**Super-curricular resources by subject**

*The following resources are suggested as a starting point. It is not an exhaustive list, nor does it mean that you* must *read or engage with all of these.*

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### Archaeology and Anthropology

University of Oxford’s suggested reading for [Archaeology and Anthropology](https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/media_wysiwyg/Arch_and_Anth_suggested_reading_list.pdf)

Oxford research:

* [Reconnecting Indigenous Nations with their Material Heritage](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/reconnecting-indigenous-nations-their-material-heritage)
* [Who Needs Migrant Workers](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/who-needs-migrant-workers)
* [Endangered Archaeology video](https://youtu.be/kUaSPa03WoM)

You may also like to take a look at the website [Discover Anthropology](http://www.discoveranthropology.org.uk/)

### Architecture

<https://www.applytocambridge.com/courses/architecture>

**Preparing portfolios:** For most architecture schools, the focus is on drawing skills in the general art field. It does not have to be specific to architecture, although life drawings of buildings are always good to see. Most importantly, is for the portfolio to demonstrate a creative process, be it architecture, or art. Students should be developing art projects through an iterative creative process utilising a variety of media in class. The portfolio should not be filled with lots and lots of project, but just 2 or 3 exceptional projects where the creative process is clearly demonstrated.

**Reading:** It is very important that the students are aware of the general field of knowledge in art and architecture. Books like *Story of Art, Ways of Seeing, The Classical Language of Architecture, Modern Architecture a Critical History, Architecture after Modernism, the Life and Death of Great American Cities, Learning from Las Vegas, Delirious New York, SMLXL, etc.*are good to read (to pick up something substantial about history and theory).

Influential journals like [The Architectural Review](https://www.architectural-review.com/)will give you an idea of the contemporary scene.

**Online resources:**Netflix has an amazing series called Abstract, 12 episodes each detailing the life, ideas, and approach of a contemporary designer. Harvard, MIT, and the AA (London) all have videos of lectures online, links below. There are some ’tabloid’ websites that are quite well followed by designers like Dezeen, Archdaily, etc.

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

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

<https://www.archdaily.com/881570/4-mit-architecture-courses-you-can-take-online-video-lectures-included>

<https://www.archdaily.com/573611/the-top-places-to-watch-architectural-lectures-online>

*See also Design, Physics and Maths*

### Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular)

University of Oxford’s recommended reading list for [Biochemistry](https://www.bioch.ox.ac.uk/recommended-reading-list)

### Biology

[Non-Fiction Reading List for Medics and Biological Natural Scientists (recommended by Dr Song and Dr Yu](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XY8p72zfLTULF5qcGPyZzgBrtZwmf-hlEpcKbr1Swbg/edit))

Read [New Scientist](http://www.newscientist.com/) and [National Geographic](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/) or any other Biology materials which you find interesting.

**University of Oxford research:**

* [Putting ticks on the map](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/putting-ticks-map)
* [Poetry in motion](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/poetry-motion)
* [Defeating dengue with GM mosquitoes](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/defeating-dengue-gm-mosquitoes)
* [The loneliness of the long-distance seabird](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/loneliness-long-distance-seabird)
* [Balancing conservation and commerce in the world’s forests](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/balancing-conservation-and-commerce-world%E2%80%99s-forests)

**Oxford research videos:**

* [The surprising uses of silk](https://youtu.be/RS-cjTkuX9w)
* [Bringing back the large blue butterfly - Jeremy Thomas](https://youtu.be/9k72VVSQxG4)
* [Preserving Endangered Trees: A Chilean case study](https://youtu.be/GzmNjMu8470)
* [Jatropha Curcas in the Global Race for Biofuels](https://youtu.be/gYlJzvBvsHg)
* [Peru's Data Collectors](https://youtu.be/v6XFSgXcVa4)
* [Researching the Reef: fish and coral of the Caribbean](https://youtu.be/2iQaDeGSj1w)

### Biomedical Sciences

University of Oxford’s introductory reading list for [Biomedical Sciences](https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/media_wysiwyg/Introductory_Reading_for_Biomedical_Sciences1.pdf).

**Oxford research:**

* [Bringing together universities, industry and the NHS to benefit people in the Oxfordshire region and beyond](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/bringing-together-universities-industry-and-nhs-benefit-people-oxfordshire)
* [Restoring Sight With Gene Therapy](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/restoring-sight-gene-therapy)
* [Cooling babies to save lives](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/cooling-babies-save-lives)
* [Innovative genomics](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/innovative-genomics)
* [Helping diabetes sufferers](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/helping-diabetes-sufferers)
* [Transforming the diagnosis of Tuberculosis](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/transforming-diagnosis-tuberculosis)
* [Mending broken hearts](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/mending-broken-hearts)
* [The million women study](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/million-women-study)
* [Helping the brain to control Parkinson’s](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/helping-brain-control-parkinson%E2%80%99s)
* [Combining cultures](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/combining-cultures)
* [Preventing strokes](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/preventing-strokes)

**Oxford research videos:**

* [The TOBY Trial - Cooling Babies](https://youtu.be/e5d6h03GcSw)
* [Tackling and tracking TB through DNA analysis](https://youtu.be/6dkaeg6_oiM)
* ["Bionic eye" trial in Oxford](https://youtu.be/3uRuIr35C5Y)
* [Fighting Arthritis: the development of anti-TNF therapies](https://youtu.be/dWx33R9WE2U)
* [The Paternal Age Effect: Identifying reproductive risks](https://youtu.be/NRj4IjkEvws)

### Chemistry

Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, ideal for Year 12 students who are thinking of applying to Oxbridge (Chemistry and Natural Sciences) - <http://www.c3l6.org/downloads>

UK Chemistry Olympiad, suitable for Year 12 and Year 13 chemists - <https://edu.rsc.org/resources/chemistry-olympiad-past-papers/1641.article>

**Reading list**

* Keeler, James and Wothers, Peter, *Why Chemical Reactions Happen* (Oxford)
* Keeler, James and Wothers, Peter, *Chemical Structure and Reactivity An Integrated Approach* (Oxford)
* Chemogenesis Webbook - <http://www.meta-synthesis.com/webbook.html>
* Ball, Philip, *Molecules - a very short introduction* (Oxford)
* Ball, Philip, *The Elements - a very short introduction* (Oxford)
* Elmsley, John, *Nature's Building Blocks: An A-Z Guide to the Elements* (Oxford)
* Elmsley, John, *The Elements of Murder: A History of Poison* (Oxford)
* Elmsley, John, *Molecules at an Exhibition: Portraits of Intriguing Materials in Everyday Life* (Oxford)
* Atkins, Peter, *The Periodic Kingdom: A Journey into the Land of the Chemical Elements* (Phoenix Press)
* Faraday, Michael, *The Chemical History of a Candle* (Dover)
* Ball, Philip, *Stories of the Invisible: A Guided Tour of Molecules* (Oxford)
* Elmsley, John, *The Shocking History of Phosphorus: A Biography of the Devil's Element* (Pan)
* Strathern, Paul, *Medeleyev's Dream* (Penguin)
* Roesky, H. W. and Mockel, K., *Chemical Curiosities: Spectacular Experiments and Inspired Quotes* (Wiley-VCH)
* Olah, George A., Goeppert, Alain and Surya Prakash, G. K., *Beyond Oil and Gas: The Methanol Economy* (Wiley-VCH Colour)
* Delamare, Franois and Guineau, Bernard, *The Story of Dyes and Pigments, Thames & Hudson*
* Ball, Philip, *Made to Measure: New Materials for the 21st Century* (Princeton)
* Morris, Richard, *The Last Sorcerers: The Path from Alchemy to the Periodic Table* (Joseph Henry Press)
* Lane, Nick, *Oxygen: The Molecule That Made the World* (Oxford)
* Polster et al., *Sciencia: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Astronomy for All* (Wooden Books)
* Kean, S., *The Disappearing Spoon* (Black Swan)
* Atkins, Peter, *Reactions: the Private Life of Atoms* (Oxford)
* Aldersey-Williams, Hugh, *Periodic Tales: The Curious Lives of the Elements* (Penguin)

University of Oxford’s introductory reading for [Chemistry](https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/media_wysiwyg/Introductory_reading_for_Chemistry.pdf).

**Oxford research:**

* [Turning orange into grapefruit](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/turning-orange-grapefruit)
* [Fuel cells inspired by nature video](https://youtu.be/W9nBcWsOmcM)
* [Chemistry in the garden video](https://youtu.be/2EkfdtXUj3U)

Read [Chemistry World magazine](http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/) and see other resources from the [Royal Society of Chemistry](https://www.rsc.org/resources-tools/).

### Classical Archaeology and Ancient History / Classics

Students should engage with whatever they find interesting about the ancient world - include the historical and archaeological evidence through which we learn about that world. Visit museums.

For Classics, read widely and think critically when looking at literature, history, philosophy, archaeology, and/or philology.

Good websites include the [British Museum](http://www.britishmuseum.org/), University of Oxford’s [Ashmolean Museum](https://www.ashmolean.org/treasures) and [BBC Radio 4 archives](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2Dw1c7rxs6DmyK0pMRwpMq1/archive) (The programme ‘In Our Time’, covers material from [Ancient Greece](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01dh5yg) and [Ancient Rome](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01dh5yg))

You can join social media sites such as Classics Confidential, Classics Outreach and Classics International.

**University of Oxford research:**

* [Classics for the people](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/classics-people)
* [Endangered archaeology video](https://youtu.be/kUaSPa03WoM)
* [Conserving by copying: 3D Printing Tutankhamun's Tomb video](https://youtu.be/78yHqP1lazA)
* [Classics for the people](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/classics-people)

### Computer Science

HK Olympiad in Informatics - <https://hkoi.org/en/>

International competitions in coding and computer sciences [https://www.competitionsciences.org/competitions/](https://www.competitionsciences.org/competitions/?ages=&type=&category=83&keyword=)

University of Cambridge’s preparing to study Computer Science <https://www.cst.cam.ac.uk/freshers>

University of Oxford’s Computer Science Alternative Prospectus <http://apply.oxfordsu.org/courses/compsci/>

University of Oxford’s introductory reading for prospective applicants to Computer Science can be found on the [departmental website](http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/why_oxford/background_reading.html).

Oxford’s [GeomLab website](http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/geomlab/home.html) will introduce you to some of the most important ideas in computer programming in an interactive, visual way through a guided activity.

**Oxford research:**

* [Securing the internet of the future](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/securing-internet-future)
* [Putting out ‘Digital Wildfires’ before they take hold](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/putting-out-%E2%80%98digital-wildfires%E2%80%99-they-take-hold)
* [The friendly face of robots](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/friendly-face-robots)
* [Safety by design](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/safety-design)
* [Computers at the heart of the matter](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/computers-heart-matter)

**Oxford’s research videos:**

* [60 Years of Computer Science](https://youtu.be/E86BQLGyIak)
* [Oxford and Cybersecurity 1 – the Internet and Policy](https://youtu.be/-Z5BzDknFmk)
* [Oxford and Cybersecurity 2 – Trusted Computing](https://youtu.be/aZ9y1FdlUL4)
* [Oxford and Cybersecurity 3 – The Academic Edge](https://youtu.be/Zyog4FQoZN0)

### Design

<https://99percentinvisible.org/>

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

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

### Earth Sciences

Read [New Scientist](http://www.newscientist.com/), [National Geographic](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/) or any other relevant materials which you find interesting.

**University of Oxford research:**

* [Preserving an exceptional fossil site for future generations](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/preserving-exceptional-fossil-site-future-generations)
* [Understanding oil-rich strata](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/understanding-oil-rich-strata)
* [Influencing global policy on mercury](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/influencing-global-policy-mercury)
* [Reducing toxic mercury emissions video](https://youtu.be/3EZilQpBBo8)
* [Tracking Life 40 Degrees South video](https://youtu.be/mgtvzrO8gNA)
* [Volcano hunting, Italy to Peru video](https://youtu.be/dLahqY76t0E)

### Economics and Management

Read ‘The Economist’ or the Economics pages of newspapers regularly.

University of Oxford’s [Economics reading list](https://www.economics.ox.ac.uk/b.a.-hons-in-economics-management) and [Management reading list](https://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/programmes/bahons-economics-and-management/reading-list)

Paul Krugman’s writings are highly recommended. Begg, Fischer and Dornbusch’s ‘Economics’ is one of the introductory textbooks widely used at Oxford.

**Oxford research:**

* [Looking back to understand the recent economic crisis](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/looking-back-understand-recent-economic-crisis)
* [Helping the UK understand China](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/helping-uk-understand-china)
* [The value of mutuality](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/value-mutuality)
* [Geometry to the rescue](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/geometry-rescue-0)
* [The surprising uses of auctions video](https://youtu.be/FH0pyaJ712E)
* [Research led to Supreme Court ruling on removal of UK employment tribunal fees video](https://youtu.be/SVT_wxuhZl0)

### Engineering

Online resources to test your knowledge:

* [*Isaac Physics*](https://isaacphysics.org/): this website contains lots of maths and physics problem solving questions.
* [*British Physics Olympiad*](https://www.bpho.org.uk/): this website contains lots of past papers and solutions of problem-solving type questions.
* [Next time](https://www.arborsci.com/): this website contains some quite fun questions designed to make you think about physical concepts.
* [I want to study Engineering](https://i-want-to-study-engineering.org/): this website is just as useful for all applicants not just those applying to engineering.
* [*Brilliant.org*](https://brilliant.org/): this website has some resources to test your mathematical and physics knowledge.

**University of Oxford research:**

* [Providing the technology for ‘space refrigerators’](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/providing-technology-%E2%80%98space-refrigerators%E2%80%99)
* [Improving hospitals’ ‘early warning’ systems](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/improving-hospitals%E2%80%99-%E2%80%98early-warning%E2%80%99-systems)
* [Data scientists to the rescue](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/data-scientists-rescue)
* [Driverless cars video](https://youtu.be/P12W12AmGi4)
* [Delivering drugs better-- using sound video](https://youtu.be/Izipok2VOxk)

University of Cambridge engineering entry requirements - <http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/engineering>

*Also see information for Physics*

### English

Read as widely as possible and think critically about all the texts – literary or not.

University of Oxford [Great Writers Inspire site](http://writersinspire.org/).

BBC Radio 4's '[In Our Time](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2Dw1c7rxs6DmyK0pMRwpMq1/archive)'.

<http://apply.oxfordsu.org/courses/english/>

<https://www.applytocambridge.com/courses/english>

University of Oxford [examples of interview questions](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/interviews).

**Oxford research:**

* [Dramatic research](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/dramatic-research)
* [Making Britain](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/making-britain)
* [Digitising Jane Austen's fiction manuscripts](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/digitising-jane-austens-fiction-manuscripts)
* [On the joy of not rehearsing Shakespeare video](https://youtu.be/beo530EzJnw)

**Reading list**

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### Fine Art

### University of Oxford suggest:

* Barthes, Roland, Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography (Vintage)
* Crow, Thomas, The Rise of the Sixties: American and European Art in the Era of Dissent (Everyman)
* Stallabrass, Julian, Contemporary Art: A Very Short Introductions (Oxford University Press)
* Smith, Terry, Contemporary Art: World Currents (Laurence King Publishing)

Attend exhibitions widely such as Hong Kong Museum of Art and look at art works as much as possible.

Other resources include:

* [https://hk.art.museum/networks](https://hk.art.museum/en_US/web/ma/resources/hong-kong-art-research-portal/networks.html)
* [https://hk.art.museum/exhibitions](https://hk.art.museum/en_US/web/ma/resources/hong-kong-art-research-portal/exhibitions/2019-now.html)
* the online edition of the US journal [Artforum](https://artforum.com)
* the excellent repository of moving image and sound art, called [UBU Web](http://ubuweb.com)
* [UK-wide exhibition listings](http://www.newexhibitions.com)

Journals:

* [E-flux](http://www.e-flux.com)
* [Frieze](http://www.frieze.com)
* [Art Rabbit](http://www.artrabbit.com)

### Geography

Royal Geographical Society 'Geographical Magazine'

Reading 'The Economist' is also recommended.

**University of Oxford research:**

* [Managing the risk of surface water flooding](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/managing-risk-surface-water-flooding)
* [Smartphones become Smart Stones](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/smartphones-become-smart-stones)
* [The value of a green and pleasant land](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/value-green-and-pleasant-land)
* [Getting critical](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/getting-critical)
* [How changes to inland waters impact regional climates](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/how-changes-inland-waters-impact-regional-climates-0)
* [Calculating the risks of coastal flooding and cliff erosion](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/calculating-risks-coastal-flooding-and-cliff-erosion)
* [How global warming is changing tropical forests](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/how-global-warming-changing-tropical-forests)

**Oxford research videos:**

* [Climate Network](https://youtu.be/khN5WLR_5lg)
* [Avoiding infrastructure failure](https://youtu.be/AUIkVT0QQVQ)
* [Stopping floods on the cheap: A success story from Yorkshire](https://youtu.be/Oh5sjqnTfB0)

### History

University of Oxford advises that the best way to prepare for a History degree is to read the history books which interest you, either related to your school work or ranging beyond it – and be prepared to discuss your views of those books and their arguments.

Follow up on references made in your school text books, and talk to your History teacher to recommend particular works on what you find interesting.

Read History magazines: [History Today](http://www.historytoday.com/) or [BBC History](http://www.historyextra.com/), which has [weekly podcasts](http://www.historyextra.com/podcasts). Also look for history books which are being reviewed in the press.

You may also like to explore the websites of public institutions which have excellent links to historical materials, such as the [British Museum](http://www.britishmuseum.org/) or [BBC Radio 4 archives](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2Dw1c7rxs6DmyK0pMRwpMq1/archive). For Ancient history, ‘In Our Time', covers material from [Ancient Greece](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01gnsp2) and [Ancient Rome](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01gnsp2).

Lastly, delving into some historical sources can be a great way to develop your ideas and understanding. You could try exploring literature, art, music or even films produced by different societies, and consider what these can tell us about the people of that time.

**Oxford research:**

* [Looking back to understand the recent economic crisis](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/looking-back-understand-recent-economic-crisis)
* [Helping the UK understand China](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/helping-uk-understand-china)
* [Classics for the people](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/classics-people)
* [Endangered archaeology video](https://youtu.be/kUaSPa03WoM)
* [Conserving by copying: 3D Printing Tutankhamun's Tomb video](https://youtu.be/78yHqP1lazA)

### History of Art

University of Oxford’s reading list for prospective applicants can be found on the [History of Art departmental website](http://www.hoa.ox.ac.uk/suggested-reading).

Explore the following resources:

* [BBC Radio 4 'In Our Time' - Culture archive](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2Dw1c7rxs6DmyK0pMRwpMq1/archive)
* [BBC Arts coverage](https://www.bbc.co.uk/arts)

### Human Sciences

Introductory reading lists from the University of Oxford’s [Institute of Human Sciences website](http://www.ihs.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/anthro/documents/media/Human%20Sciences%20BA%20Introductory%20Reading_0.pdf).

* Barley, N. (1983) *The Innocent Anthropologist* (Penguin)
* Boyd, R. and Silk, J. (2002) *How Humans Evolved* (W. W. Norton & Company)
* Dawkins, M. (1986) *Unravelling Animal Behaviour* (Longman)
* Castles, S and Miller, M. (1998) *The Age of Migration (2nd Edition)* (Macmillan)
* Diamond, J. (2005) *Collapse : How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* (Viking)
* Daughery, H. G. and Kammeyer, K. C. W. (1995) *An Introduction to Population* (2nd Edition), (Guildford Press)
* Evans-Pritchard, E.E. (1980) *Witchcraft Oracles and Magic among the Azande (abridged edition)* (Oxford University Press)
* Fuentes, A (2012) *Race, Monogamy, and other Lies they told you: Busting Myths about Human Nature* (University of California Press)
* Gould, S.J. (1980) *Ever Since Darwin* (Penguin)
* Johanson, D and Edgar, B. (1997) *From Lucy to Language* (Weidenfeld & Nicholson)
* Jones, S. (1993) *The Language of Genes* (Flamingo)
* Keesing, R.M. (1981) *Cultural Anthropology* (Holt, Rinehart & Winston)
* Kuper, A. (1996) *The Chosen Primate* (Harvard University Press)
* Leakey, R. (1994) *The Origin of Humankind* (Weidenfield)
* Livi-Bacci, M. (1994) *A Concise History of World Population* (Blackwell)
* Livi-Bacci, M. (2000) *The Population of Europe* (Blackwell)
* Milanović, B. (2011) *The Haves and the Have-Nots: A Brief and Idiosyncratic History of Global Inequality* (New York: Basic Books)
* Potts, M. and Sort, R. (2000) *Even Since Adam and Eve. The Evolution of Human Sexuality* (Cambridge University Press)
* Shapiro, J. (2011) *Evolution: A View from the 21st Century* (FT/Prentice Hall)
* Wills, C. (1997) *Plagues* (Flamingo)
* Wilson, E.O. (1992) The Diversity of Life (Penguin)

**Oxford research:**

* [Who needs migrant workers](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/who-needs-migrant-workers)

### Law

**Reading lists**

* <https://medium.com/think-cambridge-law/reading-suggestions-from-cambridge-law-students-d7e58b1a349f>
* <https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/applying-to-univ/reading-bank/?category=social-sciences&subcategory=law>
* <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/reading-lists/law-reading-list>
* <https://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/law-reading-list>
* <https://www.oxfordscholastica.com/blog/10-books-every-law-student-should-read/>
* [https://www.soas.ac.uk/blogs/study/law-an-introductory-reading-list/\](https://www.soas.ac.uk/blogs/study/law-an-introductory-reading-list/%5C)
* BBC's website [Law in Action](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006tgy1) (can download their podcasts)
* The [Guardian's law pages](http://www.theguardian.com/law)
* [Counsel magazine](http://www.counselmagazine.co.uk/)

University of Oxford suggests reading the court reports in broad sheet newspapers and that you may find one or more of the books from this list they have produced useful when preparing your application [Introductory reading for Law](https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/media_wysiwyg/Introductory_reading_for_Law.pdf).

It can be useful to look at the [list of law academics](http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/people/academics.php) on the departmental website and follow the links to their latest publications. All lecturers have their own lists, which change from year to year and include books and journal articles.

**Oxford research videos:**

* [Research led to Supreme Court ruling on removal of UK employment tribunal fees](https://youtu.be/SVT_wxuhZl0)
* [Tackling Adolescent to Parent Violence](https://youtu.be/Y3l0YvhZOr4)
* [Research in Westminster: Human Rights law and the treatment of rape victims](https://youtu.be/iOEPP0TXQzU)

News, websites, blog posts:

* <https://medium.com/think-cambridge-law/how-to-take-your-super-curricular-exploration-one-step-further-e1028cec3a56>
* <https://medium.com/think-cambridge-law/websites-for-exploring-your-subject-in-law-part-2-63f56e0bd5bb>
* <https://www.legalcheek.com/2020/03/the-10-best-legal-social-media-users-of-2020/>
* [http://www.keepcalmtalklaw.co.uk](http://www.keepcalmtalklaw.co.uk/)
* BBC Law in Action - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006tgy1>
* TED - [https://www.ted.com](https://www.ted.com/)

Activities:

* Model UN
* Work experience
* Taster Law Lectures from universities
* Summer programmes

### Material Sciences

University of Oxford’s introductory reading for prospective applicants to Materials Science can be found on the [departmental website](http://www.materials.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/booklist.html).

Read New Scientist magazine.

An internet search on Nanoscience or Nanotechnology will give useful background information in the sciences. Here are some further resources to test your knowledge:

* [*Isaac Physics*](https://isaacphysics.org/): This website contains lots of maths and physics problem solving questions.
* [*British Physics Olympiad*](https://www.bpho.org.uk/): This website contains lots of past papers and solutions of problem-solving type questions.
* [Next time](https://www.arborsci.com/pages/blogs-overview): This website contains some quite fun questions designed to make you think about physical concepts.
* [I want to study Engineering](https://i-want-to-study-engineering.org/): This website is just as useful for all applicants not just those applying to engineering.
* [*Brilliant.org*](https://brilliant.org/): This website has some resources to test your mathematical and physics knowledge.

**Oxford research:**

* [A new material for reconstructive surgery](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/new-material-reconstructive-surgery)

### Maths

<https://www.ukmt.org.uk/competitions/solo/senior-mathematical-challenge/archive>

<https://maths.org/step/assignments>

University of Oxford’s reading lists for prospective Mathematics applicants can be found on page 12 of the departmental prospectus, available to download from the [Maths Department website](https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduate-study/prospectus).

**Oxford research:**

* [Influencing HIV/AIDS policy in India through mathematical modelling](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/influencing-hivaids-policy-india-through-mathematical-modelling)
* [Helping the ‘Greeks’ to run faster](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/helping-%E2%80%98greeks%E2%80%99-run-faster)
* [Mathematics in the design and manufacture of novel glass products](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/mathematics-design-and-manufacture-novel-glass-products)
* [Mathematical solutions for industry](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/mathematical-solutions-industry)
* [Sharing the beauty of networks video](https://youtu.be/9dcdjcyA-8E)
* [A computer model of the heart video](https://youtu.be/Ys4gliaCMZ8)
* [Statistical expertise in drug discovery](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/statistical-expertise-drug-discovery)

*Also see Engineering and Physics*

### Medicine

Medical Schools Council (UK): Resources <https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/outreach-and-support/resources-for-teachers-and-students>

Medical Schools Council (UK): useful videos on admissions tests, interviews etc. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfhbMHK5Bk8mDypwSmkp8EQ>

Medical Schools Council (UK): preparation for interviews - [www.msccandidatepreparation.co.uk/](http://www.msccandidatepreparation.co.uk/)

The Medic Portal - <https://www.themedicportal.com/>

General Medical Council’s Duties of a Doctor (UK)- <https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/good-medical-practice/duties-of-a-doctor>

NHS Values (UK) - <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-constitution>

Other websites to explore may include:

* Newspaper pages such as the Guardian’s science page <https://www.theguardian.com/science> and The Telegraph’s health page <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/>
* Excellent resource on coronavirus and triage for medical students - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000fvzx>
* The British Medical Journal’s open access information - <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/>
* TED Talks can provide useful background information on health topics - <https://www.ted.com/talks>
* Science or health related content on Twitter
* The NHS Health Careers website - <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors>
* Brighton and Sussex Medical School has created a free virtual work experience course which explores several different medical specialities - <https://bsmsoutreach.thinkific.com/courses/VWE>
* RCGP has also created an interactive platform called Observe GP which highlights the many different aspects of working in primary care - <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/training-exams/discover-general-practice/observe-gp.aspx> **(this one might just be for residents of UK)**

**Work experience (opportunities during Covid-19)**

* <https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/making-an-application/work-experience>
* <https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2717/a-guide-for-gaining-relevant-experience-during-the-pandemic.pdf>

The medical schools have adapted their questions around work experience and are considerate of the lack of experiences available.  You will still be expected to have explored the career though and there are many online resources available.

* Medical Schools Council are signposting resources too.
* Networking, word of mouth - work together with fellow students
* Covid - opportunity to care for others and to see if you took the initiative to help - offering to shop for elderly neighbours, deliver meals to homeless, volunteering somehow where possible. Caring and compassion is at the heart of the NHS.
* Not a tick box exercise, it is about living it - reflect on any experience - think more creatively.
* Keep a reflective diary on what is happening in the news and online Many healthcare professionals are posting online about their experience of working during the pandemic.
* Listen to what they have to say and reflect on this. All healthcare professionals can be a valuable source of information and experience, not just doctors. After all, doctors work as part of large teams involving many healthcare professions, so demonstrating that you have a sense of those professions and how they work together will help you in both your personal statement and interview. Remember that some media sources are more reliable than others and that sometimes ‘political spin’ is put on articles to help create a headline.
* Make use of online resources There are some free online resources available that will give you a taste of what working in healthcare is all about. See above examples.
* If you can get out and about - best volunteering placements - where possible with patient contact (e.g. old people’s homes, disabled care centres). Experience of dealing with/communicating with people is very helpful.

Oxford reading list:

You may also be interested in the Oxford Medical School Gazette, for more information about the Gazette and subscription offers for Sixth Form students please see their [website](https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/get-involved/alumni/publications).

[Introductory Reading for Medicine](https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/media_wysiwyg/Introductory_Reading_for_Medicine_%282%291.pdf)

**Oxford research:**

* [Bringing together universities, industry and the NHS to benefit people in the Oxfordshire region and beyond](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/bringing-together-universities-industry-and-nhs-benefit-people-oxfordshire)
* [Restoring Sight With Gene Therapy](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/restoring-sight-gene-therapy)
* [Cooling babies to save lives](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/cooling-babies-save-lives)
* [Innovative genomics](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/innovative-genomics)
* [Helping diabetes sufferers](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/helping-diabetes-sufferers)
* [Transforming the diagnosis of Tuberculosis](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/transforming-diagnosis-tuberculosis)
* [Mending broken hearts](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/mending-broken-hearts)
* [The million women study](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/million-women-study)
* [Helping the brain to control Parkinson’s](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/helping-brain-control-parkinson%E2%80%99s)
* [Combining cultures](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/combining-cultures)
* [Preventing strokes](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/preventing-strokes)

**Oxford research videos:**

* [The TOBY Trial - cooling babies](https://youtu.be/e5d6h03GcSw)
* [Tackling and tracking TB through DNA analysis](https://youtu.be/6dkaeg6_oiM)
* ["Bionic eye" trial in Oxford](https://youtu.be/3uRuIr35C5Y)
* [Fighting Arthritis: the development of anti-TNF therapies](https://youtu.be/dWx33R9WE2U)
* [The Paternal Age Effect: Identifying reproductive risks](https://youtu.be/NRj4IjkEvws)

**Online classes**

<https://www.edx.org/course/subject/medicine>

<https://www.coursera.org/search?query=medicine&>

**Volunteering opportunities (these are just some of them):**

<http://www.hospicehome.hk/volunteer.php?lang=ENG>

<http://www.ha.org.hk/tkoh/hrc/hrc_e/volunteergroup_eng.html>

<http://www31.ha.org.hk/hkch/eng/supportus/volunteers.htm>

<http://hkbh.org.hk/eng/community_services_volunteer_service.php>

<https://www.tungwah.org.hk/en/social-responsibility/social-responsibility/volunteer/>

**Recommended reading**

[Non-Fiction Reading for Medics and Biological Natural Scientists](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XY8p72zfLTULF5qcGPyZzgBrtZwmf-hlEpcKbr1Swbg/edit)

**Question bank from SevenOaks**

**Super-Curricular Activities for UK (and HK) Medical School Applicants and how to prepare for medical interviews**

Medical schools are looking for a broad range of activities from beyond the classroom to demonstrate the applicants’ suitability to study Medicine. Interests, achievements and contribution to the community are taken into account in addition to academic ability.

**Scholastic activities:** Any scholastic activity would be considered, e.g. general reading, reading medical articles, debating, theological interests etc.

**Community activities:** Medical schools look for applicants who have participated as fully as possible in school, college or community life, making the most of the opportunities available to them. Applicants must also demonstrate some experience of society beyond their immediate environment. The student’s interests, achievements and contribution to their community are taken into account e.g. clubs, theatrical, religious etc.

**General:** Interests and achievements in other areas e.g. music, sport, first aid, etc.

**Work shadowing/observation:** Medical schools normally expect that applicants will have undertaken some voluntary work experience in a caring/health environment and/or observation in a medical clinical setting.

Medical Schools expect a range of work experience for two reasons. Firstly, experience in a clinical setting demonstrates that students have a realistic insight to the profession. It is important that applicants have an understanding of the complex nature of a doctor's role, as well as being aware of the highs and lows of the profession. Secondly, work experience is important in enabling students to develop the relevant skills and qualities that are essential to becoming a good doctor. A few examples are listed below:

* Ability to overcome setbacks
* Ability to work independently
* A sense of responsibility
* A sense of service to the community
* Communication skills
* Enthusiasm
* Experience of working with diverse groups
* Perseverance
* Self-insight

With new NICE guidelines suggesting a minimum age of 18 for work experience in hospitals, it may become harder for students to obtain work placements in a medical environment. Examples of other opportunities are listed below and these contributions to community are taken into account:

* Paid or voluntary work experience in a residential care home, hospice or similar.
* Working in a youth centre / as a leader for one of the youth organisations like the Scouts or Guides / working with young children / a sports coaching role.
* Participating in community volunteering schemes.
* Working with a diverse range of people (whether on a paid or voluntary basis).

In general, relevant activities should have commenced at least one year before application, be on-going and involve significant interactions with a broad range of people in a responsible capacity.

Medical schools do not rank applications on the amount of experience that has been obtained but they do expect that the time spent is stated.

**Paid or voluntary work:** Medical schools are particularly looking for evidence that the applicant has worked in a setting where they can interact with the general public e.g. in a pharmacy, check-out or restaurant.

**Interpersonal skills:** Communication skills and the ability to work successfully in a team are of great importance. Admissions teams look for evidence of team work, leadership skills, communication skills, acceptance of responsibility.

**Commitment to Medicine:** Medical schools are looking for evidence of commitment to, and realistic appreciation of, the academic, physical and emotional demands of medicine degree programme and career.

**NHS Constitution:** Many medical schools now expect applicants able to demonstrate in their personal statement and at interview the core values set out in the NHS Constitution. These core values are summarised as:

* Working together for patients, putting the needs of patients and communities first and speaking up when things go wrong.
* Respect and dignity, valuing every person - whether patient, their families or carers, or staff - as an individual and taking what others have to say seriously.
* Commitment to quality of care, earning the trust placed in the profession by insisting on quality and striving to get the basics of quality of care - safety, effectiveness and patient experience - right every time.
* Compassion, ensuring that compassion is central to the care provided and respond with humanity and kindness to each person's pain, distress, anxiety or need. We search for the things we can do, however small, to give comfort and relieve suffering. We find time for patients, their families and carers, as well as those we work alongside.
* Improving lives, striving to improve health and wellbeing and people's experiences of the NHS. We cherish excellence and professionalism wherever we find it - in the everyday things that make people's lives better as much as in clinical practice, service improvements and innovation.
* Everyone counts, maximising resources for the benefit of the whole community, and making sure nobody is excluded, discriminated against or left behind.

**Work Experience Reflection Questions**

What’s in it for you – the student?

* A more realistic picture of medical life
* Increased awareness and understanding of clinical practice / conditions
* Enable you to use these aspects in your application
* An opportunity to discuss a medical career with an established doctor
* Accurate and specific careers information

**At interview, it will be vital to be able to articulate what you learned from the experience**. Taking time to reflect on what you see while undertaking work experience is very important. The questions below are intended as prompts to assist your thinking.

1. What was health professional aiming to achieve when they did x?
2. What type(s) of communication, e.g. verbal, written or non-verbal does the health professional use with the patient/significant other(s)?
3. How did you think this way of communicating with patients/significant other(s) compares with the types of communication you would have used in this situation?
4. With regards to the procedure. How would I describe it precisely? How did it make me feel?
5. Why did the health professional choose that particular action?
6. Find out if you observation reflects a typical procedure of this kind/is there anything unique/challenging?
7. What theories/models/research informed the health professional’s actions?
8. At what points during the patient’s care did health professional communicate with patients?
9. How does the health professional manage situations where patients are angry or upset? What strategies did they use to cope with challenging situations?
10. Does the health professional communicate with other health/social care professionals and if so, in what situations? How is the conversation managed?
11. How successful was the outcome of the procedure / intervention?
12. What criteria was the health professional using to judge success?
13. How did the patient feel about it?
14. How did I know the client felt like that – visual clues, comments?
15. What alternatives were there?
16. Could the health professional have dealt with the situation any better?
17. What do I feel about the whole experience?
18. What knowledge/values/skills did I learn?
19. Can I link my observations to any learning in school?
20. What can I research in more detail later?
21. Has this changed my opinion of medicine / life as a doctor – how?

### Modern Languages and Linguistics

See University of Oxford’s guidance on the FAQs section of the [Modern Languages faculty website](http://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/faqs) under the heading 'How best to prepare for the entrance procedure'. You can also find reading lists on the individual pages of the following languages:

* [Czech](http://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/czech#reading)
* [Italian](https://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/italian#undergraduate)
* [Modern Greek](https://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/sites/www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/files/greek-open-day-2018-information.pdf)
* [Spanish](https://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/reading-list)

**Oxford research:**

* [Shedding new light on Tchaikovsky’s Eugene Onegin](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/shedding-new-light-tchaikovsky%E2%80%99s-eugene-onegin)
* [Writing Brecht, living well](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/writing-brecht-living-well)
* [Improving treatment of speech disorders](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/improving-treatment-speech-disorders)
* [Saving the world’s threatened languages](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/saving-world%E2%80%99s-threatened-languages)
* [Voice analysis for everyone: health monitoring by phone video](https://youtu.be/SFSdlc5711M)

To help you learn what linguistics is and whether you are interested in studying it as a part of a degree:

* Parkvall, M. (2008). Limits of Language: Almost everything you didn’t know about language and languages
* Aitchison, J. (2011). The Articulate Mammal: An introduction to Psycholinguistics
* Pinker, S. (1995) The Language Instinct: The New Science of Language and Mind

An Introductory textbook at the level you would study in the first year at Oxford:

* Introduction to Linguistics course: Radford A., Atkinson M., Britain D., Clahsen, H. & Spencer, A. (2009). Linguistics: An Introduction

The Language Log <http://languagelog.ldc.upenn.edu/nll/> is a blog written by world renowned academic linguists but with a general readership in mind, and an emphasis on humour, debunking language myths and erroneous beliefs, topical issues relating to language, etc. You may also like to have a look at the website of the Linguistics Olympiad: <http://www.uklo.org>

### Music

Please refer to University of Oxford’s [recommended reading list for Music](https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/field/field_document/List%20of%20Recommended%20Reading%20for%20Music.pdf).

**Oxford research:**

* [Shedding new light on Tchaikovsky’s Eugene Onegin](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/shedding-new-light-tchaikovsky%E2%80%99s-eugene-onegin)
* [Medieval plainsong gets a contemporary makeover](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/medieval-plainsong-gets-contemporary-makeover)
* [Composing Opera for Children](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/composing-opera-children)
* [Searching for Schumann video](https://youtu.be/PlNI0QO9i3U)

### Oriental Studies

University of Oxford’s suggested reading for Oriental Studies can be found on the Oriental Studies website by following the relevant links below:

* [BA Oriental Studies - Arabic](http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/arabic-ba-hons)
* [BA Oriental Studies - Chinese](http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/chinese-ba-hons)
* [BA Oriental Studies - Japanese](http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/japanese-ba-hons)
* [BA Oriental Studies - Sanskrit](http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/sanskrit-ba-hons)
* [BA Oriental Studies - Persian](http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/persian-ba-hons)
* [BA Oriental Studies - Turkish](http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/turkish-ba-hons)

**Oxford research:**

* [Recreating an experience of ancient Egypt](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/recreating-experience-ancient-egypt)
* [Helping the UK understand China](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/helping-uk-understand-china)
* [Conserving by copying: 3D Printing Tutankhamun's Tomb video](https://youtu.be/78yHqP1lazA)

### Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

Competitive universities always recommend that students read widely around their subject, deepening their knowledge, and understanding, to help prepare for their application.

Oxbridge tutors will be looking for evidence of students' academic potential, as well as their commitment and motivation for their course, so will certainly be looking for evidence that a student has really engaged with their subject and has a passion for studying it. This is particularly important for courses like PPE, as many students will not have studied any of these three subjects at their school or college.

The very best preparation is a reasonable grasp of the workings of the social and political world in which we live**. For PPEists, reading newspapers, watching TV and listening to radio news and current affairs programmes are not optional activities – they are crucial to success at the subject. Students should read a good quality daily newspaper, and ‘The Economist’ weekly is also highly recommended – this offers unparalleled quantity and quality analysis of current events.**

There are many introductions to philosophy: Myles Burnyeat and Ted Honderich’s ‘Philosophy’ as it is a very useful collection. Martin Hollis ‘An Invitation to Philosophy’ and Simon Blackburn’s ‘Think’ are also recommended but feel free to pick up any introductory or beginners’ text.

Politics is a very wide-ranging subject. In addition to newspapers and weeklies, Jonathan Wolff’s 'An Introduction to Political Philosophy' is recommended; and also, for interesting and up-to-date insights into recent political developments in a number of countries, the series of texts produced by Macmillan publishers at regular intervals called ‘Developments in British (French, German, East European etc.) Politics’.

An indispensable introduction to economic analysis in use both for those who have not studied it at school and for those who have is ‘The Economist’ or the Economics pages of newspapers. Paul Krugman’s writings are highly recommended. Begg, Fischer and Dornbusch’s ‘Economics’ is one of the introductory textbooks widely used at Oxford.

**Oxford research:**

* [The value of mutuality](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/value-mutuality)
* [Geometry to the rescue](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/geometry-rescue-0)
* [The surprising uses of auctions video](https://youtu.be/FH0pyaJ712E)

*Also visit Philosophy and Theology and Politics sections*

### Philosophy and Theology

**Introductory books:**

The standard recommendation for a light introduction to philosophy is *Sophie's World* by Jostein Gaarder. This is a novel that introduces some of Western philosophy's biggest thinkers through story form. You might find it a bit young but it’s a great introduction if you haven’t studied any philosophy.

A more academic introduction would be *Philosophy: The Basics* by Nigel Warburton. This is considered one of the best introductions to philosophy available.

**Further introductory books:**

* *What does it all mean?* by Thomas Nagel. Classic book in which Nagel sets forth the central problems of philosophical inquiry for the beginning student. Very short too!
* *Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy* by Simon Blackburn.
* *Ethics: Discovering Right and Wrong* by Louis Pojman. Excellent introduction to ethics. If you can't get hold of a cheap copy though go for the following book instead.
* *Being Good: A Short Introduction to Ethics* by Simon Blackburn. Very good introduction to ethical theories/ideas.
* *The Elements of Moral Philosophy* by James Rachels. Another very good introduction to ethical theories/ideas (we read most of it in the IBDP philosophy course).
* *Practical Ethics* by Peter Singer. For thirty years, Peter Singer's *Practical Ethics* has been the classic introduction to applied ethics.
* *How the World Thinks: A Global History of Philosophy* by Julian Baggini includes Chinese, Indian and European thought, describing the connections and differences between them, and how they impact culture and society.
* *The Pig That Wants to Be Eaten* by Julian Baggini. 100 philosophical thought experiments. Fun and interesting book.
* *Being Logical: A Guide to Good Thinking* by D.Q. McInerney. Introduction to logic.

**Core texts:**

Important texts from famous philosophers. Ms Rule definitely recommends having a go at the books by Russell and Descartes:

* *The Problems of Philosophy* by Bertrand Russell. This classic work, first published in 1912, has never been supplanted as an approachable introduction to the theory of philosophical enquiry. It gives Russell's views on such subjects as the distinction between appearance and reality, the existence and nature of matter, idealism, knowledge by acquaintance and by description, induction, and the limits and value of philosophical knowledge.
* *Meditations on First Philosophy* by Rene Descartes. Descartes's Meditations on First Philosophy remains one of the most widely studied works of Western philosophy. Essential introduction to scepticism and epistemology.
* *On Liberty and Other Essays* by John Stuart Mill. Draws together the basic ideas of liberalism that, although radical in their time, have gained recognition as comprehensive and relevant fundamentals of government, economics, and logic. Since the publication of *On Liberty* in 1859, no other nineteenth century philosopher has delved so deeply into the implications of independence from the state and what it means to be truly free.
* *Existentialism and Humanism* by Jean-Paul Sartre. In his theoretical writings, Sartre laid the foundation for an original doctrine of Existentialism. His concern, however, was to relate his theory to human response and the practical demands of living.
* *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* by David Hume. 'Commit it then to the flames: for it can contain nothing but sophistry and illusion.' Thus ends David Hume's *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, the definitive statement of the greatest philosopher in the English language. His arguments in support of reasoning from experience, and against the 'sophistry and illusion' of religiously inspired philosophical fantasies, caused controversy in the eighteenth century and are strikingly relevant today, when faith and science continue to clash.

**Other reading lists:**

The suggestions above are quite ample (!) and realistically you will probably only read a sample of them. However, if you want more here are links to two other sets of reading lists. The first is from the student room and the second from Kings College Cambridge. The Cambridge one has some challenging texts.

* <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/revision/philosophy/recommended-philosophy-reading>
* <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/reading-lists/philosophy-reading-list>

The University of Oxford notes that there are many introductions to philosophy: Myles Burnyeat and Ted Honderich’s ‘Philosophy’ as it is a very useful collection. Martin Hollis ‘An Invitation to Philosophy’ and Simon Blackburn’s ‘Think’ are also recommended but feel free to pick up any introductory or beginners’ text.

**Oxford research:**

* [Empires of Faith video](https://youtu.be/ee62iPXUXyI)

**Online courses:**

You might be interested in the Open University's free online courses:

* 'Introducing Philosophy' is supposed to take around 8 hours and you get a certificate of participation - <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/philosophy/introducing-philosophy/content-section-0?active-tab=content-tab>
* 'Philosophy: The nature of persons' is an advanced course taking 15 hours <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/culture/philosophy/philosophy-the-nature-persons/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>
* There's also a free online course for Preparing for University by Futurelearn. It's a 6 week course with 3 hours of study per day - <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/preparing-for-uni>

**​Podcasts and YouTube videos:**

* The Beanfield, Introduction to Philosophy – clear introduction to Philosophy. <https://www.spreaker.com/show/lee-j-taylors-podcast>
* Philosophy Bites - podcasts of top philosophers interviewed on bite-sized topics. <https://nigelwarburton.typepad.com/philosophy_bites/>
* The Panpsycast Philosophy Podcast - <https://thepanpsycast.com/panpsycast2> Incredible collection of podcasts which you can search by category.
* Crash Course Philosophy - lots of short, accessible introductions to Philosophy topics. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAkYt3GY&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

**Other online resources:**

* Philosophy Experiments - lots of fun, interactive Philosophy experiments. <https://www.philosophyexperiments.com/>
* The Philosophers' Magazine - lots of articles and interviews. <https://www.philosophersmag.com/>
* [Philosophy Now magazine](https://philosophynow.org/) (please contact Dr Yu for username and password)
* A whole list of other links and resources! <http://www.alevelphilosophy.co.uk/resources/useful-links/>

**Note from Ms Rule:** This is a fairly comprehensive list of suggestions! Just explore some of the books, listen to the odd podcast, maybe do the online courses. That will all give you a great grounding for starting Philosophy at university.

If you are aiming to study PPE and have not taken HL philosophy, Ms Rule recommends reading *An Introduction to Political Philosophy* (2nd Ed) by Jonathan Wolff. Clearly written and provides an excellent overview of key concepts, the history of, and scholars in, political philosophy. Also visit PPE section.

**Other useful websites:**

* <http://apply.oxfordsu.org/courses/philosophy-and-theology/>
* <https://www.applytocambridge.com/courses/philosophy>
* <http://apply.oxfordsu.org/courses/ppe/>
* <https://www.applytocambridge.com/>

### Psychology

University of Oxford’s[suggested reading](https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/media_wysiwyg/EP_PPL_Suggested_Reading_List_June_2013.pdf) for Experimental Psychology. This document also includes reading suggestions for those interested in the Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics course.

**Oxford research videos:**

* [Improving Access to Psychological Therapies: Using evidence to change policy](https://youtu.be/KwZfee2erkw)
* [Spread the word](https://youtu.be/PTrCEaW52Jw)
* [How people with depression see faces](https://youtu.be/QMsKHtWDFO8)
* [From the Minds of Babes: New frontiers in paediatric pain](https://youtu.be/gQ6hYUJ3MEg)

### Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics (PPL)

University of Oxford's [suggested reading list](https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/media_wysiwyg/EP_PPL_Suggested_Reading_List_June_2013.pdf) for Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics. This document also includes suggested reading for Experimental Psychology.

**Oxford research:**

* [Improving treatment of speech disorders](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/improving-treatment-speech-disorders)
* [Saving the world’s threatened languages](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/saving-world%E2%80%99s-threatened-languages)

**Research videos:**

* [Spread the word](https://youtu.be/PTrCEaW52Jw)
* [Building consensus on Developmental Language Disorder](https://youtu.be/EbP2DakcbIk)
* [Improving Access to Psychological Therapies: Using evidence to change policy](https://youtu.be/KwZfee2erkw)
* [How people with depression see faces](https://youtu.be/QMsKHtWDFO8)
* [From the Minds of Babes: New frontiers in paediatric pain](https://youtu.be/gQ6hYUJ3MEg)
* [Voice analysis for everyone: health monitoring by phone](https://youtu.be/SFSdlc5711M)

### Physics

**Useful websites**

* British Physics Olympiad <https://www.bpho.org.uk/>
* <http://physicstasks.eu/en>
* <https://collegelah.com/2015/10/28/a-coffee-enthusiasts-application-to-oxford-for-physics/>
* Trinity College Cambridge have interview questions for maths, natsci and engineering all online [http://www.tcm.phy.cam.ac.uk/~mw141/Get\_into\_top\_UK\_university.pdf \](http://www.tcm.phy.cam.ac.uk/~mw141/Get_into_top_UK_university.pdf%20\)
* <https://www.drfrostmaths.com/resource.php?rid=261>
* <https://colleenyoung.wordpress.com/a-level-16/a-level-16-resources/>
* <https://www.myheplus.com>
* Cambridge Nat Sci entry requirements - <http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/natural-sciences> -
* Oxford physics and engineering PAT information - <https://www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduates/applications/physics-aptitude-test-pat>
* YouTube videos going through past PAT questions (non-official): [www.youtube.com/user/cowenphysics/playlists](http://www.youtube.com/user/cowenphysics/playlists)
* PAT answers (non-official): <https://oxfordpat.wordpress.com/>

**Reading list**

* Chernyak and Rose, *The Chicken from Minsk*
* Weinstein and Adam, *Guesstimation* – a book filled with lots of Fermi style problems and solutions
* Grimwall, *Brainteaser Physics*

**University of Oxford:** Popular science books are normally readily available at your local library, as are copies of the New Scientist or other scientific periodicals. Anything that takes your interest will be valuable; we have no set reading list.

However, for general preparation prospective candidates can see the suggestions on the [Physics department website](http://www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduates). We also recommend [maths preparation](http://www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduates).

There is also lots of information on the internet, on sites such as [www.physics.org](http://www.physics.org/). or through some of the excellent science blogs. The University of Oxford publishes a [science blog](https://www.ox.ac.uk/media/science_blog/index.html) and our department also runs a project called [Galaxy Zoo](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/zookeeper/galaxy-zoo/) which is part of the [Zooniverse](https://www.zooniverse.org/) community of projects , which allows members of the public to contribute to astrophysics research. Large scientific organisations such as CERN and NASA publish a lot of good material online, for example the [Astronomy Picture of the Day website](http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/). Here are some further resources to test your Physics knowledge:

* [*Isaac Physics*](https://isaacphysics.org/): This website contains lots of maths and physics problem solving questions.
* [*British Physics Olympiad*](https://www.bpho.org.uk/): This website contains lots of past papers and solutions of problem solving type questions.
* [Next time](https://www.arborsci.com/): This website contains some quite fun questions designed to make you think about physical concepts.
* [I want to study Engineering](https://i-want-to-study-engineering.org/): This website is just as useful for all applicants not just those applying to engineering.
* [*Brilliant.org*](https://brilliant.org/): This website has some resources to test your mathematical and physics knowledge.

iTunesU can also be a very useful resource, as it has a range of physics content, from public talks to undergraduate lectures, from a variety of reputable sources.

**Oxford research:**

* [Near-perfect distance measurement](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/near-perfect-distance-measurement)
* [Cheaper, smaller, super-resolution](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/cheaper-smaller-super-resolution)
* [To the Zooniverse and beyond](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/zooniverse-and-beyond)
* [Particle accelerator physics for the masses](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/particle-accelerator-physics-masses)
* [A revolution in solar power technology](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/revolution-solar-power-technology)
* [How to be certain of uncertainty in climate and weather forecasts](https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research-impact/how-be-certain-uncertainty-climate-and-weather-forecasts)
* [How do quantum physicists affect industry? video](https://youtu.be/0c3AwqgKwZg)

### Politics / International Relations

**Online courses:**

* Georgetown University Politics Forum
  + <https://politics.georgetown.edu/forum/>
  + <https://politics.georgetown.edu/forum/forum-archive/>
  + <https://politics.georgetown.edu/forum/upcoming-forums/>
* Columbia University introduction to IR: <https://www.courses.com/columbia-university/conceptual-foundations-of-international-politics>
* Changing Global Order (Leiden University): <https://www.coursera.org/learn/changing-global-order>
* Moral foundations of politics (Yale): <https://www.coursera.org/learn/moral-politics>
* Open university series of short explainers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXllDh6rD18&list=PLhQpDGfX5e7C6FA5IYU3VPYN7kWHl1mxQ>
* LSE short videos on political topics: <https://www.youtube.com/user/lsewebsite/videos>

**Reading:**

* Tragedy of Great Power Politics, John Mearshimer
* Diplomacy, Henry Kissinger
* Clash of Civilisations, Samuel Huntingdon
* (older) The Twenty Years Crisis, EH Carr
* The Man, the state and War, Kenneth Waltz
* Nations and Nationalism, Ernst Gellner
* The Great Transformation, Karl Polanyi
* Soft Power, Joseph Nye
* Governance and resistance in world politics, Bice Maiguashca
* Any of the Tim Marshall books (as light reading)

**Journals / publications:**

* Foreign Affairs
* Geopolitical Futures

*Both subscribed to by WIS, see Mr Rudall for details.*

Politics is a very wide-ranging subject. In addition to newspapers and weeklies, Jonathan Wolff’s 'An Introduction to Political Philosophy' is recommended; also, for interesting and up-to-date insights into recent political developments in a number of countries, the series of texts produced by Macmillan publishers at regular intervals called ‘Developments in British (French, German, East European etc.) Politics’.