archive/philosophy/all

Physics

Useful place to start:

The New Scientist <https://www.newscientist.com/>

Reading

Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw, "Why does $E=mc^2$ and why should we care?", 2009
Richard P. Feynman, "QED- the strange theory of light and matter", 1985
Helen Czerski, "Storm in a teacup", 2016
Carlo Rovelli, "Seven Brief Lessons on Physics", 2016

Podcast

The Infinite Monkey Cage

Magazines and journals

The New Scientist <https://www.newscientist.com/>

Websites

PHET physics simulations, phet.colorado.edu

Politics

Useful places to start:

State of Chaos, Laura Kuenssberg, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Svh4G-zTnaU>
Trump: The Sequel? BBC Panorama <https://www.bbc.co.uk/QRQgrammes/mOOlxOyl>
My Revision Notes, Pearson A Level Politics: UK Politics and Government (S Jenkins)
The Rest is Politics, <https://Jnk.to/rheRest!sPolitics>
Politics UK, <https://www.politics.co.uk/>

Reading

Kier Starmer Biography, 2025 (T Baldwin) Politics -A Survivor's Guide, 2024 (R. Behr)
How Politics Works, 2022 (DK)
Why I Am No Longer Talking to White People About Race (R. Eddo-Lodge) Prisoners of Geography (T. Harford)
How They Broke Britain, 2024 (J. O'Brien) Politics on the Edge, 2024 (R. Stewart)
The Climate book, 2024 (G. Thunberg et al)

Any good quality newspaper or news website including:

BBC News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics>

The Independent <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics> Politico
<https://www.politico.com/>
Washington Post <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/>

Podcasts

The Rest is Politics <https://lnk.to/TheRestIsPolitics>
Pod Save the UK <https://crooked.com/podcast-series/pod-save-the-uk/> The Daily
[b.tt.ps://www.nytimes.com/column/the-daily](https://www.nytimes.com/column/the-daily)

Films and documentaries

State of Chaos, Laura Kuenssberg <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Syh4G-zTnaU>
Parliamentary v Presidential Systems explained video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4auK60FUvkY>

Magazines and journals

The Atlantic
The Economist
The Week

Websites

Politics UK www.politics.co.uk/
Tutor2U www.tutor2u.net/politics

Psychology

Useful places to start:

Before starting with us in September 2026 we would like you to complete the AQA scientific skills booklet and maths progression booklet, which are designed by AQA to make clear the links between what you have studied at GCSE and what you will be studying in psychology A level. It supports your transition from GCSE to A-level Psychology by outlining and explaining the role played by science and research skills in the study of Psychology. This will be sent to you before September.

Books:

Bad Science, Ben Goldacre - The importance of good science, and the far reaching consequences of bad science in all fields

The Private Life of the Brain, Susan Greenfield – Greenfield, an eminent neuroscientist, attempts to answer: How does the brain create a unique, subjective experience for each one of us?

Mindhunter, John Douglas and Mark Olshaker - Written by an FBI Special Agent and expert in criminal profiling and behavioural science. The Netflix series is based on this!

Mindset, Carol Dweck - An insight into how the way we think about our own intelligence can have far reaching impact.

Podcasts

BBC Radio 4 - All in the Mind – recordings of the All in the Mind programme, many directly relevant to psychology A level.

PsychCrunch – The British Psychological Society research digest podcast.

Websites

The British Psychological Society's Research Digest | BPS – wide ranging research digested and explained from the BPS, often linked to A level topics. You can sign up for the weekly email, and we will use this next year in your studies.

Psych Boost - YouTube – psychology teacher's you tube with short videos covering every aspect of the course.

Open University free course - Psychology around the world | OpenLearn - Open University general course on psychology and it's background and development.

Religion, Ethics and philosophy (REP)

Useful places to start

Are you there, God? | TED Talks - For as many people as there are on Earth, there are as many answers to the question: Are you there, God? These talks offer a spectrum of personal perspectives on faith, from ardent atheists to devout believers.

Unorthodox (4 part series) - Netflix

In pursuit of self-determination, a young woman leaves her ultra orthodox Jewish community in New York City to start a new life in Berlin

Hansell, Nicky - The Sage Train Philosophy Comes to life

Reading

Atwood, Margaret - The Handmaid's Tale

Blackburn, Simon - Ethics: A Very Short Introduction Bowie, Robert - Ethical Studies

Craig, Edward - Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction

Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Abrams – The Book of Joy

Dostoevsky, Fyodor - The Brothers Karamazov

Feldman, Deborah - Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots

Gardner, Jostein - Sophie's World

Law, Stephen – The Complete Philosophy Files

Potok, Chaim, The Chosen

Solomon, Norman - Judaism: A very short Introduction

Westover, Tara - Uneducated

Wiesel, Ellie- Night

Young, Wm Paul – The Shack

Podcasts

The Panpsycast Philosophy Podcast A philosophy podcast inspiring and supporting students, teachers, academics, and free-thinkers worldwide.

BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Religion - Downloads

Films and documentaries

School of Life: Western Philosophy

The Good Place

The Story of God – Morgan Freeman (3 seasons of documentaries)

The Two Popes

Shtisel – Netflix

Sociology

Useful place to start:

Sociology Crash Course (YouTube)

Reading

Harari: Sapiens: a brief history of humankind

Reay: Miseducation: inequality, education and the working classes

Wilson: My Life with Murderers

Holiday: Trust me, I'm lying: confessions of a media manipulator

Appiah: The lies that bind: rethinking identity

Newton: Savage Girls and Wild Boys: A History of Feral Children

Venkatesh: Gang Leader for a Day

Becker: Outsiders

Bruce: A Very Short Introduction

Films and documentaries

Trevor McDonald interviews the Mafia (2-part series) Trevor McDonald on Death Row (2-part series)

Tribe (Channel 4)

Unforgiven - The Boys who Murdered James Bulger (YouTube) Jane Elliot's Brown Eyes,

Blue Eyes Experiment (YouTube)

Chelsea Headhunters- Donal MacIntyre Undercover investigation (YouTube)

Magazines and journals

Sociology Review

Websites and Podcasts

BBC Thinking Allowed

The Guardian: Society

The Independent: Sociology - latest news, breaking stories and comment - The Independent

British Sociological Association: What is Sociology?

London School of Economics: Podcasts and videos - LSE

Sociology Review: Podcasts - The Sociological Review

Cambridge University: Podcasts | Department of Sociology