

A Level Subjects Reading List



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Art

To help you prepare for studying this rich and diverse course that will enable you to develop:

- Intellectual, Imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities
- Investigate, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgement
- Independence of mind in developing, refining and communicating your own ideas, your own intentions and your own personal outcomes
- Your interest in, and enthusiasm for and enjoyment of art, craft and design
- Your experience of working with a broad range of media
- Your understanding of the interrelationships between art, craft and design processes and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate
- Your knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design and media and technologies in contemporary and past societies and cultures
- Your awareness of different roles, functions, audiences and consumers of art, craft and design

We would suggest that you read through the following reading list and select 2 or 3 books to read over the holidays so that you have a greater understanding of the contemporary art world.

We also strongly encourage all students to attend exhibitions and look at art works as much as possible. Some excellent resources for this include the UK-wide exhibition listings <http://newexhibitions.com/>, the online edition of the US journal Art forum at <http://artforum.com/>, and the excellent repository of moving image and sound art, called Ubuweb, at <http://ubuweb.com/>.

Also available free online at <http://www.e-flux.com/issues/11-december-2009/> and <http://www.e-flux.com/issues/12-january-2010/> + e-flux journal available at: <http://www.e-flux.com/journals/>

You should also read art magazines such as Frieze (<https://frieze.com>), Art Monthly (<http://www.artmonthly.co.uk>), ArtRabbit (<https://www.artrabbit.com>), e-flux (<http://www.e-flux.com/journals>).

Ways of Looking: How to Experience Contemporary Art by [Ossian Ward](#) £8.99

Ways of Looking provides a six-step programme for understanding contemporary art based on the concept of the tabula rasa – a clean slate and a fresh mind. It transforms a potentially intimidating encounter with cutting-edge art into a dramatic, sensually rewarding and thought-provoking experience.

**Making Contemporary Art: How Today's Artists Think and Work by [Linda Weintraub](#)
£7.61**

Making Contemporary Art is the ideal launchpad for anyone wanting to understand all the essential, but sometimes elusive, aspects of art-making today. In her inimitable voice - accessible, straightforward and jargon-free - Linda Weintraub explores the conceptual and practical concerns that go into making contemporary art. Six clearly defined thematic sections - Scoping an Audience, Sourcing Inspiration, Crafting and Artistic 'Self', Expressing an Artistic Attitude, Choosing a Mission and Measuring Success - draw on the work of forty contemporary artists, including Matthew Barney, Chris Ofili, Isaac Julien, Nan Goldin and Mariko Mori, to create a complex understanding of how to make and look at contemporary art. A series of interviews with various artists sheds light on every aspect of their work, from how they conceive and create their pieces to their more prosaic, practical concerns. In addition to being a fine read for anyone who simply wants to understand how to look at contemporary art, Making Contemporary Art is also an exceptional teaching tool, and one that plugs a huge gap in the art education market.

Art & Today by [Eleanor Heartney](#) £20.96

Art & Today surveys contemporary art from 1980 to today, discussing over 450 of the most important artists of the last 25 years. Each of the 16 chapters in *Art & Today* tackles a major theme of contemporary art. This emphasis on broad, thematic relationships defies the narrow, now-tired classifications of medium, period, genre, or geographic region so often regurgitated in contemporary art surveys of this ilk. Instead, *Art & Today* posits fresh, thought-provoking juxtapositions of artists from different regions, periods and mediums.

For instance, in the chapter "Art and the Body," one might find performance discussed alongside figurative painting, sculpture and photography alongside video, and North American artists alongside Asian artists. Internationally renowned art critic and scholar, Eleanor Heartney is respected for her clear language and pragmatic approach to contemporary art. Her straightforward, engaging descriptions and explanations will appeal to both experts and newcomers alike.

Art Theory: A Very Short Introduction by [Cynthia Freeland](#) £5.03 Kindle edition

In today's art world many strange, even shocking, things qualify as art. In this Very Short Introduction Cynthia Freeland explains why innovation and controversy are valued in the arts, weaving together philosophy and art theory with many fascinating examples.

ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

But Is It Art?: An Introduction to Art Theory by [Cynthia Freeland](#) £10.99

In today's art world many strange, even shocking, things qualify as art. In this book, Cynthia Freeland explains why innovation and controversy are valued in the arts, weaving together philosophy and art theory with many fascinating examples.

She discusses blood, beauty, culture, money, museums, sex, and politics, clarifying contemporary and historical accounts of the nature, function, and interpretation of the arts. Freeland also propels us into the future by surveying cutting-edge websites, along with the latest research on the brain's role in perceiving art.

This clear, provocative book engages with the big debates surrounding our responses to art and is an invaluable introduction to anyone interested in thinking about art.

Ways of Seeing by [John Berger](#) £3.59

Based on the BBC television series, John Berger's *Ways of Seeing* is a unique look at the way we view art,

'Seeing comes before words. The child looks and recognizes before it can speak.'

'But there is also another sense in which seeing comes before words. It is seeing which establishes our place in the surrounding world; we explain that world with words, but word can never undo the fact that we are surrounded by it. The relation between what we see and what we know is never settled.'

Frameworks for Modern Art (Art of the Twentieth Century) by [Jason Gaiger](#) £22.50

This generously illustrated volume, the first in the Art of the Twentieth Century series, introduces and explores a range of contemporary issues and debates about art and its place in the wider culture today.

The opening chapter discusses key concepts such as modernity, modernism, autonomy, spectatorship, and globalization. Four case studies follow, each devoted to a specific work of art across the span of the century: Marcel Duchamp's *Bottlerack*, Barnett Newman's *Eve*, Ana Mendieta's *Siluetas* series, and *Yarla* by the Australian Aboriginal Yuendumu community. These works have been selected not only for their intrinsic interest but also for the way in which they open up wider questions of meaning and interpretation that are central to understanding twentieth-century art.

e-flux Journal - What is Contemporary Art? by [Julieta Aranda](#) £10.75

Hyperdrawing: Beyond the Lines of Contemporary Art by [Russell Marshall](#) £14.95

In hyperdrawing: beyond the lines of contemporary art, authors and artists come together to explore the potential of what drawing in contemporary art theory and practice might become. In this follow-up to 2007's drawing now: between the lines of contemporary art, Phil Sawdon and Russell Marshall, two of the current directors of TRACEY, curate contemporary drawing within fine art practice from 2006 through to 2010. Four essays and images from 33 international artists collectively explore the boundaries of the hyperdrawing space, investigating in essence what lies beyond drawing - images that use traditional materials or subjects whilst also pushing beyond the traditional, employing sound, light, time, space and technology.

Contemporary Drawing: From the 1960s to Now by [Katharine Stout](#) £18.99

This lavishly illustrated publication offers the first comprehensive account of drawing in contemporary art practice from the 1960s to the present day. It investigates the process of transformation that has brought drawing, once considered secondary to painting and sculpture, to the forefront of the modern art world.

The work of over 120 international artists of different generations is illustrated and discussed, revealing a myriad of approaches that show how drawing today transcends a fixed set of materials and conventions. Nevertheless, there are shared thematic and formal interests that can be traced through the decades, which are revealed and explored here.

With an emphasis on the artists' own descriptions of their work, this lively and accessible introduction to the recent history of the medium provides an informative assessment of how contemporary artists have continually reinvented the form, style, and techniques of drawing.

A Short Guide to Writing about Art (Short Guides) (Paperback) £5.99 by [Sylvan Barnet](#)

This best-selling text has guided tens of thousands of art students through the writing process. Students are shown how to analyse pictures (drawings, paintings, photographs), sculptures and architecture, and are prepared with the tools they need to present their ideas through effective writing.

Biology

We are spoilt for choice when it comes to good reads relating to Biology at A Level. What follows is just a small selection; some modern, some classic. Alternatives are not

hard to find. Describing, explaining and discussing biology at A Level and beyond requires a high level of literacy. As well as reading at least one popular science biology book you should begin listening to the scientists themselves. BBC podcasts of Inside Science and Inside Health are a good place to start.

Book Title	Author	Additional information
The Vaccine Race	Meridith Wadman, 2017	Vaccine production for viral diseases requires the culturing of cells for the viruses to infect. The astonishing story behind these cells reveals much about the tangle between politics, ethics, business, ego and science.
The Gene: An Intimate History	Siddhartha Mukherjee, 2016	The broad and deep history of genetics as written by a Pulitzer Prize-winning author.
A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived	Adam Rutherford, 2016	Much shorter than <i>The Gene</i> , Rutherford's history of genetics focusses on the human story. Rutherford presents BBC Radio 4's Inside Science, the podcasts of which should be on your playlist.
The Lion in the Living Room: How House Cats Tamed Us and Took Over the World	Abigail Tucker, 2016	Cats are one of the few animals to have been successfully domesticated, a process that required generation after generation of dedicated cat lovers, yet what exactly do they do for us? Tucker's suggestion is, quite literally, mind blowing.
The Invention of Nature	Andrea Wulf, 2016	This biography of explorer Alexander von Humboldt's extraordinary life and contributions to early science has become one of the most celebrated popular science books in years.

The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate	Peter Wohlleben, 2016	Most students choose A Level Biology despite the plants, not because of them. Read this book and you'll never look at trees the same way again.
I Contain Multitudes	Ed Yong, 2016	One of the many cutting edges in modern biology is our dawning realisation of just how important our microbiome (the population of microbes that call us home) are to our health.
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Rebecca Klot, 2010	Henrietta Lacks died in 1951, but some of her cells did not, have not. Whilst her extraordinary cells have played a part in the development of cancer treatments, vaccination, IVF, cloning, gene mapping, Henrietta herself lay buried in an unmarked grave.
Bad Science (or if you are interested in medicine, Bad Pharma)	Ben Goldacre, 2008 (or 2012)	Ben Goldacre shows us what good science is, by showing us what bad science is.
In Defence of Self	William Clark, 2008	A detailed account of the immune system that will help you get to grips with a difficult part of the course.
Eating the Sun: How Plants Power the Planet	Oliver Morton, 2007	Photosynthesis. There's a lot more to it than $6\text{CO}_2 + 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, and Morton's comprehensive book will guide you through this tricky topic, introduce you to some of the important experiments that shone light onto it, and end on one of the biggest challenges facing us today – climate change.
Power, Sex and Suicide	Nick Lane, 2005	Inside your cells there is a structure without which you could not live, who's ancient

		ancestry is not your own. There's a lot of molecular detail here, but this is one of the most relevant of all the books on this list.
The Ancestors Tale	Richard Dawkins, 2004	Dawkins has written many books, including the must-read <i>Selfish Gene</i> , but for me this is his masterpiece. Taking inspiration from Chaucer's <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> (Dawkins often uses religion to model evolution) you will be taken on a pilgrimage back down the family tree, all the way to the dawn of life.
Guns, Germs and Steel	Jared Diamond, 1997	Not strictly speaking a biology book, and Diamond has written some very good biology books (<i>Why is Sex Fun?</i> and <i>The Third Chimpanzee</i> , both good examples), but this fascinating history of societies not only has a lot of biology in it, but teaches you to see life in more holistic way; a birds eye view that allows you to join the dots, an essential skill for the successful biologist.

Then, of course, there are the classics:

Book Title	Author	Additional information
On the Origin of Species	Charles Darwin, 1859	A book that arguably changed the world.
What is Life?	Edward Schrödinger, 1944	The physics behind the chemistry behind the biology.
Silent Spring	Rachel Carson, 1962	Silent Spring was the wakeup call that began environmentalism.

The Double Helix	James Watson, 1968	The race to discover the factor of inheritance, as written by the winner.
The Insect Societies	Edward Wilson, 1971	One man's obsession, paving the way for the idea that behaviour is a biological phenomenon.
The Selfish Gene	Richard Dawkins, 1976	The sudden shift in perspective (that we beings are temporary vessels for the immortal DNA) made this book an instant classic.
Wonderful Life	Stephen Jay Gould, 1989	A very famous biologist writes about the fossil record of the Cambrian Explosion.
Genome	Matt Ridley, 1999	'An autobiography of a species in 23 chapters'

Chemistry

Chemistry will be a difficult and challenging subject without any preparation, but it will be a highly rewarding and enjoyable subject to study with the right preparation. In order for you to prepare for the first half term we recommend you read the reading list below but do not read the whole textbook but try and focus on the core topics below.

Writing formula of compounds, balancing equations, atomic structure, structure and bonding, moles calculations and REDOX.

The above topics will be taught in the first half term and it will be the foundation to the rest of the topics in chemistry. Use the websites below to help you with the understanding. There are lots of mathematics in chemistry and we have recommended a few books that just concentrate on the calculations. Wider reading in chemistry is recommended for students who are aspiring to attend a Russell Group university or Oxbridge.

Suggested Chemistry Textbooks to consider (*find one you like and stick to it*)

Book Title	Author
A Level Chemistry A for OCR Student Book (OCR A Level)	Rob Ritchie, Dave Gent
CGP OCR AS Chemistry textbook	
OCR AS/A Level Chemistry A Student Book 1	Sam Holyman, David Scott and Victoria Stutt
Calculations in AS/A level Chemistry	Jim Clark
Maths Skills for A Level Chemistry Paperback	Emma Poole and Dan McGowan
Essential Maths Skills for AS/A Level Chemistry	Nora Henry

Revision website

Royal Society of Chemistry www.rsc.org.uk (www.chemguide.co.uk)

Dr Browns Chemistry website

http://www.docbrown.info/page19/OCR_GCE_chem_AS_2015.htm

General reading

If you are planning to study science (or a scientifically related course) beyond A-level, you should be aiming to keep up-to-date with current research and a few websites below.

Knockhardy website

<http://www.knockhardy.org.uk/ppoints.htm>

Royal Society of Chemistry (What happened today in chemistry? Explore 366 days of chemistry history with On this day in Chemistry)

<http://www.rsc.org/learn-chemistry/collections/chemistry-calendar>

CompoundChem provides infographics on chemical compounds we come across on a day-to-day basis, explaining them with easy-to-understand chemistry.

www.compoundchem.com

ASC: Chemistry for life: Uncover the Chemistry in Everyday Life

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/pressroom/reactions.html>

Other Activities

You might also think about downloading podcast from:

<https://www.chemistryworld.com/podcasts>

Attend a summer programme for 14-19 year olds to experiment with art and science- Raw Minds (early bird deadline 25th June)

<https://wellcomecollection.org/pages/Wuw2MSIAACtd3Sts>

It is also often worth attending public lectures or going to exhibitions at some of the top universities and museums:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/physics-astronomy/outreach/science-lectures>

<http://www.rigb.org/whats-on>

<https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do>

Broaden your horizon

Seven Elements that Changed the World: An Adventure of Ingenuity and Discovery by John Browne Pegasus Books.

Book Title	Author
The Disappearing Spoon	Sam Kean
A Whiff of Death	I. Asimov
Carbon Dreams	Susan Gaines
Molecules That Changed the World	K.C. Nicolaou

The Pleasure of Finding Things Out	Richard Feynman
Periodic Tales	Hugh Aldersey-Williams
Mauve	Simon Garfield
The Periodic Kingdom	Peter Atkins
Molecules at an Exhibition	John Emsley
Mendeleyev's Dream - the quest for the elements	Paul Strathern

Computer Science

Book Title	Author	Additional Information
The Real Hacker's Handbook	Dr K	Published by Carlton Books, ISBN 978-1847328250
Computational Fairy Tales	Jeremy Kubica	Published by CreateSpace ISBN: 978-1477550298
Code: The Hidden Language of Computer Hardware and Software	Charles Petzold	Published by Microsoft ISBN: 978-0735611313
The Pattern on the Stone: The Simple Ideas That Make Computers Work	Daniel Hillis	Published by Basic Books ISBN: 978-0465025961
The Code Book	Simon Singh	Published by Fourth Estate ISBN: 978-1857028898
The New Turing Omnibus	A Kee Dewdney	Published by Palgrave MacMillan ISBN: 978-0805071665

Useful Websites

CS4FN (Computer Science for Fun) – Website run by Queen Mary College, University of London, produces an online and in print magazine for students and teachers covering a range of Computer Science topics [<http://www.cs4fn.org/>]

Stack Overflow – 'A language-independent collaboratively edited question and answer site for programmers' [<http://stackoverflow.com/>]

Online Interactive Modules for Teaching Computer Science – animations covering Computer Science concepts, from Virginia Tech. [<http://courses.cs.vt.edu/~csonline/>]

Teaching Materials for computer science teaching – Swiss educational site (site is not in English and may need translating). [<http://courses.cs.vt.edu/~csonline/>]

Python Programming on YouTube – Python tutor videos with schematic animations [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joGNzHR4GhI>]

Resources for specific topics

- JASP Toolkit – program to teach processor fundamentals, by Brittunculi [<http://www.brittunculi.com/jasp/>]
- JFLAP – Finite State Machine, Turing Machine and Regular Expression simulators produced by Duke University [<http://www.cs.duke.edu/csed/jflap/>]
- Learn Programming with Kara – Finite State Machine and Turing Machine simulator [<http://www.swisseduc.ch/compscience/karatojava/kara/>]
- LogicLab – web based logic gate simulator [<http://www.neuroproductions.be/logic-lab/>]
- Peter Higginson's LMC – web based Little Man computer simulation that demonstrates the fetch decode execute cycle [<http://peterhigginson.co.uk/LMC/>]
- RAPTO – Flowchart based programming language [<http://raptor.martincarlisle.com/>]
- Smartim – a logic gate simulator (created as part of an A-level project) [<http://smartsim.org.uk/index.php>]
- W3Schools – online tutorials for a range of web technologies including JSON and XML [<http://www.w3schools.com/>]
- Python tutor videos – Python tutor videos with schematic animations on Logic Gates, Boolean Algebra, Number Systems, Machine Code and many more. [<http://www.johnphilipjones.com/video-index-website.html>]

Ethics and AI

Centre for the Study of Existential Risk – University of Cambridge [<http://cser.org/>]

The Cathedral and the Bazaar – essay on Open Source software development by Eric Raymond

A.I Hub – Jonathan Schaeffer On Artificial Intelligence and Games.

General Computer Science Courses (with video support)

- Carnegie Mellon University – Principles of Computing
- Harvard University – Free Online Computer Science Course
- Stanford University – Coursera, Computer Science 101
- Virginia Tech – Introduction to Computer Science

Programming Resources

C#

C# Programming – Home and Learn

[<http://www.homeandlearn.co.uk/csharp/csharp.html>]

C# Programming – MSDN [<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-gb/vstudio/hh341490>]

C# Programming – Wikibooks [https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/C_Sharp_Programming]

Microsoft DreamSpark - (for institutional and student licensing – Windows only)

[<https://www.dreamspark.com/>]

Microsoft ImagineCut - (free version of the IDE – Windows only)

[<http://www.visualstudio.com/products/visual-studio-express-vs>]

Mono Project - (Multiplatform Command line tool) [<http://www.mono-project.com/>]

Mono Develop - (Multiplatform IDE) [<http://monodevelop.com/>]

Java

Java Programming – In BlueJ [<http://www.bluej.org/tutorial/tutorial-201.pdf>]

Java Programming – Oracle [<http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/>]

Java Programming – Wikibooks [https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Java_Programming]

Netbeans (Multiplatform IDE) [<https://netbeans.org/>]

Eclipse downloads (Multiplatform IDE) [<https://www.eclipse.org/downloads/>]

Free Java development environment for beginners (Multiplatform IDE designed for education) [<http://www.bluej.org/>]

Portable Java App [http://portableapps.com/apps/utilities/java_portable]

Pascal

Delphi tutorials – Festra [<http://www.festra.com/freetutor/>]

Delphi tutorials – Delphi Basics [<http://www.delphibasics.co.uk/>]

Pascal tutorial – Tutorialspoint

[http://www.tutorialspoint.com/pascal/pascal_tutorial.pdf]

Pascal and Delphi tutorials – Pascal Programming for Schools

[<http://www.pp4s.co.uk/>]

Multiplatform IDE - [<http://www.lazarus.freepascal.org/>]

Delphi Apps builder - [<http://www.embarcadero.com/products/Delphi>]

Python

x tutorials – Python official website [<https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/index.html>]

x tutorial – Dive into Python [<http://www.diveintopython3.net/>]

3 x code visualisation tool – Python tutor [<http://www.pythontutor.com/>]

Programming – Wikibooks

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/A_Beginner%27s_Python_Tutorial]

Introduction to Python Scripting for Blender 2.5+ – Blender foundation, for A-level project work

[http://wiki.blender.org/index.php/Dev:2.5/Py/Scripts/Cookbook/Code_snippets]

PythonByteSize – Python tutor videos with schematic animations

[<http://www.pythonbytesize.com/>]

VB .NET

VB.Net tutorial – StudyVB [<http://www.studyvb.com/>]

VB.Net tutorial – Wikibooks [https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/A_level_Computing/AQA/Problem_Solving,_Programming,_Data_Representation_and_Practical_Exercise/Fundamentals_of_Programming/A_program]

Python

Python download (Multiplatform IDE) [<https://www.python.org/download>]

Portable Python (Multiplatform IDE) [<http://portablepython.com/>]

Python coding in Visual Studio [<https://pytools.codeplex.com/>]

Python IDE for eclipse [<http://pydev.org/>]

VB .NET

Dreamspark2 (for institutional and student licensing – Windows only)

[<https://www.dreamspark.com/>]

Visual Studio Express (free version of the IDE – Windows only)

[<http://www.visualstudio.com/products/visual-studio-express-vs>]

Cross platform, open source .NET framework (Multiplatform Command line tool)

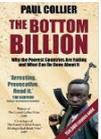
[<http://www.mono-project.com/>]

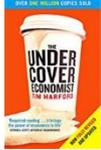
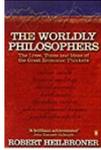
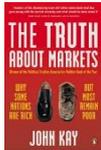
Multiplatform IDE [<http://monodevelop.com/>]

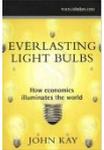
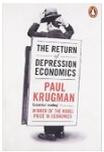
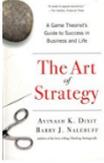
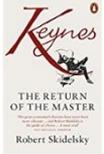
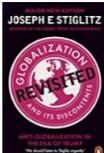
Economics

An introductory book – Naked Economics, The Undercover Economist or Everlasting Light Bulbs - are good places to start. One of these books will help you get used to some of the 'language' of Economics and the way in which economists look at the world.

This list also includes an edited range of recommended books to give an idea of the different areas of Economics into which you might develop your own interest and reading eg; Development Economics, Behavioural Economics, Economic History or the Global Financial Crisis.

Book Title	Author	Additional Information	Cover
Predictably Irrational	Dan Ariely	Predictably Irrational brilliantly blends everyday experiences with a series of illuminating and often surprising experiments, that will change your understanding of human behaviour. And, by recognising these patterns, Ariely shows that we can make better decisions in business, in matters of collective welfare, and in our everyday lives.	
23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism	Ha-Joon Chang	In this revelatory book, Ha-Joon Chang destroys the biggest	
The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing	Paul Collier	Collier identifies and explains the four traps that prevent the homelands of the world's billion poorest people from growing and receiving the benefits of globalization - civil war,	

		the discovery and export of natural resources in otherwise unstable economies, being landlocked and therefore unable to participate in the global economy without great cost, and finally, ineffective governance.	
The Undercover Economist	Tim Harford	Looking at familiar situations in unfamiliar ways, this is a fresh explanation of the fundamental principles of the modern economy, illuminated by examples from the streets of London to the booming skyscrapers of Shanghai to the sleepy canals of Bruges.	
Worldly Philosophers	Robert Heilbroner	Heilbroner provides the new theme that connects thinkers as different as Adam Smith and Karl Marx: the desire to understand how a capitalist society works.	
Thinking, Fast and Slow	Daniel Kahneman	This book will enable you to make better decisions at work, at home, and in everything you do	
The Truth About Markets: Why some countries are rich and others remain poor	John Kay	Leading economist John Kay examines why 'one-size-fits-all' globalization hurts developing countries and why markets can work – but only in a humane social and cultural context.	

<p>Everlasting Light Bulbs: How Economics Illuminates the World</p>	<p>John Kay</p>	<p>This collection of short essays features articles based on economic topics and opinions between 1996-2003.</p>	
<p>Return of Depression Economics and the Crisis of 2008</p>	<p>Paul Krugman</p>	<p>Krugman shows how the failure of regulation to keep pace with an increasingly out-of-control financial system set the United States, and the world as a whole, up for the greatest financial crisis since the 1930s.</p>	
<p>The Art of Strategy</p>	<p>Nalebuff and Dixit</p>	<p>Using a diverse array of rich case studies-from pop culture, TV, movies, sports, politics, and history-the authors show how nearly every business and personal interaction has a game-theory component to it.</p>	
<p>Keynes – the Return of the Master</p>	<p>Robert Skidelsky</p>	<p>When unbridled capitalism falters, is there an alternative? The twentieth century's most influential economist tells us that there is.</p>	
<p>Globalization and its Discontents</p>	<p>Joseph Stiglitz</p>	<p>As chief economist at the world bank, Nobel Prize-winner Joseph Stiglitz had a unique insider's view into the management of globalization. Now he speaks out against it: how the IMF and WTO preach fair trade yet impose crippling economic policies on developing nations; how free market 'shock</p>	

		therapy' made millions in East Asia and Russia worse off than they were before; and how the West has driven the global agenda to further its own financial interests.	
Naked Economics	Charles Wheelan	Demystifying buzzwords, laying bare the truths behind oft-quoted numbers, and answering the questions you were always too embarrassed to ask, it gives readers the tools they need to engage with pleasure and confidence in the deeply relevant, not so dismal science.	

You are strongly encouraged to get into the habit of reading/ watching the news each day tuning into Business, Economy and Money.

- Download the BBC News App onto your phone and read it habitually like Snapchat, Facebook etc – get to know what is happening in the wider world
- The Economist – offers a 12-week introductory subscription for £12, which would cover the summer, and in September you will have the option to order a school subscription for £15 for the 'school year'
<https://www.economist.com/subscribe>
- Read the economic and business-related news reported in a quality newspaper
- The Guardian is free on-line <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>
- The Telegraph offer a 30 day trial subscription
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/>
- The Times have a trial subscription rate of £1 per week for 8 weeks digital access or a Student Rate of £26 per year if you have a Unidays account
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/subscribe/>

English Literature

Next year you will be studying Gothic Literature for the Comparative and Contextual Paper (OCR Paper 2). We will also study a play by Shakespeare, likely to be *Measure for Measure*. In addition, we will cover three modern texts (a poetry collection, a novel and a play published after 1900) for the coursework component. Although no prior knowledge of these areas is assumed when starting the A Level course, the following list has been compiled to help you explore the writers and periods that you will be studying in detail from September should you wish.

Should you read one or two books from this list you would certainly find yourself at an advantage at the start of term. The length (pp) of each book has been indicated to help you gauge your potential selections; it is also worth adding that each title can be secured second-hand at a significantly reduced price via www.abebooks.co.uk.

Gothic Literature

Book Title	Author
Gothic (The New Critical Idiom)	Fred Botting
The Gothic Tradition (Cambridge Contexts in Literature)	David Stevens
The Cambridge Companion to Gothic Fiction (Cambridge Companions to Literature)	Jerrold E. Hogle

Gothic Fiction

Reading even some of one or two of these texts will give you a really useful reference point when we study the Comparative and Contextual paper in the Autumn term.

Book Title	Author
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte
The Turn of the Screw	Henry James
Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde	Robert Louis Stevenson
The Haunting of Hill House	Shirley Jackson
Burning Your Boats: Collected Stories	Angela Carter

Shakespeare & Renaissance Drama

Introductory/Overview

These books will give you a general critical and contextual overview and introduction of Shakespeare's life, times and work. Reading – or even just dipping into – one of these will give you useful frame of reference for our study of Shakespeare in Year 12. They are ordered in terms of difficulty and complexity, beginning with less challenging.

Book Title	Author
Shakespeare & Co	Stanley Wells
The Faber Pocket Guide to Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama	Simon Trussler
The Cambridge Introduction to Shakespeare	Emma Smith
The Shakespearean Stage	Andrew Gurr
Shakespeare's Language	Frank Kermode

Modern Literature

Introductory/Overview

These books are all interesting and engaging critical introduction to the study of poetry, novels and drama that will give you a head start when we study modern literature in the Spring term. There are two suggestions for each genre (poetry/novel/drama) with the first being the easier, or more general, choice.

Book Title	Author
An Introduction to English Poetry	James Fenton
The Secret Life of Poems	Tom Paulin
The Art of Fiction	David Lodge
How Fiction Works	James Wood
Modern Drama: A Very Short Introduction	Kirsten Shepherd-Barr
The Empty Space	Peter Brook

Poetry

These are some suggestions of major poets and collections. Not compulsory reading - but anything you read from this list will enrich your experience of English Literature in the twentieth century and will also support and feed into your coursework in Year 12.

Book Title	Author
Collected Poems (Faber); The Whitsun Weddings	Philip Larkin
New Selected Poems 1988-2013 (Faber)	Seamus Heaney
Ariel; Selected Poems (Faber)	Sylvia Plath
New Selected Poems 1957-1994 (Faber)	Ted Hughes
The World's Wife	Carol Ann Duffy
Rain	Don Paterson

Novels

These are some suggestions of novels from writers with diverse backgrounds and stories to tell. Nothing compulsory here, but again, anything you read from this list will enrich your literary knowledge but will also support and feed into your coursework in Year 12.

Book Title	Author
The Handmaid's Tale or Alias Grace	Margaret Atwood
Half of a Yellow Sun	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
The Remains of the Day or Never Let Me Go	Kazuo Ishiguro
Atonement or Enduring Love	Ian McEwan
Exit West or The Reluctant Fundamentalist	Mohsin Hamid

Drama

These are some suggestions of plays by American, British and Irish writers of the twentieth century. Nothing compulsory here, but anything you do read from this list will enrich your literary knowledge and support and feed into your coursework in Year 12.

Book Title	Author
The Glass Menagerie or Cat on a Hot Tin Roof	Tennessee Williams
Waiting for Godot	Samuel Beckett
A Raisin in the Sun	Lorraine Hansberry
A View From the Bridge or Death of A Salesman	Arthur Miller
Top Girls	Caryl Churchill

French

At A-level you will develop coherence and fluency in speaking and writing and will improve your listening and reading skills by engaging with authentic French texts. We will build on the language skills you have already developed at GCSE by introducing more complex language structures, vocabulary and grammar.

A key aspect of A-level French is the study of a film and a book, with essays written in French about themes, characters or literary techniques. In Year 12 we will study the film *La Haine* and in Year 13 we will read *Boule de Suif*.

We will follow the AQA course. You can find an overview of the assessment and exam paper structure [here](#).

You will certainly want to rest after a busy summer of GCSE exams, but the important thing with a language is to keep it alive by practising little and often. This will help you adapt well to a new course in September.

Online resources

Website links	Additional Information
<p>www.languagesonline.org.uk (For grammar practice)</p>	<p>Click on 'Français' and explore the grammar section. There are ready-made exercises to practise your grammar knowledge. Recap all of the key tenses (present, perfect/ passé composé, imperfect, future). There are other sections, including an AS section, where you can recap topic work and vocabulary etc.</p>
<p>www.lemondedesados.fr (For cultural interest/ general info)</p>	<p>This is a French news/ current affairs site aimed at teenagers – there will probably be a lot of new vocabulary but stick with it! The key thing is to try to understand the key messages of the articles.</p> <p>You can read an article and do any/all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - try to summarise it (in French and/or in English) - translate a paragraph

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - highlight the verbs and identify the tense (e.g. present, future) - make a note of any new vocabulary and try to use it in a different context
<p>www.newsinslowfrench.com</p> <p><i>(For listening practice)</i></p>	<p>This is an excellent website for gaining listening practice. Full access requires a subscription but you can do a free demo which should provide enough content.</p> <p>News stories are provided in French with a transcript, so you can read what is being said. You can control the pace of the audio by clicking 'normal' or 'slow'. Hover your mouse over the words in red to see an English translation (and make a note of these in your vocab book).</p> <p>Other good sections of the website to look at are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'expressions' - you can listen to and read about idiomatic phrases in French (the equivalent of phrases like 'cry over spilt milk' in English – mastery of these kind of phrases will really set you apart from other linguists). • 'pronunciation' – there are short sentences which you first listen to and then you can record your own voice to check your pronunciation is accurate. This is good practice to develop your confidence in speaking.
<p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/</p>	<p>There are all sorts of language resources on this page which you can explore. Some are intended for complete beginners, but it may be</p>

<p><i>(For listening/ reading practice and general interest)</i></p>	<p>worth revisiting any areas where you feel you are rusty.</p> <p>'Ma France' is good for more advanced learners – in this section, you can select which theme you want to explore and then watch a selection of videos (often with both French and English subtitles, which is really handy for noting new vocab and hearing how it is pronounced).</p>
<p>French online newspapers:</p> <p>https://www.lemonde.fr</p> <p>http://www.liberation.fr</p> <p>http://www.lefigaro.fr</p> <p><i>(To keep up with French current affairs)</i></p>	<p>These are some of the main news websites in France. Usually they are subscription based, but you can read a few articles for free.</p>

Grammar reference book:

- Practising French Grammar, Hawkins and Towell

Grammar workbook:

- French A-level grammar workbook 1, Kirsty Thathapudi
<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/Product/9781510417229.aspx>
- French A-level grammar workbook 2, Kirsty Thathapudi

<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/Product/9781510417236.aspx>

Literary text (we will study this in Year 13, and you will be provided with a book)

- Boule de Suif et autres contes de la guerre: Guy de Maupassant, 1984 Edition, Publisher: Thomas Nelson
- Background information on the writer, Guy de Maupassant:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_de_Maupassant

Film (we will study this in class in Year 12 and there will be some additional copies available in the library):

- La Haine: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0113247/>
- Background information on the director, Mathieu Kassovitz:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathieu_Kassovitz

Geography

Geography is a subject which bridges natural science with social science. It engages with the relationship of human societies to each other over space and time, and their relationship with their environment at a variety of scales. Interpreting the world from a geographical stance involves challenging assumptions and critiquing evidence from a diverse range of stakeholders and sources. Geography is an essay subject which requires a scientific mindset.

Standard of answers at A Level:

Rote learning of facts can no longer enable you to access the higher grades at A Level. We shall be following the OCR syllabus. You can visit the exam board website to browse through samples of marked candidate responses in real A Level exams under 'Candidate Exemplars'. <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/geography-h081-h481-from-2016/assessment/> Specification can be accessed here: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/geography-h081-h481-from-2016/specification-at-a-glance/>

Desirable attributes for A Level Geography:

- An inquiring mind
- An interest in the world, people, places and environments
- An interest in practical fieldwork beyond the classroom
- An ability to write essays which demonstrate logical thinking
- An ability to design an independent personal investigation and write fluently
- An understanding of complex inter-relationships in a synoptic context
- An appreciation of current affairs at the local, national and global scale

The sources below are designed to help you develop these desirable attributes.

To access Geographical Review articles for free using LAET's subscription, please use this link: [Click here](#) to choose Geography review, and search for the titles. These are the type of articles you will regularly read as CW/HW at A Level.

Website links	Additional Information
<p>Excellent website outlining Human and Physical fieldwork techniques https://www.geography-fieldwork.org/a-level/</p> <p>“Fieldwork Live” free fieldwork lessons run by Field Studies Council from 20th April to 1st May 2020 https://www.field-studies-council.org/2020/03/20/fsc-to-launch-fieldworklive-with-encounter-edu/</p> <p>Royal Geographical Society fieldwork resources https://www.rgs.org/in-the-field/fieldwork-in-schools/fieldwork-resources/</p> <p>Map skills review: including how to read Ordnance Survey maps https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z87sqty/revision/1</p>	<p>Investigative Geography (Paper 4):</p> <p>Independent fieldwork investigation – written report of 3000-4000 words on any topic linked to the specification</p> <p>20% of A Level</p>
<p>For those who have never studied Coasts as a topic, you are strongly advised to go through BBC Bitesize GCSE (OCR) prior to starting Y12:</p> <p>Coastal processes https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zshpdmn/revision/1</p> <p>Coastal landforms https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z86tk7h/revision/1</p> <p>Coastal management https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z8kksq8/revision/1</p> <p>National Ocean Service (US): spring tide vs neap tide https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/springtide.html</p>	<p>Coastal Landscapes (Paper 1)</p> <p>Formation and modification of coastal landforms; sediment cells; submergent and emergent landforms created by historical sea levels which are higher/lower than today’s; coastal management and the implications on coastal landscapes</p>

<p>BBC daily tide table (you can search for other dates/locations)</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/coast-and-sea/tide-tables/2/111</p> <p>US Geological Survey article – Landscapes from the waves: marine terraces of California</p> <p>https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2018/3002/fs20183002.pdf</p> <p>Geography Review articles:</p> <p>Vol. 32 No. 1 Sept 2018 – Q&A coastal landscapes and change</p> <p>Vol. 27 No. 4 April 2014 – Q&A coastal environments</p> <p>Vol. 23 No. 2 Nov 2009 – Coastal squeeze: climate change and coastal wetlands</p> <p>Vol. 12 No. 1 Sept 1998 – Practical Geography: saltmarshes and succession</p> <p>Vol. 7 No. 1 Sept 1993 – Geological controls of coastal morphology</p>	
<p>To consolidate GCSE foundational knowledge, use BBC Bitesize (OCR):</p> <p>Changing Climate https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxcysg8</p> <p>Ecosystems https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z2ntk7h/revision/1</p> <p>Tropical Rainforests https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpbfqty/revision/1</p> <p>Polar Environments https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwvh82p/revision/1</p>	<p>Earth's Life Support Systems (Paper 1)</p> <p>Water and carbon support life on Earth. How are they cycled between atmosphere, land and oceans? How do these change over time e.g. enhanced greenhouse effect and long-term changes over glacial & interglacial periods?</p> <p>We will apply the above to understand two unique environments: Arctic tundra, tropical rainforest.</p>

National Geographic Tundra explained
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/habitats/tundra-biome/>

Guardian article: tropical rainforests losing their ability to absorb carbon

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/mar/04/tropical-forests-losing-their-ability-to-absorb-carbon-study-finds>

Geography Review articles:

Vol. 32 No. 4 April 2019 – Making connections: glaciation, climate change and tectonic

Vol. 32 No. 3 Feb 2019 – Carbon update: greenhouse gases monitoring for mitigation

Vol. 32 No. 2 Nov 2018 – Q&A water and carbon cycles

Vol. 32 No. 2 Nov 2018 – Permafrost carbon feedback: impact of global warming on Arctic ecosystems

Vol. 32 No. 1 Sept 2018 – El Nino and La Nina: understanding extreme weather

Vol. 31 No. 4 April 2018 – Rainforest and the carbon cycle: recent research in the Amazon

Vol. 31 No. 3 Feb 2018 – Water & carbon cycles in UK's peatlands

Vol. 31 No. 3 Feb 2018 – Carbon update: who owns greenhouse gas emissions?

Vol. 31 No. 2 Nov 2017 – Geographical ideas: thresholds

Vol. 31 No. 2 Nov 2017 – Glaciers and global warming: a case study of the High Arctic

BBC documentary: Before Grenfell – a hidden history

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6xjcgc>

Exploring Census Data of your neighbourhood on interactive map

<https://datashine.org.uk/>

<https://maps.cdrc.ac.uk/>

Explore spatial distribution of crime of your neighbourhood

<https://www.police.uk/>

Royal Geographical Society panel discussion - Life Off the Ladder: should we accept that Britain's home-owning dream has ended?

<https://www.rgs.org/geography/online-lectures/panel-discussion-life-off-the-ladder/>

Royal Geographical Society panel discussion - Wellbeing and Cities

<https://www.rgs.org/geography/online-lectures/wellbeing-and-cities/>

Geography Review articles:

Vol. 32 No. 3 Feb 2019 - Changing the meaning of place: a rebranding case study of Park Hill Flats Sheffield

Vol. 32 No. 3 Feb 2019 - Measuring diversity of a place: a case study of London Academy of Excellence Tottenham

Vol. 32 No. 2 Nov 2018 - Geography of branding: using place to sell products

Vol. 31 No. 4 April 2018 – Geographical ideas: identity

Changing Spaces; Making Places (Paper 2)

How is Space different from Place?
What are the forces which lead to changes or resistance against changes in places?

<p>Vol. 31 No. 3 Feb 2018 – Everybody's talking about gentrification and Grenfell Tower</p> <p>Vol. 30 No. 4 April 2017 – Geographical ideas: the concept of place – meaning, representation and conflicts</p>	
<p>World Economic Forum: World vs Virus – how the world can navigate Covid19 podcast</p> <p>https://open.spotify.com/show/36D1oLAm5Rimw70XV19Cdf</p> <p>World Economic Forum – Strategic Intelligence portal (you need to register as a member, but it is free!)</p> <p>https://intelligence.weforum.org/</p> <p>Switched on or switched off? Mapping connectivity (ArcGIS Story Map)</p> <p>http://notredamecobham.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=e74fa005b3254f3093a4d333d4207ee7</p> <p>Observatory of Economic Complexity: patterns of trade e.g. China (you can search to view trade profiles of other countries)</p> <p>https://oec.world/en/profile/country/chn/</p> <p>Royal Geographical Society panel discussion – Made in Britain?</p> <p>https://www.rgs.org/geography/online-lectures/made-in-britain/</p> <p>Geography Review articles:</p> <p>Vol. 32 No. 4 April 2019 – Global development update: international trade, changing approaches</p> <p>Vol. 32 No. 3 Feb 2019 – The global e-waste trade</p>	<p>Trade in the Contemporary World (Paper 2)</p>

<p>Vol. 23 No. 2 Nov 2009 – Unfair Trade</p> <p>Vol. 22 No. 2 Nov 2008 – China and Africa</p>	
<p>US Geological Survey – latest earthquake (live map) https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/map/</p> <p>Smithsonian Institution Global Volcanism Programme – current volcanic eruptions (live map) https://volcano.si.edu/gvp_currenteruptions.cfm</p> <p>US Geological Survey - Volcano Hazards Programme https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/vhp/tephra.html</p> <p>National Ocean Service (US) – Ocean Facts https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/</p> <p>National Ocean Service (US) – Coral reefs: rainforests of the sea https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/ocean/corals/</p> <p>Geography Review articles:</p> <p>Vol. 32 No. 4 April 2019 – Coral reef ecosystems: monitoring climate change</p> <p>Vol. 31 No. 4 April 2018 – Q&A global migration, power and borders</p> <p>Vol. 31 No. 4 April 2018 – Global energy security: rethinking the geopolitics</p> <p>Vol. 31 No. 2 Nov 2017 – Contested ocean spaces: a case study of the South China Sea</p> <p>Vol. 22 No. 4 April 2009 – Poles Apart: who owns the polar seabed?</p>	<p>Y13 topics:</p> <p>Powers & Borders (Paper 2)</p> <p>Hazardous Earth (Paper 3) – earthquakes & volcanoes</p> <p>Exploring Oceans (Paper 3)</p>

History

Next year you will be studying two papers: one on Victorian/Edwardian Britain and one on the American Revolution. Although no prior knowledge is assumed when starting the A Level course, the following list has been compiled to help you explore the periods that you will be studying in detail from September should you wish.

Should you read one or two books from this list, you would certainly find yourself at an advantage at the start of term. The length (pp) of each book has been indicated to help you gauge your potential selections; it is also worth adding that each title can be secured second-hand at a significantly reduced price via www.abebooks.co.uk.

Britain:

Below are two surveys that cover the Victorian (1838-1901) and Edwardian (1901-1914) eras in general terms; if you are approaching these periods for the first time starting with- or dipping into- one of these is probably recommended.

- A. N. Wilson, *The Victorians* (738pp)
- Roy Hattersley, *The Edwardians* (528pp)

The following represent more specific historical titles. Richard Aldous offers an analysis of Gladstone and Disraeli's great personal and political rivalry whilst Juliet Nicolson's book focuses on the summer of 1911, vividly capturing the currents of a country on the cusp of momentous change. The Lancaster Pamphlets are short, introductory summaries to Gladstone and Disraeli's respective careers pitched directly at A Level students.

Book Title	Author
The Lion and the Unicorn (384pp)	Richard Aldous
The Perfect Summer (304pp)	Juliet Nicolson
Gladstone and the Liberal Party- Lancaster Pamphlet (92pp)	Michael J. Winstanley
Disraeli- Lancaster Pamphlet (80pp)	John K Walton
David Lloyd George: The Great Outsider	Roy Hattersley

Finally, a (subjective) selection of the best Victorian and Edwardian literature. Reading a novel could provide an excellent and enjoyable way of familiarising yourself with the themes and attitudes of Victorian and Edwardian society. The first three are great

'condition of England' social novels whilst Trollope gives an insight into the workings of high politics and parliament in a fictional context.

Book Title	Author
Hard Times (368pp) or Oliver Twist (374pp)	Charles Dickens
North and South (448pp)	Elizabeth Gaskell
The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists (624pp)	Robert Tressell
The Prime Minister (736pp)	Anthony Trollope
Howards End (400pp)	E. M. Forster

The American Revolution, 1740-1796

David Reynolds' fine survey will provide you with an overview of the main trends in American history from the earliest settlers to the election of Obama. Pulitzer-winning historian Alan Taylor's latest book focuses specifically on the revolutionary era itself whilst Gordon Wood presents a condensed, introductory overview of the same material. Alexander Rose explores the role played by spies in helping America win the War of Independence- this book has also been dramatised into the four-part TV series 'TURN' by AMC and can be found on Amazon Prime.

Book Title	Author
Empire of Liberty: A New History of the United States (704pp)	David Reynolds
American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750-1804 (704pp)	Alan Taylor
The American Revolution: A History (224pp)	Gordon Wood
Washington's Spies: The Story of America's First Spy Ring (369pp)	Alexander Rose
1776 (386pp)	David McCullough

Approaches to History

If you are interested in reading and thinking about the discipline of history one of these titles would suit you. Carr's collection of essays remains, over fifty-fifty years after its initial publication, a classic of the genre and still appears on most undergraduate reading lists; Evans' book gives a fascinating insight into his role as historical advisor to the prosecution during the famous David Irving holocaust denial trial of 2000 (as captured in the 2016 film 'Denial'); and Margaret MacMillan explores how the past has often been distorted for various political ends and why this matters.

Book Title	Author
What Is History? (208pp)	E. H. Carr
Lying About Hitler: The Holocaust, Hitler and the David Irving Trial (336pp)	Richard Evans
The Uses and Abuses of History (256 pp)	Margaret MacMillan
Big Questions in History (288pp)	Harriet Swain

Mathematics

A-Level Mathematics builds directly on your knowledge from GCSE Mathematics. In particular, it is absolutely essential that your algebraic manipulation is excellent in order to study A-level mathematics. It should not be an issue for you to expand some bracket or factorise a quadratic, or even complete the square. These techniques should be second nature to you by the time you start the A-level course.

Seeing as that is the case, the most important thing you can do to prepare for next year is to make sure that you improve on anything you were a little fuzzy on before your exams, or anything you think you may have forgotten. Any revision guides or revision notes you used will be very useful to do this, as will BBC Bitesize.

To go further than this, you can make use of a book published by CGP titled **New Head Start to A-Level Maths** to help you further prepare for the challenging transition between GCSE and A-Level.

Book Title	Author
The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets	Simon Singh
The Code Book	Simon Singh
The Music of the Primes	Marcus du Sautoy
Does god play dice?	Ian Stewart
Professor Stewart's Cabinet of Mathematics Curiosities	Ian Stewart
Chaos	James Gleik
Fermat's Last Theorem	Simon Singh
Mathematics: A Very Short introduction	Timothy Gowers
Alan Turing: the enigma	Andrew Hodges

Physics

The A level course starts by taking your GCSE knowledge and gives you a deeper understanding and more sophisticated techniques of the Physics involved. So anything that supercharges your physics, or piques your interest is good.

Preparing for A level

Your GCSE knowledge is required for A-level physics. Although your GCSE examination is completed, reading through your GCSE revision notes will be useful. CGP have produced a book to ease the transition to A-level Physics. It is called "Head Start to A-Level Physics" and starts to show you the additional depth required for those GCSE topics that are in year 12 physics. Mathematics is the language of Physics, so anything that makes you think mathematically, including the items on the mathematics reading list, will be useful.

Websites

These websites have questions you can try. Some questions are quite hard, problem solving in A level is more involved than GCSE. We will learn these techniques in AS.

- You could try some level one boards from Isaac Physics:
www.isaacphysics.org
- GCSE Physics Challenge papers from the British Physics Olympiad:
www.bpho.org.uk
- physNRICH - collection of physics-based problems from NRICH:
<https://nrich.maths.org/6465>

Book Title	Author
Surely you're joking Mr Feynman, Vintage (see also the Horizon programme)	R.P. Feynman
The strangest man: The life of Paul Dirac, Faber and Faber	G. Farnelo
The man who changed everything: The life of James Clerk Maxwell, Wiley	B. Mahon
Never at Rest: A Biography of Isaac Newton, C.U.P.	R Westfall

Coffee table books

Whilst the books listed below purport to be general science books they can get quite heavy. Science books have a reputation for being left lying around to show how clever the owner is, without actually being read. So don't worry if it doesn't all make sense, come with your questions in September.

Book Title	Author
The Character of Physical Law, Penguin (see also videos of the lectures)	R.P. Feynman
Superconductivity: A very short introduction, O.U.P.	S. Blundell,
Warped Passages: Unravelling the Universe's Hidden Dimensions, Penguin	L. Randall
The Quantum Universe, C.U.P.	T. Hey & P. Walters
The first three minutes	S. Weinberg

Science programs

TV programmes can be a little slow, and lack equations, but do sometimes have good physics. For example, BBC Horizon "Secrets of the solar system". Or multi-task: listen to iPlayer radio whilst doing the washing-up, this can make you popular at home. Listen to: "More or Less", "Inside Science" or "All in the Mind".

Politics

Politics is not a static subject. It is fluid and always changing. That means it is important to keep up with contemporary developments. Get into the habit of reading a daily paper. Preferably a `broadsheet`. Any one or a mixture of the following are recommended:

Telegraph

Times

Guardian

On the weekend these papers carry supplements that contain book reviews and essays often featuring new political books just published. Get into the habit of reading these `Review` sections of the newspapers. At first some of the content won't make sense to you as you are new to politics but after a while things will fall into place and you will start to become more knowledgeable about the broader subject before you know it.

The following magazines you don't have to read from cover to cover but selectively dip in and out of the following:

Prospect

Economist

Spectator

New Statesman

Politics can sometimes be an emotive subject so sometimes you need to be aware that you will encounter ideas and arguments that some may find hard to take or even offensive. Truth be told, being challenged and introduced to ideas that you passionately disagree with is part of broad based liberal education especially in A Level Politics so get used to it!! The following website is provocative, annoying and brilliant in equal measure. Check it out and make your own mind up. It is called,

Spiked- <http://www.spiked-online.com/>

The key text you will need to bring to every lesson is; Edexcel AS and A Level Politics (New for 2017), Pearson, Colclough et al

Other important books we will use include:

Edexcel AS & A Level Politics – New for 2017 isbn: 9781292187020

UK Government and Politics for AS/ A Level isbn: 978147188923

UK Government and Politics isbn: 9781471889318

Essentials of UK Politics Fourth Edition by Andrew Heywood isbn: 9781137611444

Politics: UK Politics Book No.1 isbn: 9781471893087

Politics: UK Government Book No.2 isbn: 9781471892905

Politics: Global Politics Book No.5 isbn: 9781471893094

Politics: UK Government and Politics, My Revision Notes isbn: 9781471889660

Political Ideas isbn: 9781471889462

Politics: Political Ideas Book No.3 isbn: 9781471893131

Edexcel A Level Politics – Political Ideas by Neil McNaughton isbn: 9781471889691

The above list of books are specifically geared towards our A level politics course.
The list below are books of a more general interest:

Book Title	Author	Additional Information
The Politics	Aristotle	isbn: 9780140444216
After Virtue	Alasdair Macintyre	isbn: 9780715636404
Chavs: The Demonization of the Working Class	Owen Jones	isbn: 9781844678648
The Road to Wigan Pier Revisited	Stephen Armstrong	isbn: 9781780336916
Soundbites & Spin Doctors: How politicians manipulate the media- and vice versa	Nicholas Jones	isbn: 0304345423
The Blair Years- Extracts from The Alistair Campbell	Alistair Campbell	isbn: 9780091796297
Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present	David Boucher & Paul Kelly	isbn: 9780199215522
John Stuart Mill	Richard Reeves	isbn: 9781843546436

Psychology

In your first year of Psychology A-level, you will explore the journey this discipline made from its philosophical roots to the rigours of cognitive neuroscience today. You will see how it can be applied in all aspects of life: to understand everyday phenomena, such as parent-child relationships, memory, even consumer behaviour and marketing; but also the more complex manifestations of the human mind and behaviour, such as mental illness, obedience to authority figures, criminal behaviour, and romantic relationships.

These are some textbooks that will give you a flavour of what to look forward to in your studies, and the links to the AQA A-level syllabus:

Book Title	Author	Topic
Behind the Shock Machine: The Untold Story of the Notorious Milgram Psychology Experiments	Gina Perry	Paper 1, Section A: Social Influence (Obedience)
You Can Have an Amazing Memory: Learn life-changing techniques and tips from the memory maestro	Dominic O'Brien	Paper 1, section B: Memory
Dibs in Search of Self: Personality Development in Play Therapy	Virginia M. Axline	Paper 1, Section C: Attachment (Child Psychotherapy)
A Mindfulness Guide for the Frazzled	Ruby Wax	Paper 1, Section D: Psychopathology (Anxiety)
The Interpretation of Dreams	Sigmund Freud	Paper 2, Section A: Approaches (Psychodynamic approach)
The Selfish Gene	Richard Dawkins	Paper 2, Section A: Approaches (Biological approach)
The Man who Mistook His Wife for a Hat	Oliver Sacks	Paper 2, Section B: Biopsychology (Amnesia and localisation of brain function)
Quirkology: The Curious Science of Everyday Lives	Richard Wiseman	Paper 2, Section C: Research Methods

Opening Skinner's Box	Lauren Slater	Research on multiple topics from various papers
The Philosopher at the End of the Universe	Mark Rowlands	Paper 3, Section A: Issues and Debates (Free will & Determinism)
Dataclism: What our online lives tell us about our offline selves	Christian Rudder	Paper 3, Section B: Relationships (Virtual relationships)
Henry's Demons: Living with Schizophrenia, A Father and Son's Story	Patrick Cockburn	Paper 3, Section C: Schizophrenia
The Psychopath Test	Jon Ronson	Paper 3, Section D: Forensic

It is also important to note that PSYCHOLOGY IS A SCIENCE and, as such, findings and theories are always challenged and/or refined through new research studies. A good start for you to keep up to date with most recent developments in psychology is to visit the **BPS Research Digest** page at <https://digest.bps.org.uk/>.

You can also subscribe to the British Psychological Society (BPS), and have access to "The Psychologist", their monthly magazine packed with the most recent articles. E-subscriptions cost £12 a year and can be purchased here: <https://www.bps.org.uk/join-us/subscribe-bps>.

Other good journals that I recommend are "Scientific American Mind" and "Psychology Review".

Spanish

At A-level you will develop coherence and fluency in speaking and writing and will improve your listening and reading skills by engaging with authentic Spanish texts. We will build on the language skills you have already developed at GCSE by introducing more complex language structures, vocabulary and grammar.

A key aspect of A-level Spanish is the study of a film and a book, with essays written in Spanish about themes, characters or literary techniques. In Year 12 we will study the film *El Laberinto del Fauno* and in Year 13 we will read *Como Agua Para Chocolate*.

We will follow the AQA course. You can find an overview of the assessment and exam paper structure here:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/spanish-7692/specification-at-a-glance>

You will certainly want to rest after a busy summer of GCSE exams, but the important thing with a language is to keep it alive by practising little and often. This will help you adapt well to a new course in September.

Online resources

<p>www.languagesonline.org.uk</p> <p><i>(For grammar practice)</i></p>	<p>Click on 'Español' and explore the grammar section. There are ready-made exercises to practise your grammar knowledge. Recap all of the key tenses (present, preterite, imperfect, future etc). There are other sections, including an AS section, where you can recap topic work and vocab etc.</p>
<p>www.newsinslowspanish.com</p> <p><i>(For listening practice)</i></p>	<p>This is an excellent website for gaining listening practice. Full access requires a subscription but you can do a free demo which should provide enough content.</p> <p>News stories are provided in Spanish with a transcript, so you can read what is being said. You can control the pace of the audio by clicking 'normal' or 'slow'. Hover your mouse over the words in red to see an English translation (and make a note of these in your vocab book).</p>

	<p>Other good sections of the website to look at are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'expressions' - you can listen to and read about idiomatic phrases in Spanish (the equivalent of phrases like 'cry over spilt milk' in English – mastery of these kind of phrases will really set you apart from other linguists). • 'pronunciation' – there are short sentences which you first listen to and then you can record your own voice to check your pronunciation is accurate. This is good practice to develop your confidence in speaking.
<p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/ (For listening/ reading practice and general interest)</p>	<p>There are all sorts of language resources on this page which you can explore. Some are intended for complete beginners, but it may be worth revisiting any areas where you feel you are rusty.</p> <p>'Mi vida loca' has a number of videos across different topics (often with both Spanish and English subtitles, which is really handy for noting new vocab and hearing how it is pronounced).</p>
<p>Spanish online newspapers:</p> <p>https://elpais.com http://www.elmundo.es https://www.20minutos.es</p> <p>(To keep up with Spanish current affairs)</p>	<p>These are some of the main news websites in Spain. Some news websites are subscription based, but you can read a few articles for free. You may find some of the language a bit tricky, but persevere! It is advisable to keep an eye on current affairs so that you have an idea of what is happening in Spain, and/or in Latin America and the key players in the world of politics, as this is something we will explore in more detail in the course. Keep a note of anything you read about (in Spanish or in English).</p>

Grammar reference book:

- ¡Acción Gramática!: New Advanced Spanish Grammar, Turk and Zollo

Grammar workbook:

- Spanish A-level grammar workbook 1
<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/Product/9781510416741.aspx>
- Spanish A-level grammar workbook 2
<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/Product/9781510416796.aspx>

Literary text (we will study this in Year 13, and you will be provided with a book):

- 'Como Agua Para Chocolate' by Laura Esquivel
- Wikipedia info about the novel:
[https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Como_agua_para_chocolate_\(novela\)](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Como_agua_para_chocolate_(novela))
- Background information on the writer, Laura Esquivel:
[https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laura_Esquivel_\(escritora\)](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laura_Esquivel_(escritora))

Film (we will study this in class in Year 12 and there will be some additional copies available in the library):

- El Laberinto del Fauno: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0457430/>
- Background information on the director, Guillermo del Toro:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guillermo_del_Toro

¡Buena suerte!