

PANGBOURNE

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PREPARING FOR SIXTH FORM 2024/ 2025

Your subject-by-subject guide to prepare yourself for September

With contributions from: Academic Deputy Head, Head of Sixth Form, Heads of Department



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INTRODUCTION

SIXTH FORM LEARNING: FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD ACADEMIC

Sixth Form studies are different to previous courses. Students take a greater role in planning, immersing, and exploring their narrower range of subjects.

Your success at A Level or BTEC will be built on your management of tasks, lessons, and broader engagement with the subject. You will read around materials, reflect on topics covered and, most of all, gain a heightened sense of academic engagement that comes with maturity. In this way, you are preparing yourself to become a sustainable lifelong learner.

The period between (I)GCSEs and the commencement of Sixth Form courses gives you a great opportunity to break the shackles of the strict curriculum you have been studying, and to start exploring your chosen areas. The suggestions in this booklet are designed to give you a good foundation for you to enjoy getting to know your subjects before we begin more structured learning in September.

You are encouraged to engage with the Head of Department of each of your subjects; see them as a mentor who can help guide you through the myriad resources and suggested tasks found within this booklet.

The Summer before you embark on Sixth Form studies can also be a good time to accrue valuable work experience, and it is worth reaching out to existing companies that offer such opportunities. Aside from parental contacts, there are portals on the internet that are set up hubs for such opportunities, like [Student Ladder](#).

Work experience: finding it, applying for it, and then doing it is a valuable endeavour. In addition, using LinkedIn to establish yourself and begin to build your own 'brand' may be a route you are comfortable trying. There are many commercial opportunities to engage in online courses, varying from free MOOCs hosted by universities (such as [FutureLearn](#), [EdX](#), and [Coursera](#)) to costly private businesses. If gaining work experience is something that interests you, then please get in touch with Mr Werner Nel, Head of Careers and Enterprise.

Good luck, and happy learning.

Mark Seccombe, Deputy Head Academic

SIXTH FORM LEARNING: FROM THE HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

This booklet has evolved over recent years and is just as relevant to those joining us in the Sixth Form as it is to our returning Year 11. Its purpose is to ensure you are well signposted to useful, proven, and interesting materials. Many students are ready for more stimulus and challenge by the time mid-August comes, sometimes quite a long time before.

All the suggestions and tasks in this booklet are optional, and you can do as many as you like. The subjects have offered a comprehensive list of suggestions and links, designed for you to dip into, rather than work your way through in full.

That said, we do recommend you do something with your mind to avoid the dangers of mental atrophy over the summer months. This is especially important for those picking up brand-new subjects in the Sixth Form. Preparatory reading is a really useful way of mapping out how your new subject fits together. It will introduce you to basic concepts, and give you the right vocabulary to help instil your confidence during your first term of the course. Finally, preparatory reading also provides a good opportunity for you to ensure you have selected the right subjects!

One of the major changes to Sixth Form independent study is the need for you not to rely solely on your teachers to set (and mark) assignments, but for you to also become your own manager, setting some of your own additional tasks. You may need to do this to discover what is not covered in lessons and to help assimilate core syllabus materials. The guided suggestions in this booklet may also give you a chance to experiment with these new ways of learning.

Finally, please do not be afraid of messaging Heads of Departments to ask them questions for further direction. It is important that you foster the new collaborative partnership we step up to in the Sixth Form, as it will be key over the next two years.

James Bamforth, Head of Sixth Form

BIOLOGY

SYLLABUS EDEXCEL BIOLOGY A (SALTERS NUFFIELD) FROM 2015

Go to [this website](#) and look at the specification and course materials. The two topics that we will start with are Biochemistry and Cells, so it would be useful to look at materials in these areas. Heart and Circulation is another early topic that you might prefer. There is no requirement for you to do any of this work but if you think you might find the course difficult, you could give yourself a head start.

The STEM website has good resources for learning at home: <https://www.stem.org.uk/alevelscience>

CELLS

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

BODY CHEMICALS

The [Open University](#) has some excellent free courses.

FutureLearn also has good free courses: e.g. [Biochemistry](#)

The [Edexcel Transition Guide](#) gives some notes on early topics and has questions for you to try. The questions are toward the end of this pack.

The [Oxford Transition Guide](#) gives a good idea of the level of maths required.

Read some articles from the magazine *Biological Sciences Review* to get an idea of A Level standard.

You can access the magazine through the library section on the Pangbourne Student Hub.

Resources > Students > Library > E-Resources > Hodder Education Magazines > Biological Sciences Review Archive (E.g. Volume 29, Issue 3.)

Future Medics

Here are some links to medical courses, associations, and programmes. These are rarely free but they are one way to get the best information and experiences at the moment.

The Medic Portal	https://www.themedicportal.com/
Medicine in Action	https://thetrainingpartnership.org.uk/study-day/medicine-in-action-online-3-07-2020/
InvestIN Education	https://investin.org/pages/choose-your-career
Premed Projects	https://www.premedprojects.co.uk/
British Medical Association	https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/studying-medicine

BUSINESS

Without realising, you are interacting with business activities on a daily basis. As we progress through the course, we will be drawing on situations which occur in the world around us. An interest in current affairs is essential for good performance in Business. You should try to catch up with the news as often as you can, ideally every day, but certainly a couple of times each week. The following are good places to start:

- **TV News** - *Sky News* and *Channel 4 News* tend to have the best coverage of business and economic issues, but the *BBC* is also pretty good.
- **Newspapers** - *The Times*, *The Independent*, and *The Guardian* are the best of the standard press. *The FT (Financial Times)* is also good, but it is quite technical at times. Be aware of ideological bias in the news and try to get a balanced view. *The Economist* is a very good source of information.
- **The 'Business As Usual' Podcast** - Created by a Business teacher who picks apart the most current scenarios and relates them to the syllabus.

Read books! A growing number of businesses and entrepreneurs are choosing to publish their stories. These can be useful sources of information about what makes businesses successful and the challenges which need to be overcome. There are several out there and you can choose a business which you find interesting.

- *The Everything Store* by Brad Stone
- *Grinding It Out* by Ray Kroc
- *How Google Works* by Eric Schmidt & Jonathan Rosenberg
- *Megachange: The World in 2050* by The Economist
- *What You See Is What You Get* by Alan Sugar
- *The Upstarts: How Uber and Airbnb Are Changing The World* by Brad Stone
- *Business for Punks* by James Watt

Watch films and documentaries. Below is a suggested list:

- *Inside the Factory* (BBC)
- *Undercover Boss* (Channel 4)
- *The Social Network* (Netflix)
- *Fyre - The Greatest Party That Never Happened* (Netflix)
- *Moneyballs* (Netflix)

CHEMISTRY

We would strongly recommend students get hold of a copy of [this](#) CGP transition guide.

This Kindle book is worthwhile reading too, and at under £3 it is also good value, so it is strongly recommended.

The CGP transition guide should be read over the Summer - the content is not any deeper than GCSE, but it is the knowledge that needs to be soundly inherent as you embark on the A Level. We will be using this material as a beginning to the course, to help bridge the chasm between GCSE and A Level.

Please do not get into the mindset that “Everything we learnt at GCSE is wrong” - it is not wrong, so do not ‘unlearn’ it all! However, at A Level we look at the same ideas in much more detail and with a greater level of rigour. For example, at GCSE the electron arrangement of a sodium atom is 2.8.1. This remains true at A Level, but we need to know which orbits the electrons occupy, as well as the distance-from-the-nucleus shell principle.

We follow the Edexcel A Level specification at Pangbourne.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Download Visual Studio 2022 [Community Edition](#) from Microsoft. **Note:** this is Windows only. A Mac version is also available, however this is more limited in use and you are advised to use Windows (where possible).

Installing Bootcamp on a Mac [Intel only] will allow you to run a retail version of Windows 10, and hence the Windows version of Visual Studio. Other software packages like Parallels can also be used.

Familiarise yourself with IDE (Integrated Developer Environment) and try to create a few simple programs. Follow the Visual Studio basic introduction [here](#).

The following websites contain a series of tutorials using either Visual Basic or C# to create some simple programs. The programs are in order of difficulty but you can increase the project's difficulty by using C#, which is more challenging but is a more useful programming language in the real world.

- Project 1 - [Picture Viewer](#)
- Project 2 - [Maths Quiz](#)
- Project 3 - [Matching Game](#)

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Become a visual magpie! Everything that you interact with on a daily basis is purposefully designed and inspiration can be drawn from the useful, beautiful, and the frustrating. Start to record these inspirations - whether through your own photography, doodling, or taking screenshots and setting up a folder on your device.

Make use of social media. It is a highly powerful tool in the world of design, as it gives you access to highly successful design agencies, as well as glimpses into the work of degree level students. Follow these people and consider setting up your own design-based account.

Be aware of the world around you - economic and environmental factors play a huge role in influencing designers. New technologies and materials are constantly emerging and being explored. Be curious!

The [Design Museum](#) is certainly worth a visit. Consider taking a trip into London over the Summer break to see some design exhibitions or shows; discover what interests you most and record your findings.

Magazines such as Wired and Wallpaper showcase new ideas. [Dezeen](#) and [Designspiration](#) are great online starting points for inspiration too, but there are so many other resources available. Take note of the designers you find most inspiring. Be interested and interesting!

Continue to experiment with 3D design software like Fusion 360. This software forms a major part of the design process in Sixth Form and any improvement in skills would be of enormous benefit to you.

TRINITY EXAMS IN DRAMA OR COMMUNICATION SKILLS

As the choice of material you perform is completely up to you, please be reading as much as you can and watch as much theatre as you can. Read an assortment of plays, newspapers, and online articles - anything that interests and excites you.

Also look at which exam you might want to take - you have a choice of [Acting](#), [Communication Skills](#), [Performance Arts](#) - including exams in Technical Theatre (lighting, sound, set, costume), and [Speech and Drama](#).

Please feel free to use [Digital Theatre Plus](#) and check out [National Theatre](#).

Be inquisitive about everything you read and watch, as you could end up performing it as one of your exam pieces! For further information, please email the Head of Trinity Drama, Miss Rhiannon Bland, at: rhiannon.bland@pangbourne.com.

ECONOMICS

Start to engage with material which boosts your understanding of the government, firms (businesses), and society. As we progress through the course, we will be drawing on situations which occur in the world around us. An interest in current affairs is essential for good performance in Economics. Economic policies are in the news all the time at the moment, whether in association to Brexit or the COVID-19 recovery. You should try to catch up with the news as often as you can, ideally every day but certainly a couple of times each week. The following are good places to start:

- **TV News** – *Sky News* and *Channel 4 News* tend to have the best coverage of business and economic issues but the *BBC* is also pretty good. Look out for programmes which deal with topical issues like plastic pollution.
- **Newspapers** - *The Times*, *The Independent* and *The Guardian* are the best of the standard press. *The FT (Financial Times)* is also good but it is quite technical at times. Be aware of ideological bias in the news and try to get a balanced view. *The Economist* is a very good source of information.

Read some books! An understanding of economics is becoming more fashionable and, as such, there is an ever-increasing amount of consumer economics books out there. Here are some you ought to try. They are arranged in approximate order of complexity so it is better to start at the top of the list:

- *Freakonomics/Superfreakonomics* by Steven Levitt & J. Dubner
- *The Economic Naturalist* by Robert H. Frank
- *Fifty Things that Made the Modern Economy* by Tim Harford - a book to go alongside the podcast which looks at everything from concrete, to baby formula, and insurance. The podcasts can be found [here](#) (10-minutes each).
- *The Undercover Economist* by Tim Harford
- *50 Economics Ideas You Really Need to Know* by Ed Conway

Watch and listen. Some good options are:

- *The Big Short* (Netflix)
- *Inside Job* (Netflix)
- *The New Global Economics* (BBC Radio 4)

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Students interested in taking A Level English Literature should be reading for enjoyment. The A Level requires a huge amount of independent reading and you should be prepared to read a range of texts. There are some excellent book recommendations on the English Department website [here](#), or you could pick a novel from the [recommended reading list](#) for A Level candidates. These are not necessarily examined texts, but, depending upon your enjoyment, you may choose to focus on one or more of them for coursework.

Visiting the theatre is an excellent way to engage with new and exciting texts. You should try to see live performances and watch recorded film adaptations of Shakespeare's plays, or screened versions of more modern drama productions. See the links below for online resources.

[Digital Theatre Plus- Login Information](#)

Username: pangbournestudent@pangbourne.com

Password: pangbourne122

[National Theatre](#)

The National Theatre is streaming a raft of different plays on YouTube.

Other excellent West End and regional theatres include:

- The Almedia Theatre
- The Old Vic
- The Young Vic
- The Globe Theatre
- The RSC (Stratford-Upon-Avon)
- Manchester Royal Exchange
- The Crucible Sheffield
- The Tron Theatre Glasgow
- The Edinburgh Festival (which takes place in August)

You can find the Edexcel A Level English Literature specification [here](#). The Prose list is an excellent starting point. Check with your Head of Department to see if the texts for next year's Prose have been confirmed or not and then use the list to kickstart reading for your own choice of coursework texts.

EPQ (EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION 3)

Year 11 pupils who are interested in challenging themselves, preparing for A Levels, and using this additional time in June and July to improve their research skills should consider doing an EPQ and start working on it during the Summer. Please email Mrs Emma Green at: emma.green@pangbourne.com for more information.

An EPQ is a great option to show universities that you are learning to work independently, and it is also a great way to delve into a subject or topic that you want to study at university or have a future career in.

If you have signed up for four A Levels and are thinking of dropping one, an EPQ is a good way to continue to study that subject or interest area, as well as to show universities that you have taken the initiative to balance your EPQ with other more traditional A Levels.

Alternatively, if you have signed up for three A Level or BTEC qualifications but wish you could take a fourth, or couldn't fit in a subject you love, an EPQ is a wonderful opportunity to tailor your Sixth Form experience to truly reflect your unique interests and strengths.

EPQs are not just long research papers! They can be performances, experiments and/or designs, and design technology or art creations.

This past year, we had our largest EPQ group yet, with over twenty students working towards their EPQ qualifications - in past years over 50% of students have achieved an A or B on their projects - equivalent to half an A Level grade in UCAS points.

To learn more about what you can do in an EPQ, and what universities say about taking an EPQ, click [here](#).

[Here](#) is the EPQ specification.

FRENCH

There are a range of activities that you can do throughout the Summer in preparation for starting the French A Level in September. Some examples are:

- If possible, spend some time in France this Summer and speak as much French as you can.
- Watch French films (with subtitles if required).
- Watch the film *La Haine*, which is an A Level film.
- Try to watch the news. A good website to watch the news is: <https://www.france24.com/fr/>
- Ensure you know all your tenses by heart, including the irregular verbs (present, near future, simple future, perfect, imperfect, conditional, and reflexive verbs). Use the following website to help with this: <https://www.languagesonline.org.uk>
- Look over the A Level specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652>
- Try to read some books in French. You can get ones which have the English translations on one side and the French on the other side. *Le Petit Nicolas* is a good start. *No et moi* is another good book and is also a possible A Level set text. If you are feeling ambitious, read *L'étranger*, which is also an A Level set text.
- Login to Kerboodle (your usual username and password) and look over the first year of the A Level course: www.kerboodle.com

GEOGRAPHY

READ, READ, READ - every day! The Geography course in the [new specification](#) is no longer a case of learning 10 case studies and regurgitating them in different formats. The exams are almost a general knowledge/common sense test. It requires the application of the taught material to a broad range of different world contexts that students are unprepared for. Successful Geography students must be immersed in critical analysis of the world around them through wide ranging reading and study every day.

Things to look for in the news include: global issues, urban issues, trade and economic issues, NATO issues, UN governance, IMF issues, Heathrow expansion, America vs China issues, immigration issues, demographic issues, Antarctica, South China Seas.

Free sources of news (at the time this guide was published):

- The Washington Post
- The Guardian (e.g., [Guardian Cities](#), [Guardian Environment](#))
- The BBC
- Huffpost

We also recommend reading before the course starts:

- [Prisoners of Geography](#) by Tim Marshall
- [I am Malala](#) by Malala Yousfzai
- [The Kite Runner](#) by Khaled Hosseini
- [Factfulness](#) by Hans Rosling

Subscribe: *The Week*, *The Economist*, *National Geographic* or *Geographic* (Magazine of the RGS).

Ten films or series that all geographers should watch:

- *Black Hawk Down* - an action film following the disastrous involvement of the US special forces in the Somali Civil War during 1993.
- *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* - following the life of Nelson Mandela and the civil rights campaign under apartheid in South Africa.
- *Slumdog Millionaire* - a story of love and loss in Dharavi Slum, Mumbai.
- *Before the Flood* - Academy Award-winning film on climate change.
- *City of God* - the hard lives of Rio's Favela dwellers.
- *Forrest Gump* - a brief history of the 20th century through the eyes of Forrest Gump.

- *Platoon* - Oliver Stone's genre defining Vietnam War film.
- *Planet Earth I and II* - the entire box set.
- *Race Across the World BBC* - series one and two, following couples racing across the world on a tight budget.
- *Long Way Round, Up and Down* - series following Ewan McGregor and a friend as they motorbike around the world.

HISTORY

Having just completed your GCSE course we would like you to rediscover the joys of reading, or learn to enjoy reading for the first time. You will be expected to do a lot of reading at A Level, so developing a state of mind where you do not fear reading long passages is important.

We recommend reading historical fiction as this can help a great deal because it will give you not only information about the time, but also a story that you can enjoy. This will hopefully develop a good reading habit and maybe even a skill/pleasure for life. Here is a list of historical fiction (you do not have to read them all), but try picking a series (or individual book) and give them a go.

Tudor England

- [The Shardlake series](#) is a historical fiction series about a hunchback lawyer/detective living in the reign of Henry VIII. They are fun to read and get better with each book.
- [Wolf Hall series](#) is about Thomas Cromwell. It is a much harder book to read than Shardlake, but the detail and knowledge it contains is brilliant and fascinating. It is good for the advanced reader.
- [Philippa Gregory](#) has written many different books set in and around the Tudor period. As an example, *The White Princess* is about Henry VII.
- [Ken Folletts Kingsbridge series](#) is great history fiction and covers part of Tudor England, focused around Elizabeth I. The three books are called *Pillars of the Earth*, *World without End*, and *Column of Fire*. They are a great trilogy, set over a number of centuries. Although the first two in the series do not apply directly to our courses, the third does. The books are brilliant reads, albeit big books.

Germany 1920-1945

- Ken Follett has written a brilliant series called the *Century Trilogy* which starts in 1900. It covers a number of families across the world (Russia, USA, France, Germany, and Britain) as their lives become entangled and touch on the major events of the 20th century, including Nazi Germany. The first book called *Fall of Giants* is set in 1900 - 1926, the second in 1933 - 1948 is called *Winter World*, and the third book takes place during 1961 - 1991 and is called *Edge of Eternity*. You need to start with *Fall of Giants* as you read about generations of the various families. [The books](#) are gripping and exciting, and highly recommended.
- The [Bookthief](#) by Markus Zusak is a wonderful, yet moving, story, and was made into a film in 2013.

Hopefully you will read one or two on this list and love them. If you can then it will make the history you learn about more fascinating for you.

You **must** start the course with two [Lever Arch A4 files with 24 dividers](#) in each. We would recommend a [green one](#) for Tudor England and a [hot pink](#) one for Nazi Germany. Please arrive on the first day with this equipment.

MATHS & FURTHER MATHS

There are some transition books available on Amazon that will prevent you from getting 'too rusty' with your algebra and number skills, something that is very important after such a long break.

Websites

- A transition workbook is available from [Sparx](#) which covers the essential skills so that you do not get rusty over the Summer.
- **Integralmaths.org** - email Mr Beake for a login. Complete the sections on 'Problem Solving', 'Surds and Indices', and 'Quadratic Functions'. Do all the walkthroughs and section tests.
- For those of you with access to **MyMaths**, there are a couple of good exercises and worksheets to complete. After logging in, navigate from the left hand menu to A Level > Pure > Algebra and try any of the first nine worksheets.
- The website **brilliant.org** contains some excellent mathematical and problem solving brain teasers that will help you when tackling the challenge of A Level.
- The **SUMAZE apps** are available on Google Play and in the App Store. These are fun games with real mathematical problem solving and thinking behind them.

Programmes worth watching

- *Magic Numbers* by Hanna Fry
- *Story of Maths* by Marcus du Sautoy

Books worth reading

- *Hello World* by Hanna Fry
- *Infinite Powers* by Steve Strogatz
- *Thinking Better: The art of the shortcut* by Marcus du Sautoy

Any pupil looking to take Maths in the Sixth Form needs to have a calculator with the minimum specification required by OFQUAL. We recommend the Casio fxCG-50 graphics calculator as it has significant advantages over the Casio Classwiz 991-EX calculator (white cover). Students can purchase a CG50 through the College once they start in the Sixth Form, which is at a discounted rate compared to buying it yourself.

MEDIA STUDIES (BTEC)

The Creative Digital Media Production BTEC looks at the wide world of media. You should have an understanding of a range of media products before you start the course. You should create a simple log of what you watch and read, making a note of the title, a summary of the contents, how it appeals to the audience, and why the producer has made the decision to present the product in a certain way.

Make sure you read some **magazines** - these can be printed versions or digital. Do not just look at a specialist area you are interested in, consider how magazines are constructed to appeal to a wide or niche audience, and how the online industry is taking over the magazine market.

Look carefully at **advertising**, which could be print, television, or online advertising. See if you can look at an advertising campaign that spreads across these formats and consider how the adverts are adapted to appeal to different audiences who are accessing them via different media.

Watch **films** and **TV** - this is the best homework that there is! Watch a variety of TV programmes and films from a range of genres including documentaries, entertainment, news, and special interest.

Spend some time watching **music videos**. There are lots of channels specialising in this, but you can see most things on YouTube. Do not just focus on one artist or genre, look at a number of different examples.

Look at a variety of **websites** - these could be for well known brands or blogs about a certain interest. You should consider how they are appealing to their users.

Engage in **digital games**. Although you may not have a video game console, many games now have apps available for use on mobile devices. What have been the biggest franchises in digital games over the past five years? Do a little research into their appeal.

Bring your media log into College in September to discuss your initial explorations with your teacher.

You can find out more about the course [here](#).

MUSIC

The A Level Music course leads directly on from the GCSE course but there is greater depth of study required in the set works. The course focuses on the key skills of Appraising and Analysis, Performance, and Composition.

Listen to as much music as possible but specifically:

- *Symphony No 104 in D major - The 'London'* by Haydn
- *Symphony No 4 in A major - The 'Italian'* by Mendelssohn
- As many different types of songs from major musicals - suggested shows might include: *Wicked*, *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Carousel*, *Cabaret*, and *Oklahoma*.

Watch Howard Goodall's *History of Music* and *Big Bangs*, both are easy viewing, but give an excellent overview of the evolution of Western Music. They are all currently available through YouTube. Goodall's *How Music Works* series are also good and, again, are mostly available on YouTube.

Practice! Most students will opt to take the major performance route in the course (Option A) which means that the Summer months are an ideal opportunity to further develop instrumental technique and repertoire knowledge. To ensure a high grade in Performance at A Level, practice should be regular and focused. Start listening carefully to famous performers on your instrument, and think about how they interpret the works that they perform.

General knowledge - it will be helpful for you to have a secure overview of the traditional time periods of Western Music - Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20th century. It will also be helpful for you to have an overview of developments in Popular Music during the 20th century.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Purchase a digital SLR camera. The recommended models are:

- Canon 1300D/2000D/4000D
- Nikon D3400/3500D

Earlier models of these cameras are also appropriate choices, as are more sophisticated SLRs from either of these manufacturers. Cameras without full manual control and interchangeable lenses are not appropriate.

Use the camera to make an initial portfolio of work (no editing required at this stage). The portfolio should consist of at least ten images from different sources. You should be able to discuss briefly why you think each image is interesting.

Please read *Read This if You Want to Take Great Photographs* by Henry Carroll, as it will help you to create your portfolio and get a better start on the A Level course.

If you find yourself in need of inspiration, please do browse these photographic sites and familiarise yourself with current artistic practice:

Photographers, Journals and Blogs

- <http://erickimphotography.com/blog/>
- <https://fineartphotoawards.com/>
- <https://florianruiz.photoshelter.com/index>
- <http://shooterfiles.com/start-here/>
- <http://www.luminous-lint.com/app/home/>
- <http://www.famousphotographers.net/>
- <https://www.thephotoargus.com/>
- <https://www.widewalls.ch/>
- <https://www.lensculture.com/explore/award-winners/emerging-talent-awards-2018>
- <https://www.bjp-online.com/>

Galleries

- <http://photography-now.com/exhibition/?type=A>
- <http://www.howardgreenberg.com/exhibitions>
- <https://www.icp.org/browse?all/all/all/all/0>
- <https://aperture.org/>
- <https://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/>

PHYSICS

Everything that you want or could need to prepare yourself for your A Level course can be found on our [Physics Pupil Resources Site](#) transition webpage.

Main Resources

Our courses build directly from GCSE, so you need to keep your basics topped up:

- [This](#) transition pack for A Level Physics is perfect.
- [This](#) OUP A Level Science Transition resource offers additional questions, if needed.

Stretching beyond GCSE can be achieved through:

- **Isaac Physics:** start with their [transition boards](#) and then [choose from](#) Electricity or Skills (the first topics to be covered in September).
- **YouTube Channels:** Kurzgesagt, Professor Dave, Perimeter Institute, Veritasium, TED, and Minute Physics all offer opportunities to consider uncharted areas for you.

If you are thinking about your EPQ, or even as far as applying to university for a Physical Science:

- **Longer reads (all online):** [WIRED](#) and [Scientific American](#)
- **Podcasts ([BBC Radio 4](#)):** *The Life Scientific*, *The Curious Cases of Rutherford and Fry*, *The Infinite Monkey Cage*, and *More or Less*
- **Courses:** [FutureLearn](#) and [Open Learn](#) have a range of free STEM courses, from Galaxies to Graphing Techniques. Find something new... and master it!

POLITICS

Learn to enjoy reading. The politics course is a fascinating but content heavy course, so it will be important that you are comfortable with reading. Below we have suggested possible books that have a political intrigue feel to them. They are fictional, and hopefully they will help you get used to reading and enjoy it at the same time. Your course centres around British and American politics, so these books have elements of those two things within them.

English Politics

An easy read is Jeffrey Archer's [First Among Equals](#). It is about becoming a UK Prime Minister and it is a real page turning, political thriller. For a harder read there is Michael Dodds's trilogy which is all about dodgy deals and intrigue of UK politics. You do not have to read all three, but they are called [The House of Cards \(Book 1\)](#), [To Play a King \(Book 2\)](#), and [The Final Cut \(Book 3\)](#).

American Politics

[Shall We Tell the President?](#) by Jeffrey Archer, [The Plan](#) by Kevin Chavous, or [Deception](#) by Derrik Woodberry are thrillers involving presidential politics. These two books: [Supreme Justice](#) by Max Allan Collins and [The Chamber](#) by John Grisham are all about court cases and the Supreme Court in the USA.

Keep up with current affairs. Over the course of the next few months you should get used to reading the news. This means buying newspapers, but not the same one each time. Buy newspapers and compare their opposing views on key issues. For example, *The Guardian* will have a very different take on issues compared to the *Daily Mail*. Watch the news and watch Newsnight from time to time.

Watch TV shows for educational purposes and fun. You may recognise the name *House of Cards* in the book list. *House of Cards* was first a book, then it was turned into a UK [TV series about English politics](#), adapted by Netflix and turned American. The English version of this show is recommended.

If you want to get your fill of American political drama, the best show by far is [The West Wing](#). This is highly recommended and some of the text books reference this show.

For a bit of comedy, [Yes, Minister](#) and [Yes, Prime Minister](#) are British classics.

Finally, to keep up with comedy and American current affairs there is [Last Week Tonight with John Oliver](#). **Please note:** the programme can have some adult themes and humour, and it has a 15-certificate.

You must start the course with three [Lever Arch Files](#) - a red one for UK politics with [10 dividers](#), a blue one for US politics with [10 dividers](#), and finally a black one for Ideology with [20 dividers](#).

PSYCHOLOGY

The best Psychology students always benefit from reading around this subject and keeping up-to-date with current research and points of interest in the news. There are various platforms you can use to do this:

Documentaries

- [On the Psych Ward](#) by Stacey Dooley
- Louis Theroux (many titles)
- *Three Identical Strangers* (Netflix)
- [What makes a murderer?](#)

Websites

- [Research Digest](#) (research from The British Psychological Society)
- [Tutor2u](#)
- TEDtalks

Podcasts

- [All in the mind](#) (202 episodes on various topics in Psychology)
- [BBC Mind Changers](#)

Fiction

- *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lionel Shriver
- *Before I Go To Sleep* by S.J. Watson

Reading

- [Psychology Review](#) (includes a number of podcasts and quizzes)
- *The Lucifer Effect* - by Zimbardo
- *Opening Skinner's Box* by Lauren Slater
- *The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat* by Oliver Sacks
- *Welcome to Your Brain* by Sarah Aamodt & Sam Wang
- *The Boy who Couldn't Stop Washing* by Judith Rapoport
- *The Skeleton Cupboard* by Tanya Byron
- *Making a Psychopath: My Journey into 7 Dangerous Minds* by Mark Freestone

Films

- *Shutter Island* - Psychopathology
- *50 First Dates* - Memory
- *The Experiment* - Zimbardo's study
- *A Beautiful Mind* - Schizophrenia
- *As Good as it Gets* - OCD
- *The Breakfast Club* - Abnormality, Conformity
- *Girl Interrupted* - Abnormality
- *The Quiet Room* - Attachment

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (A LEVEL)

- Watch, read, and listen to sport in the news and media. Using the BBC Sport app is a great way of staying up to date with the latest sports related news and headlines.
- Watch some of your favourite sportspeople performing and ask yourself the questions: What makes them great? Consider it from psychological, physiological, and sociocultural perspectives.
- Visit the [PE website](#) and read the specification.
- Get to grips with remembering the major bones, muscles, and cardiovascular system in the human body by completing [this Summer work booklet](#).
- The following clips on YouTube will help you:
 - [This](#) has a helpful clip on the knee joint. It contains more detail than required but is also very useful for injuries.
 - The start of [this clip](#) has a good introduction to the elbow joint. The detail goes beyond what is required in places but is a useful overview.
 - [This](#) includes detail on the hip joint. Use the specification as a guide for content.

SOCIOLOGY

As sociology is the study of society it is important that you start to familiarise yourself with current social issues which we will be examining and discussing on the course over the two years. A key skill on the course is to be able to apply contemporary examples in your exam responses, so a good starting point is to get into the habit of reading and watching the news regularly:

- It is recommended that you watch *Sky* or *Channel 4* news each day to become familiar with the key social and political headlines of the day.
- *The Guardian*, along with other broadsheets like *The Independent*, are good to read regularly. Try and develop the habit of browsing the 'Education' and 'Society' sections of *The Guardian* website.

LEARN SOME THEORY.

At the core of the course are some key theories. In preparation, watch the following videos and make some notes or a revision poster:

- Functionalism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFgot8TJtmo&t=1s>
- Marxism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BC6WYXhY0co>
- Feminism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6DI-9pSW-4&t=570s>
- Action Theories (Interactionism): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ET-1VTAYiGw>
- Postmodernism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHBNTvIWczU&t=77s>

START TO READ MORE WIDELY.

A comprehensive reading list will be provided at the start of the course, but here are some Summer reading recommendations:

- *Born A Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah
- *Why I am no longer talking to white people about race* by Reno Eddo Lodge
- *Chavs: the dehumanisation of the working class* by Owen Jones
- *Gang Leader for a Day* by Sudhir Venkatesh
- *Everyday Sexism* by Laura Bates

WATCH AND LISTEN.

The following TEDtalks and podcasts will help you prepare for the course content:

- TEDtalk - *The danger of a single story* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- TEDtalk - *Human trafficking is all around you. This is how it works* by Noy Thrupkaew
- TEDtalk - *How fake handbags fund terrorism and organised crime* by Alastair Gray
- BBC iPlayer - *Small Axe* (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000qfb1/small-axe-series-1-education>)
- Radio 4 Thinking Allowed - *The Class Ceiling* (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000281t>)

SPORT (BTEC)

- Watch, read, and listen to sport in the news and media. Using the BBC Sport app is a great way of staying up to date with the latest sport-related news and headlines.
- Watch some of your favourite sportspeople performing and ask yourself the question: what makes them great? Consider it from psychological, physiological, and sociocultural perspectives.
- Read through the [specification](#) - Unit 1 starts on page 19. Take your time to read through this and highlight what you already have an understanding of from GCSE PE.
- Get to grips with remembering the major bones, muscles, and cardiovascular system in the human body by completing [this Summer work booklet](#).

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Read the news every day. Carry out some background reading on both Christianity and Islam - the [BBC religions](#) website gives a good summary. Watch documentaries, and have discussions and debates with friends and family about what you learn.

Ethics

We suggest that you watch the following short clips on the ethical theories you will be applying. Watch through once, then watch through again, pausing to reflect and note down your response.

Do not worry if you do not understand it all - even if you take one piece of new information, or form a perspective on the theory, then it is worthwhile.

[Utilitarianism](#), [Virtue Ethics](#), and [Natural Moral Law](#).

Islam

Watch [this clip](#) that gives an informative introduction to Islam.

New Testament

Get to know John's Gospel well. There are a number of set texts from chapters 1, 2, 5-6, 9-11, and 18-20. You do not need to know them from memory, but you do need a good recall of what is going on in the stories.

[Use this link](#) if you do not already have a Bible, and read any/all of the other Gospels. *Jesus: A Very Short Introduction* by Richard Bauckham is a useful read. It is short and designed for general reading (not specialists), and explains in detail a lot of the background information.

You can also watch any of the [Bible Project videos](#) which are available on YouTube. Start with the 'New Testament' or 'Biblical Themes' playlists.