



Suggested Reading List

All A-level Subjects



*"A great starting point to spark
your interest into your A-level
subjects."*



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- innovation (ish!)

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://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](https://edu.rsc.org/student) | [RSC Education](https://edu.rsc.org/student) - <https://edu.rsc.org/student>

[Compound Interest: Chemistry infographics](https://compoundchem.com) [/compoundchem.com](https://compoundchem.com)

[What If f.xkcd.com](https://Uwhat-if.xkcd.com/) | - <https://Uwhat-if.xkcd.com/>

[Chemistry news, research and opinions](https://www.chemauide.co.uk/) | [Chemistry World](https://www.chemauide.co.uk/)

<https://www.chemauide.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=gqO67 XrokqfqOpI>

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

Plato <https://youtu.be/1LescSIITwo?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 (literatureand history.com) <https://literatureandhistory.com/index.php/episodes/all-episodes>

Emperors of Rome podcast:

[Episode I - The Early Years of Caesar - Emperors of Rome](#) | [Podcast on Spotify](#)

[Episode CXXVII - Augustus: The Making of an Emperor \(Live in Melbourne\) - Emperors of Rome](#) | [Podcast on](#)

Films and documentaries

I, Caesar documentary: episodes 1 and 2

[Watch I, Caesar: The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire](#) | 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 https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7v-i0FXKXeW9p70XuM_LQOSgWxIHZrHB&si=bqdlYOScmxDMkKlw

Warwick University videos

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/warwickclassicsnetwork/stoa/classciv/a!level/love>

Magazines and journals

(search for Aeneid, Odyssey, Augustus, Sappho, Catullus, Seneca, Ovid)

<https://Uarchive.org/details/omnibusmagazine>

The Collector <https://www.thecollector.com/ancient-history/>

Antigone Journal <https://antigonejournal.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://WNW.poetryintranslation.com/PIJBRIGreek/SapphoPoems.php>

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PIJBR/Latin/Amoreshome.php>

[Virgil \(70 BC-19 BC\) -Aeneid: I /poetryintranslation.com\)](#)

[Homer \(c.750 BC\) - The Odyssey: In translation. \(poetryintranslation.com\)](#)

[Ovid \(43 BC-17\) - Ars Amatoria: The Art of Love. Book III /poetryintranslation.com\)](#)



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://isaaccomputerscience.org/>
(Create an account Topics All topics Theory- 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](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B000000000)

Computational Thinking Puzzles (free e-book .pdf). Lots of computational based logic puzzles [b.ll.Qs://cs4fndownloads.fileswordpress.com/2016/02/cs4fnpuzzlebookll.pdf](https://cs4fndownloads.files.wordpress.com/2016/02/cs4fnpuzzlebookll.pdf)

Tech Crunch. Biogs based on a vast range of Computer Science related fields
<https://techcrunch.com/>

The Hacker News -Articles relating to cyber security <http://thehackernews.com/>

Podcasts

The Digital Human - [BBC Radio 4 - The Digital Human](https://www.bbc.com/radio4/digital-human)

The Artificial Human - [BBC Radio 4- The Artificial Human](https://www.bbc.com/radio4/artificial-human)

Films and documentaries

The Social Network (2010) 12

The Imitation Game (2014) 12

Wargames (1993) 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 - Stage: [Stage](#) | [Theatre.comedy and dance](#) | [The Guardian](#)

The Stage - [The Stage - Home](#)



EAL (English as an Additional Language)

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 and 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

The Guardian (www.theguardian.com)

Independent (www.independent.co.uk)

National Geographic

How English Works (Swan and Walter)

More Reading Power (Mikulecky/Jefferies)

Listening resources

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

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

Story telling: <https://themoth.org/stories/orbit>

Reading & Writing resources

Write and Improve: <https://www.writeandimprove.com>

www.nationalgeographic.com

www.economist.com www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish

Biographies: <https://www.biographv.com>

Today in history: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/today-in-history/>

Classic literature: http://www.aatewavtotheclassics.com/browse/authors/browse_all.php

Public domain books: <http://www.authorama.com>

Vocabulary resources

Idioms Organiser (Jon Wright)

The Heinemann English Wordbuilder (Guy Wellman)

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

Grammar resources: • C1/C2 Grammar exercises: <http://www.tttqjlubequizard.com/#levels:6>

Destination C1 & C2 Grammar and Vocabulary (Malcolm Man, Steve Taylore-Knowles)

Advanced Grammar in Use (Martin Hewings)

Practical English Usage (Michael Swan)

Natural Grammar (Scott Thornbury)

Raymond Murphy - English Grammar in Use



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

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 <http://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>

Chaucer <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003hvcg>

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* (2027)

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)

Yates. Richard: *Revolutionary Road* (1961)

Podcasts

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

Frankenstein <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0005ln6>

1984 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00lbz77>

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000srdx>

The Myth of Faustus <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004y2bt>

Films and documentaries

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

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

Magazines and journals

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

[London Review of Books \(lrb.co.uk\)](#)

[TLS | Times Literary Supplement \(the-tls.co.uk\)](#)

Websites

The Sixth Form English SharePoint site [English - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Digital Theatre Plus [Digital Theatre+ \(digitaltheatreplus.com\)](#)

Drama Online [Drama Online - Home \(dramaonlinelibrary.com\)](#)

Massolit [MASSOLIT - English Literature](#)



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 Darling 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) [80 Days | an exoloration podcast](#)
[\(80dayspod cast.com\)](#)

National Geographic magazine podcast [Player FM - Internet Radio Done Right](#)

Ask the Geographer (interviews with geographers for schools} [Player FM - Internet Radio Done Right](#)

Empire podcast (yes, its history but there's SO much geography in there too} insta
@empirepoduk [E.m..Qire | Podcast on Spotify](#)

Geographical imaginations (in depth on elements of geographical learning. [Season One](#)
[| The Geographical Imaginations Expedition & Institute](#)

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 \\$dentist | Science news. articles. and features](#)

Science Daily [www.sciencedailym](#)

National Geographic Magazine [b.tt.Qs:/www.nationalgeographic.com/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

1. **** 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.
2. 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:

1. Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina, 1878 (a tragic love story set in Tsarist Russia)
2. Fyodor Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment, 1866 (can a murder ever be justifiable?)
3. Boris Pasternak, Dr Zhivago, 1957 (living through the 1905 and 1917 Revolutions)
4. Helen Dunmore, The Siege, 2001 (life under siege in Leningrad during WW2)
5. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, 1962 (life in a Soviet gulag in the 1950s)
6. 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,

<https://open.spotify.com/show/Cvsbcjhtur7nplCJ48TWy?si=95bl3a47ldf9407e> (scroll through and find something of interest. Why not start with episode 50 on 'Teenagers')
Empire,

<https://open.spotify.com/show/0sBh58hSTReUOiK4axYUVx?si=276lc3a4b0354c8d>
(episodes 72-94 are about Russia)

Revolutions (Series 10 is about Russia!),

<https://open.spotify.com/show/0Slvdf9T77KE6v4qvMGEsD?si=343ed12e40754eb9>

History Extra,

<https://open.spotify.com/show/67EPVboyilDxGWsrfzdYuS?si=02727Sad027e4450>

History Hit,

<https://open.spotify.com/show/J9yvwAHxXEhu!GqF9iS32Kg?si=58Sb529d749342e7>

Legacy,

<https://open.spotify.com/show/26l6gYMMbXcqHGiZzithBn?si=b225dec9bl924dea> (they have done a series of episodes on Margaret Thatcher)

The Rest is Politics,

<https://open.spotify.com/show/lYsxBgllw42gESAtegrFaH?si=ad749bfclBad425d>

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

Websites

Revolutionary Russia, [Revolutionary Russia:: Home](#)



Modern Languages

Useful place to start:

Any current AS/A level textbook will give you an idea of A level standards and topics.

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'étranger*

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 *Lacasa de Bernarda Alba*

Gabriel García Márquez *Crónica de una muerte anunciada*

Laura Esquivel *Como agua para chocolate*

Isabel Allende *Lacasa 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 Deutschland Yasemin Samdereli (2011)

Sophie Scholl- Die letzten Tage Marc Rothemund (2005)

Lola rennt Tom Tykwer (1998)

Spanish

El

Laberinto de fauna Guillermo del Toro (2006)

Ocho apellidos vascos Emilio Martínez-Lazaro (2014)

Marfa, llena eres de gracia Joshua Marston (2004)

Abel Diego Luna (2010)

Las 73 rosas Emilio Martínez-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/podcasts>



Latin

Useful places to start:

Texts 2025-2026

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)

For Tacitus

[Annals \(Tacitus\) - Wikioedia](#)

For Virgil

[Aeneid - Wikipedia](#)

For Cicero

[Pro Caelio - Wikipedia](#)

For Ovid

[Fasti foeml - Wikioedia](#)

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 [Classical Literature \(Pelican Books\) eBook: Jenkyns. Richard: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store](#)

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 1, 10, 11, 12

[BBC iPlayer - I Claudius](#)

Introduction to Virgil Book 2

<https://youtu.be/fJEvPOivuOk?si=PEuf6eWmzCqTRsY>

Introduction to Tacitus' Annals

[MASSOLIT - Tacitus: The Accession of Tiberius \(Annals I\): Introduction: Tacitus and his Annals](#) | [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](#) | [Video lecture by Dr Ed Bispham, University of Oxford](#)

Introduction to the Roman Trial

[MASSOLIT - Cicero: Pro Caelio: The Roman Trial](#) | [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](#) | [Dickinson College Commentaries](#)

Introduction to scanning hexameters [Hexameter](#) | [How to Scan](#)

Open University Introduction to Virgil's Aeneid

[Introducing Virgil's Aeneid](#) | [Openlearn - Open University](#)



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, 2018 (Alain Goriely)

Websites

Puzzles and problem-solving: <https://brilliant.org/> and <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 [1V- 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 [Documentary, Sky/Now1V]

The Truman Show by Peter Wier [Comedy, ITVX]

Bowling for Columbine dir. by Micheal Moore [Documentary, Sky/Now 1V]

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

Bombshell dir. by Jay Roach [Drama, Prime]

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](#)

[NerdWriter!](#) - 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](#)

[FilmmakerIO-](#) 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 revolutionising 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! [Sixth Form Music Summer Listening List.pptx](#)

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.mymusictheory.com/learn-music-theory/for-students/grade-6/2B-grade-6-online-course>



Music Technology

Useful Place to start:

Pump Up the Volume: A History Of House Music-YouTube
Listening: Whole Albums Massive Attack- Mezzanine Burial - Untrue
Massive Attack - Mezzanine
Burial - Untrue
Jon Hopkins - Immunity
Steve Lacy - Apollo XXI
Aphex Twin - Selected Ambient Works 85 - 92
A Tribe Called Quest - The Low End Theory

Videos/websites

Land of the Rising Sound -A Roland Retrospective by Alex Ball (YouTube documentary)



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/116-78/pe-review-magazine>

Websites

YouTube - Jame 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 <https://plato.stanford.edu/> 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.

Magazine

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", 7985

Helen Czerski, "Storm in a teacup", 2076

Carlo Rovelli, "Seven Brief Lessons on Physics", 2074

Podcast

The Infinite Monkey Cage <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00snrOw>

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/mOOIxOyI>
My Revision Notes, Pearson A Level Politics: UK Politics and Government (S Jenkins)
The Rest is Politics, <https://Jnk.to/rheRestIsPolitics>
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. Edda-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 <https://www.nytimes.com/column/the-daily>

Films and documentaries

State of Chaos, Laura Kuenssberg <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Svh4G-zTnaU>
Parliamentary v Presidential Systems explained video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4auK60FUvkY>

Magazines and journals

The Atlantic <https://www.theatlantic.com/world/>
The Economist <https://www.economist.com/>
The Week <https://subscription.theweek.co.uk/>

Websites

Politics UK <https://www.politics.co.uk/>
Tutor2U <https://www.tutor2u.net/politics>



Psychology

Useful places to start:

Before starting with us in September 2024 we would like you to complete the booklet attached here: [GCSE to A-level progression: Scientific skills student booklet /aqa.org.uk](https://www.aqa.org.uk)

This scientific skills study booklet aims to:

- provide an introduction to psychology as a science.
- support 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.
- help you practise applying your research methods knowledge and skills to a psychological context.
- help build your confidence and readiness to study A-Level Psychology.

Reading

It's difficult to read anything that couldn't be classified as related in some way to Psychology as it's the science of mind and behaviour and hence is all around us.

Below are some specific things you can read, watch and listen to as an introduction to some of the concepts and topics we'll be studying over the next two years.

Books:

<i>Title, author</i>	<i>Summary</i>	<i>Links to A level course</i>
Bad Science, Ben Goldacre	The importance of good science, and the far reaching consequences of bad science in all fields	Links to the topic of Research Methods studied in L6
The Private Life of the Brain, Susan Greenfield	Neuroscientist Greenfield attempts to answer: How does the brain create a unique, subjective experience for each one of us?	Links to the topic of Approaches studied in L6 and Biopsychology studied in U6
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	Links to the topic of Forensic psychology studied in U6
Mindset, Carol Dweck	An insight into how the way we think about our own intelligence can have far reaching impact	Links to the introduction to psychology covered in the first two weeks of L6

Films and documentaries

<i><u>Title</u></i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Links to relevant course</i>
The Stanford Prison Experiment (2075 Dir: Kyle Patrick Alvarez)	15	Links to the topic of Social Influence studied in L6
Three Identical Strangers (2078 Dir: Tim Wardle)	12A	Links to the topic of Approaches studied in L6 and Biopsychology studied in U6

Podcasts

[A Collection of Podcasts for Learning About Psychology \(vervwellmind.com\)](http://vervwellmind.com) Follow this link to a range of interesting psychology podcasts.



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: [b.tl:ps://youtu.be/ynCJU6PaCio?si=8"1NH92wEK .W681](https://youtu.be/ynCJU6PaCio?si=8)
(YouTube)

Reading

Savage Girls and Wild Boys: A History of Feral Children (Michael Newton)
Gang Leader for a Day (Venkatesh)
Outsiders (Becker)
Sociology Themes & Perspectives (Holborn and Langley)
A Very Short Introduction (Steve Bruce)

Podcasts

BBC Thinking Allowed:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy0S/broadcasts/2015/06>

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

[b.ll.P.://www.theguardian.com/society](http://www.theguardian.com/society)
<http://www.independent.co.uk/i/>
<http://www.britsoc.co.uk/what-is-sociolog>

