

# Wider Reading and Discovery Lists for A-Level

Helping you fulfil your academic  
potential

These lists will give you a broader understanding of your chosen subjects, compliment your core reading and enable your academic success. Whatever you study, you should be developing your reading, comprehension and critical thinking skills.

However in depth subject knowledge can't only be found in books, journals or periodicals. Discover more by visiting museums, galleries, theatres and academic institutions, stimulating your imagination and enhancing your core studies.

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## **Art**

### **Texts to read**

- Story of Art by Ernst Gombrich
- Shock of the New by Robert Hughes
- The Art Book by Phaidon Press Ltd.
- Ways of Seeing by John Berger
- Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain by Betty Edwards
- Seven Days in The Art World by Sarah Thornton
- History of Beauty by Umberto Eco
- Steal Like an Artist by Austin Kleon
- The Art Forger by Barbara A. Shapiro
- Broad Strokes: 15 Women Who Made Art and Made History (in That Order) by Bridget Quinn

### **Places to discover**

- Barbican Art Gallery
- National Portrait Gallery
- West London Art Factory
- Westbank Art & Music
- The Tate Modern
- Royal Academy of Arts
- Saatchi Gallery
- London Gallery West
- Serpentine Gallery
- Somerset House
- Brent Artists Resource
- Tate Britain
- Whitechapel Gallery

## **Biology**

### **Texts to read**

- The Selfish Gene by Richard Dawkins
- The Epigenetics Revolution by Nessa Carey
- On the Origin of Species by Charles Darwin
- The Third Chimpanzee by Jared Diamond
- Darwin's Dangerous Idea by Daniel Dennett
- Genome by Matt Ridley
- What a Fish Knows by Jonathan Balcombe
- The Structure of Evolutionary Theory by Stephen Jay Gould

### **Places to discover**

- The Science Museum
- The Natural History Museum
- The Anatomy Museum
- London Museums of Health and Medicine
- The Hunterian Museum
- Grant Museum of Zoology

### **Other resources**

- New Scientist Magazine
- Discover Magazine
- BBC Focus Magazine

## **Business Studies**

### **Texts to read**

- The Lean Startup by Eric Ries
- Growing a Business by Paul Hawken
- How Google Works by Eric Schmidt and Jonathan Rosenberg
- The Google Story by David A. Vise, Mark Malseed
- Think and Grow Rich by Napoleon Hill
- The Startup Playbook by David S. Kidder

### **Places to discover**

- London Chamber of Commerce & Industry

## **Chemistry**

### **Texts to read**

- The Disappearing Spoon by Sam Kean
- Periodic Tales by Hugh Aldersey-Williams
- The Elements by Theodore Gray
- The Elements of Murder: A History of Poison by John Emsley
- The Periodic Kingdom by Peter Atkins
- The Joy of Chemistry: The Amazing Science of Familiar Things by Cathy Cobb and Monty L. Fetterolf
- Uncle Tungsten by Oliver Sacks

### **Places to discover**

- The Science Museum
- The Royal Institution
- The Faraday Museum
- The Fleming Museum @ Imperial College
- The Royal Society of Chemistry

## **Computer Science**

### **Texts to read**

- The Soul of a New Machine by Tracy Kidder
- Hackers: Heroes of the Computer Revolution by Steven Levy
- Algorithms to Live By: The Computer Science of Human Decisions by Brian Christian and Tom Griffiths

### **Places to discover**

- The National Museum of Computing
- The Science Museum

## **Design and Technology**

### **Texts to read**

- Materials for Design by Chris Lefferi
- Prototyping and model making for Product Design By Bjarki Harlgrimsson
- Design: The Definitive Visual History
- 50 Designers you should know by Claudia Hellman
- Design of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century by Charlotte Fiell
- Sketching and Drawing for product Designers(portfolio skills) by Kevin Henry

### **Places to discover**

- The Science Museum
- The V&A Museum
- The Design Museum

## **Drama**

### **Books about Acting**

- The Actor and the Target by Declan Donnellan
- An Actor Prepares by Constantin Stanislavski
- Building A Character by Constantin Stanislavski
- Creating A Role by Constantin Stanislavski

### **Set texts and wider reading**

#### **ANTIGONE**

- Antigone by Sophocles
- A Guide to Greek Theatre and Drama by Kenneth McLeish
- Greek Theatre Performance: An Introduction by David Wiles
- Rebel Women: Staging Ancient Greek Drama Today edited by John Dillon and Stephen Wilmer

#### **OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD**

- Our Country's Good by Timberlake Wertenbaker
- The Theatre of Timberlake Wertenbaker by Sophie Bush
- Timberlake Wertenbaker's Our Country's Good by Max Stafford-Clark and Maeve McKeown
- Letters to George by Max Stafford-Clark
- Actioning - and How to Do It by Nick Moseley

### **Books about Theatre Style**

- Modern Drama in Theory and Practice Vol.1: Realism and Naturalism
- Modern Drama in Theory and Practice Vol.3: Expressionism and Epic Theatre

### **Books about Theatre Practitioners**

- The Complete Brecht Toolkit by Stephen Unwin
- The Complete Stanislavsky Toolkit by Bella Merlin
- Theatre in Practice by Nick O'Brien
- Stanislavski in Practice: Exercises for Students by Nick O'Brien

### **Books about Devising**

- Through the Body by Dymphna Callery

- The Frantic Assembly Book of Devising by Scott Graham and Steven Hoggett
- Impro: Improvisation by Keith Johnstone

### Online Resources

- **Devising Theatre by David Farmer** - <https://dramaresource.com/devising-theatre/>
- **Digital Theatre Plus** - <https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education>
  - Some excellent guides on Antigone and Our Country's Good
  - Introductions to Stanislavski and Brecht
  - Guides to Devising

### Places to discover

- **National Theatre - Entry Pass**
  - Entry Pass is a free membership scheme for anyone aged 16 – 25.
- **Victoria and Albert Museum - Theatre & Performance: Rooms 103 - 106b**
- **LIFT Festival** - <https://www.liftfestival.com/>
  - LIFT HAS DONE MORE TO INFLUENCE THE GROWTH AND ADVENTURE OF ENGLISH THEATRE THAN ANY OTHER ORGANISATION WE HAVE.

*Sir Mark Rylance, LIFT Patron*

- **Camden Fringe** - <https://www.camdenfringe.com/>
  - Performing arts festival which takes place in Camden during August.

## Economics

### Texts to read

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism (Ha-Joon Chang) – challenges conventional thinking</li> <li>● Age of Discovery: Navigating the Risks and Rewards of Our New Renaissance: (Ian Goldin &amp; Chris Kutarna)</li> <li>● Alibaba: The House that Jack Ma Built (Duncan Clark) – The rise of the Chinese corporate giant</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Almighty Dollar (Dharshini David) – follows the journey of a single \$ to show how the global economy works</li> <li>● Capitalism Without Capital: The Rise of the Intangible Economy (Haskel and Westlake)</li> <li>● Capitalism: 50 Ideas You Really Need to Know (Jonathan Portes) – compact and excellent reference material</li> </ul> |
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- Choice Factory (Richard Shotton) – a story of 25 behavioural biases that influence what we buy
- Doughnut Economics (Kate Raworth) – challenges much of orthodox thinking in the subject
- Drunkard's Walk (Leonard Mlodinow) – a brilliant history of Maths with lots of relevant applications
- Economics for the Common Good (Jean Tirole) – applied micro from a recent Nobel prize winner
- GDP: A Brief but Affectionate History (Professor Diane Coyle) – really good on the GDP / well-being debate
- Grave New World: (Stephen King) – Former head of Econ at HSBC looks at the fracturing global economy
- Great Economists: How Their Ideas Can Help Us Today (Linda Yueh) – perspectives on contemporary issues
- Growth Delusion: The Wealth and Well-Being of Nations (David Pilling) – antidote to gospel of GDP
- Inequality (Anthony Atkinson) – a superb book on one of the defining economic/political issues of the age
- Inner Lives of Markets: How People Shape Them—And They Shape Us (Sharman and Fishman)
- Limits of the Market: The Pendulum Between Government and the Market (Paul De Grauwe)
- Misbehaving: The Making of Behavioural Economics (Richard Thaler) – a truly superb biography
- Plundered Planet: How to Reconcile Prosperity with Nature: (Professor Paul Collier) – development classic
- Poor Economics: Rethinking Ways to Fight Global Poverty (Banerjee & Duflo) – development economics
- Positive Linking – Networks and Nudges (Paul Ormerod) – good introduction to network economics
- Rise and Fall of Nations: Ten Rules of Change in the Post-Crisis World (Richir Sharma)
- Risk Savvy - How to make good decisions (Gerd Gigerenzer) – the world of heuristics and risk management
- Ten Great Economists (Philip Thornton) – biographical background, well worth a read
- The Box - How the Shipping Container Made the World Smaller and the World Economy Bigger, (Levinson)
- The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon (Brad Stone) – a great business page turner



- The Great Divide (Professor Joseph Stiglitz) – one of the classic critiques of globalisation
- The Great Escape (Professor Angus Deaton) – a broad sweep of economic history and poverty reduction
- The Undoing Project: (Michael Lewis) – Tracks the birth of behavioural economics, Kahneman and Tversky
- Thinking Fast and Thinking Slow: (Professor Daniel Kahneman) – the classic Kahneman epic on psychology
- Upstarts: How Uber and Airbnb are changing the world (Brad Stone)  
Follow up to his work on Amazon
- What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets (Michael Sandel) – Pure PPE bliss
- Who Gets What - And Why: Understand the Choices You Have; Improve the Choices You Make (Al Roth)
- Why Information Grows: The Evolution of Order, from Atoms to Economies (Cesar Hidalgo) – challenging
- World of Three Zeroes (Muhammad Yunus) – new book from founder of the Grameen Bank”

#### **Places to discover**

- The Migration Museum
- The Museum @ The Bank of England
- Royal Economic Society

#### **Other Resources**

- The Financial Times
- The Financial pages of any broadsheet newspaper
- The Economist
- The Economic Review

## **English Literature**

### **Texts to read**

- White Teeth by Zadie Smith
- Tender is the Night by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Tamburlaine the Great by Christopher Marlowe
- Hamlet and King Lear by William Shakespeare
- Atonement and Saturday by Ian McEwan
- The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro
- The Bell Jar and Collected Poetry by Sylvia Plath
- Beloved by Toni Morrison
- Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams
- Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
- Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
- Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy
- Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
- The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
- Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks

### **Poets to read**

- Andrew Marvell
- John Donne
- William Wordsworth
- John Keats
- William Blake
- Alfred Tennyson
- Robert Browning
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- Thomas Hardy
- Christina Rossetti
- Dylan Thomas
- Seamus Heaney
- Ted Hughes
- Anne Sexton
- Robert Frost

### **Places to discover**

- The British Library
- The Globe Theatre
- The National Theatre
- BBC Proms Literacy Festival
- Uxbridge Central Library

## Online Resources

BBC In Our Time – Listen to academics discuss your favourite novels and literary movements.

## French

### Texts to read

- Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
- Le Petit Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
- L'Étranger by Albert Camus
- Bonjour Tristesse by Françoise Sagan
- Les Mains Sales by Jean-Paul Sartre
- Boule de Suif et autres contes de guerre (Boule de Suif, Un Duel, Deux Amis, la mère Sauvage), Guy de Maupassant, 1880 (short stories)
- Le Château de ma Mère, Marcel Pagnol, 1957 (novel)
- Le Gone du Chaâba, Azouz Begag, 2005 (novel)
- Les Petits Enfants du Siècle, Christiane Rochefort (novel)
- Le Tartuffe, Molière, 1669 (play)
- L'Étranger, Albert Camus, 1942 (novel)
- No et moi, Delphine de Vigan, 2007 (novel)
- Thérèse Desquesroux, François Mauriac, 1927 (novel)
- Une si longue lettre, Mariama Bâ, 1981 (novel)
- Un sac de Billes, Joseph Joffo, 1973 (novel)

### Films to watch

- La Vie en Rose
- Amélie
- Paris, Je T'Aime
- Au Revoir Les Enfants

### Other resources

Have a look on <http://www.franceinlondon.com> to see French language cultural events, ranging from comedy and music to plays and book readings, occurring in London.

## **Geography**

### **Texts to read**

- Geography for Edexcel by Bob Digby,  
Oxford University Press

**As Geography is so diverse and far-reaching the reading list could be endless! If you are interested in a particular area of geography, then do a search on Amazon and read the reviews.**

### **Things to do**

Another way to prepare for A Level, is to watch the news on a regular basis.....the news is full of geography, especially with regard to disasters, climate change, environment, Industry and jobs and housing.

There are lots of Geography in the News Internet sites with good interesting Articles and Interactive activities. Some are indicated below:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Geography>

<http://www.geographyinthenews.org.uk/>

[https://www.sciencedaily.com/news/earth\\_climate/geography/](https://www.sciencedaily.com/news/earth_climate/geography/)

In addition, there are tons of Clips on You Tube on all topics studied. Just check they are from a reputable source.

The topics studied were included in the information you got on Options Evening.

### **Some good Geographical Websites**

Some of the best and most interesting websites include:

[www.Usgs.gov/natural\\_disasters.com](http://www.Usgs.gov/natural_disasters.com)

[www.Geolsoc.org.uk](http://www.Geolsoc.org.uk) (tectonics explained by the geological society)

<https://www.rgs.org/geography/> (Royal Geographical Society)

Once again, there are thousands of websites....just check they are from a reputable source, like BBC, Geographical Association etc.

David Attenborough documentaries are interesting and full of geography and ecology.

### **Magazine Subscription**

National Geographic

## History

### Texts to read

- Young Stalin by Simon Sebag Montefiore
- The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union by Martin McCauley
- Russia by Martin Sixsmith
- Russia under the Old Regime by Richard Pipes
- The Romanovs by Lindsey Hughes
- Russia: People and Empire by Geoffrey Hosking
- Tudor England by John Guy
- Reformation by Diarmaid MacCulloch
- Edward VI by Chris Skidmore
- Elizabeth by David Starkey
- 1536 by Suzannah Lipscomb
- The Later Tudors by Penry Williams
- *(Complimentary novels: Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel, The Last Tudor by Philippa Gregory and The Winter Queen by Boris Akunin)*

### Places to Discover

- The British Museum
- The Imperial War Museum
- The Churchill War Rooms
- The National Archives at Kew
- Visit Tudor landmarks like Hampton Court and Lambeth Palace.
- The Globe Theatre is a replica of an Elizabethan Play-House and often hosts historical open days and exhibitions.
- The British Library

### Other Resources

- History Today
- BBC History Podcast
- BBC In Our Time
- BBC History Magazine
- Hindsight Magazine
- Stuff You Missed in History Class Podcast
- The Historian Magazine

## **Law**

### **Texts to read**

- The Rule of Law by Tom Bingham
- Letters to a Law Student by Nicholas McBride
- What About Law? by Catherine Barnard
- Eve Was Framed by Helena Kennedy
- One L by Scott Turow
- The Trial Franz Kafka

### **Places to discover**

- National Justice Museum @ The Royal Courts of Justice
- The Old Bailey
- The Museum of London
- The British Library
- City of London Police Museum

## **Maths and Further Maths**

### **Texts to read**

- Why Do Buses Come In Threes? by Rob Easterway
- Fermat's Last Theorem by Simon Singh
- Alex's Adventures in Numberland by Alex Bellos
- The Simpsons and their Mathematical Secrets by Simon Singh
- Our Mathematical World by National Geographic

### **Places to discover**

- The Winton (Mathematics) Gallery @ The Science Museum

## **Media Studies**

### **Texts to read**

- Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media by Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky
- Understanding Media by Marshall McLuhan
- No Logo by Naomi Klein

- Influencing Machine by Brooke Gladstone
- Media Studies: The Basics by Julian McDougall
- Convergence Culture by Henry Jenkins

### **Places to discover**

- National Science and Media Museum
- BBC Television Centre
- British Newspaper Archive
- The British Library
- The National Archives, Kew
- The Cinema Museum, London

## **Philosophy and Ethics**

### **Texts to read**

- Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert M. Pirsig (general philosophy)
- At the Existentialist Café: Freedom, Being, Apricot Cocktails by Bakewell, S. (general philosophy)
- Sophie's World by Gaarder, J. (general philosophy)
- Why There Almost Certainly Is a God OR The Evidence for God by Keith Ward; OR The Reason for God by Timothy Keller (general Christianity)
- The Drowned and the Saved by Primo Levi (general ethics)
- Utilitarianism, J.S. Mill (AS)
- The Puzzle of Christianity/ The Puzzle of Evil / The Puzzle of Ethics by Peter Vardy (AS)
- The Gospels and Jesus by Graham Stanton (AS & A2)
- Who Wrote the Bible? By Richard Friedman (A2)
- Existentialism and Humanism J.P. Sartre (A2)
- Free Will by Sam Harris (A2)
- The God Delusion and The Blind Watchmaker by Richard Dawkins (A2)
- The Dawkins Delusion by A. McGrath (A2)

### **Places to discover**

- The Victoria and Albert Museum
- The Jewish Museum
- Museum of London
- The British Museum
- The National Gallery – Art and Religion Collection

## **Physical Education**

### **Texts to read**

- The Sports Gene by David Epstein
- Racing through the Dark by David Millar
- Race Against Me by Dwain Chambers
- Game of Shadows by Lance Williams
- Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer
- Fever Pitch – Nick Hornby
- A Day to Die For by Graham Ratcliffe

### **Places to discover**

- The Science Museum
- The World Rugby Museum at Twickenham
- Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum and Tour

## **Physics**

### **Texts to read**

- A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking
- The Elegant Universe by Brian Greene
- Astrophysics for People in a Hurry by Neil deGrasse Tyson
- Chaos: Making a New Science by James Gleick
- A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson

### **Places to discover**

- The Science Museum
- The Cavendish Museum
- The Royal Observatory
- The Museum of London
- The Royal Society
- The Francis Crick Institute

### **Other resources**

- Physics Today



## **Psychology**

### **Texts to read**

- How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie
- The Power of Habit by Charles Duhigg
- Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman
- Outliers by Malcom Gladwell
- The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat by Oliver Sacks
- Nudge by Cass Sunstein and Richard Thaler
- Incognito: The Secret Lives of the Brain by David Eagleman
- The Chimp Paradox by Steve Peters

### **Places to discover**

- The Freud Museum, London
- British Psychological Society
- Bethlem Museum of the Mind, London
- The Science Museum

## **Spanish**

### **Texts to read**

- La Casa de Bernarda Alba and Bodas de Sangre by Federico García Lorca
- One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez
- The House of the Spirits / La Casa de los Espíritus by Isabel Allende
- El Príncipe de la Niebla by Carlos Ruiz Zafón
- La Sombra del Viento by Carlos Ruiz Zafón
- El Chamán de la Tribu by Ricardo Alcantara
- El Entenado by Juan José Saer

### **Films to watch**

- El Camino/ The Way
- Pan's Labyrinth
- Maria Full Of Grace
- El Espíritu de la Colmena/ The Spirit of the Beehive

For information about Spanish cultural events, including film screenings, food tasting, music and exhibitions, please visit the British Spanish Society website:

[www.britishspanishsociety.org/whats-on/](http://www.britishspanishsociety.org/whats-on/)

## **Sociology**

### **Texts to read**

- The Tipping Point by Malcom Gladwell
- The Protestant Work Ethic by Max Weber
- The Social Construct of Reality by Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckmann
- Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser
- A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson
- At Home by Bill Bryson
- The Better Angels of Our Nature by Steven Pinker
- Lucy by Donald Johanson and Maitland A. Edey
- A Glasgow Gang Observed by James Patrick
- Gang Leader For a Day by Sudhir Venkatesh
- Chavs by Owen Jones
- Folk Devils and Moral Panics by Stanley Cohen

### **Places to discover**

- London Anthropology Day (9<sup>th</sup> July 2018) at The British Museum
- The Victoria and Albert Museum
- The Anthropology Collection at The Horniman Museum

## **Other Places for Curious Minds**

- Wellcome Collection
- Old Operating Theatre
- Museum at St Bartholomew's Hospital
- The Wallace Collection
- The Barbican
- Leighton House Museum
- Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition
- Smythson Stationery Museum
- Women's Library, London  
Metropolitan University
- Charles Dickens Museum
- Freud Museum London