

Year 12

Future Focus Fortnight



In this booklet, you will find suggested super-curricular activities for each subject. After your Year 12 exams, you have been given dedicated time to research within your subject areas to help with your post-18 options. If you already know what you want to do, that's great - this work will help you answer the key questions for your UCAS personal statement:

1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?

2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you prepare for this course or subject?

3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

If you're unsure about your future plans, this process will help you decide:

- What are you enjoying?
- What are you finding interesting and want to explore further?

We are asking you to try at least one activity for each of your subjects and to log this as a brief reflection on Unifrog under '*notes for reference writers*' for each subject. Your subject teachers will be able to see what you have been doing, which may help them when writing your references in the summer.

Art & Design

READ

- Ways of Seeing by John Berger
- What are you looking at? By Will Gompertz
- Meditations on a Hobby Horse by E.H. Gombrich
- Playing to the Gallery by Grayson Perry

WATCH

- As many Proko videos as possible (YouTube)
- Anything from the "School of Life" series (YouTube)
- Ted Talks: [click here](#) and [click here](#)
- "Painters Painting"

LISTEN

- Tate Podcasts: [click here](#)
- "Art Matters" (Podcast)
- "The Lonely Palette" [click here](#)
- "Talk Art" [click here](#)

RESEARCH

- Articles: [click here](#)
- Journal for Artistic Research: [click here](#)
- Royal College of Art: [click here](#)

Biology

READ

- Junk DNA - Nessa Carey
- The Red Queen - Matt Ridley
- Frankenstein's Cat - Emily Athes
- A Short History of Nearly Everything - Bill Bryson

WATCH

- Gorillas in the Mist (1988)
- Something the Lord Made (2004)
- Inherit the Wind (1960)
- Andromeda Strain (1971)
- Ted Talk - A New Superweapon in the Fight Against Cancer - [click here](#)
- Why Bees are Disappearing - [click here](#)
- Why Doctors Don't Know About the Drugs They Prescribe - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk – Growing New Organs - [click here](#)

LISTEN

- The Infinite Monkey Cage Podcast - [click here](#)
- The University of Exeter Biological Research Podcast - [click here](#)

RESEARCH

- New Scientist - [click here](#)
- The Lancet - [click here](#)

Business Studies

READ

- The Young Entrepreneurs Guide to Starting and Running a Business - Steve Mariotti
- Moneyball - Michael Lewis
- Making you Money Work for You - Paul Lewis
- Steve Jobs - Steve Jobs

WATCH

- Capitalism: A Love Story (2009) - Michael Moore
- The Big Short (2015) - Adam McKay
- Wall Street (1987) - Oliver Stone
- Ted Talk - What Really Motivates People to be Honest at Work - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - Chinese Business and Philosophy - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - 2 Questions to Uncover your Passion - [click here](#)

LISTEN

- Top 100 Business Podcast - [click here](#)

RESEARCH

- Guardian Business section - [click here](#)
- Harvard Business Review - [click here](#)
- Financial Times - access through tile on RM Unify to log in with school account
- Tutor 2 U - [click here](#)
- MIT entrepreneurship courses - [click here](#)
- MIT MBA courses - [click here](#)

Chemistry

READ

- Periodic Tales: The Curious Lives of the Elements - Hugh Aldersley-Williams
- The Science of Everyday Life: Why Teapots Dribble, Toast Burns and Lightbulbs Shine - Marty
- Bad Science - Ben Goldacre

WATCH

- Chemistry: A Volatile History - [click here](#)
- Fantastic 4 (2015) - Josh Trank
- Michio Kaku Explains the “Real” Science Behind the Fantastic 4 - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - An Introduction to Chemistry - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - The Incredible Chemistry Powering your Smartphone - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - How Pollution is Changing the Ocean’s Chemistry - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - How Big is a Mole? - [click here](#)

LISTEN

- Oxford University Chemistry Podcasts - [click here](#)
- The Infinite Monkey Cage with Brian Cox and Robin Ince - [click here](#)

RESEARCH

- Elemental: The Periodic Table at 150 - [click here](#)
- New Scientist Chemistry articles - [click here](#)
- Batteries Should Not Burst Into Flames - [click here](#)

Computer Science

A Level Project: Continue working on your project with the aim of completing it to a very high standard.

READ

- Code: The Hidden Language of Computer Hardware and Software - Charles Petzold
- Cracking the Coding Interview - Gayle Leakmann McDowell
- Getting Started with Unity: A Beginner's Guide to Game Development - Dr Edward Lavien

WATCH

- Hackers (1995) - Iain Softley
- The Matrix (1999) - Lana and Lily Wachowski
- The Imitation Game (2014) - Morten Tyldum
- The Maze Runner (2014) - Wes Ball
- Ted Talk - The Birth of the Computer - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - A Computer that Works like a Brain - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - Shape Shifting Technology Will Change the Way We Work - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - How PhotoSynth Can Connect the World's Images - [click here](#)

LISTEN

- Top 10 Podcasts for Programmers - [click here](#)
- Oxford University Computer Science Podcasts - [click here](#)

RESEARCH

- Computer Science and Technology from MIT - [click here](#)
- 600 free coding courses - [click here](#)
- Build your own social media app from scratch - [click here](#)

Design & Technology

READ

- The Design of Everyday Things - Steve Krug
- Just Enough Research - Erika Hall
- Design for Life - Eric Meyer
- Soft city: Building Density for Everyday Life - David Sim

WATCH

- Blade Runner - Ridley Scott
- Dream Big: Engineering our World
- The Pixar Story (2007)
- Print the Legend (2014)
- Ted Talk - The First Secret of Great Design - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - How Art, Design and Technology Inform Creative Leaders - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - How a Handful of Tech Companies Control Billions of Minds Every day - [click here](#)

LISTEN

- Designed for Life - [click here](#)
- Radiolab - [click here](#)
- Your Undivided Attention - [click here](#)

RESEARCH

- Design and Technology Association - [click here](#)
- Dezeen - [click here](#)

APPRENTICESHIP RESEARCH

<https://careers.dyson.com/en-gb/what-you-can-do/early-careers/united-kingdom/>

<https://careers.uk.leonardo.com/gb/en/early-careers/apprenticeships>

<https://careers.baesystems.com/locations/uk/apprentices/degree>

<https://www.boeing.co.uk/working-at-boeing/graduates-apprentices-internships>

<https://careers.rolls-royce.com/students-and-graduates/united-kingdom/apprenticeships-and-school-leavers>

<https://www.balfourbeatty.com/careers/early-careers/apprentices>

<https://careers.geaerospace.com/global/en/uk-apprenticeships>

Drama

READ

- <https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/little-angel-theatre-to-open-flagship-workshop-for-puppetry-training>
- <https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/italia-conti-launches-noel-coward-scholarship-in-bid-to-boost-training-access>
- <https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/hampstead-hires-director-alice-hamilton-in-new-head-of-artistic-development-role>
- *Extend with questions/discussion prompts: How might you become an artistic director of a company or theatre? How can access to training help boost job roles in theatre?*

WATCH

- Recorded Performances: Drama Online Access - [click here](#) Username: 3yh%6Au1g1 Password: 80x)8Zy%f+
- Industry Insight & Careers: YouTube has great free video content on acting and production work, including - [click here](#)
- Acting Career Centre - [click here](#)
- Tutorials on audition technique, voice work, character development and more.
- *Reflect & connect: How might you become a writer for theatre? How would you stage one of the performances you have watched differently?*

LISTEN

- The Royal Court Playwright's Podcast: interviews with playwrights about their craft and career paths: [click here](#)
- WhatsonStage Podcast: [click here](#)
- BBC Radio 4 Front Row - general arts programme with theatre interviews & reviews: [click here](#)
- The Making Theatre Podcast: [click here](#)
- *Discussion prompts while listening: What challenges do theatre professionals describe? What skills beyond performance seem most important?*

RESEARCH

- Theatre Careers Exploration: [click here](#)
- Use this PDF to research careers, interviewing and finding work within the industry.
- Case Studies: A theatre company (e.g., Old Vic New Voices and its education/career programmes).
- The journey of a playwright or director (education, breakthrough works, key roles).
- Practical Research Tasks: Interview a local theatre practitioner (actor/designer/technician) about their career path.
- Shadow a production and document roles involved from rehearsal to performance.

Economics

READ

- The Big Short - Michael Lewis
- Freakonomics - Stephen J. Dubner & Steven Levitt
- Doughnut Economics - Kate Raworth
- Alibaba: The House that Jack Ma Built - Duncan Clark
- The Accidental Theorist - Paul Krugman
- The Truth about Markets - John Kay
- The Death of Economics - Paul Ormerod

WATCH

- Margin Call (2011) - J.C. Chandon
- Capitalism: A Love Story (2009) Michael Moore
- Ted Talk - What is Economic Value, and Who Creates It? - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - The Paradox of Choice - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - How the Blockchain Will Radically Transform the Economy - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - Capitalism Will Eat Democracy, Unless We Speak Up - [click here](#)
- The Economy of Tomorrow | Aging Future - [click here](#)
- How the rich get richer - Money in the world economy - [click here](#)

LISTEN

- EconTalk - [click here](#)
- BBC Business, Finance and Economics Podcasts - [click here](#)

RESEARCH

- The Coronavirus is our Chance to Completely Rethink What the Economy is For - [click here](#)
- Economics Online - [click here](#)
- The Economy - [click here](#)
- Undergraduate Economics modules - [click here](#)

English Language & Literature

READ

- The Stories of English (David Crystal)
- Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire: A Collection of Critical Essays (ed. Jordan Yale Miller)
- Critical Studies: The Great Gatsby (Kathleen Parkinson)
- Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh (John Lahr)

WATCH

- Ted Talk - Why People Need Poetry - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - How did English Evolve - [click here](#)
- Crash Course: The Great Gatsby - [click here](#)
- Crash Course: Shakespeare - [click here](#)
- Othello: Full Theatre Performance - [click here](#)

LISTEN

- The Allusionist Podcast - [click here](#)
- Penguin's Guide to the 32 Best Literary and Book Podcasts - [click here](#)
- Player FM English Literature Podcast links - [click here](#)
- BBC In Our Time: The Written Word - [click here](#)
- BBC In Our Time: Shakespeare's Work - [click here](#)

RESEARCH

- *The Great Gatsby*: Research Papers - [click here](#)
- The Brutal Reality of *A Streetcar Named Desire* - [click here](#)

English Literature

READ

- How to Read English Literature - Terry Eagleton
- How Fiction Works - James Wood
- The Art of Fiction - David Lodge
- Doing English: A Guide for Literature students - Robert Eaglestone

WATCH

- Ted Talk - What Does Orwellian Actually Mean? - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - Why People Need Poetry - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - How did English Evolve - [click here](#)
- Crash Course: The Great Gatsby - [click here](#)
- Crash Course: Shakespeare - [click here](#)
- Othello: Full Theatre Performance - [click here](#)

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- Player FM English Literature Podcast links - [click here](#)
- BBC In Our Time: The Written Word - [click here](#)
- BBC In Our Time: Shakespeare's Work - [click here](#)

RESEARCH

- *The Great Gatsby*: Research Papers - [click here](#)
- The Brutal Reality of *A Streetcar Named Desire* - [click here](#)

French

READ

- The Count of Monte Cristo - Alexandre Dumas
- The Hunchback of Notre Dame - Victor Hugo
- Les Contes des Fees - Madame d'Aulnoy
- La Peste - Albet Camus

WATCH

- Amelie (2001) - Film
- La Vie en Rose (2007) - Film
- La Haine (1995) - Film
- Represent - Netflix
- Ted Talk - The Secrets of Learning a New Language - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - en Francais - [click here](#)

LISTEN

- News in Slow French - [click here](#)
- Coffee Break French - [click here](#)
- LanguaTalk - [click here](#)

RESEARCH

- Start Your Day With a Little French - [click here](#)
- Free language courses - [click here](#)
- French Education - [click here](#)
- La Baguette - [click here](#)

Geography

Please see Geography department for a more extensive list of suggested reading.

READ

- Prisoners of Geography - Tim Marshall
- Brick Lane - Monica Ali
- The Happy City - Charles Montgomery
- The Power of Place - Harm De Blij

WATCH

- The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind
- Before the Flood (2016) - Fisher Stevens
- An Inconvenient Truth and an Inconvenient Sequel (2006, 2016) - Davis Guggenheim
- The Impossible (2012) - J.A Bayona
- Slumdog Millionaire - Danny Boyle
- Ted Talk - Why You Should be a Climate Activist - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - Mega Cities - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - Maps that Show Us Who We Are - [click here](#)

LISTEN

- Oxford University Geography Podcasts - [click here](#)
- Royal Geographical Society - [click here](#)
- The Documentary Podcast - [click here](#)

RESEARCH

- The Conversation - [click here](#)
- BBC News - [click here](#)
- The Guardian online - [click here](#)

German

- **Current affairs** - Read German newspapers and news websites regularly to stay up-to-date on German politics, culture, and society. Examples: *Die Zeit*, *Der Spiegel*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.
- **Reading books and literature** - Try simplified versions of German literature or short stories and gradually move to original texts. Examples: *Emil und die Detektive* by Erich Kästner or selected short stories from contemporary authors.
- **Films and TV series in German** - Watch German-speaking films or change the audio/subtitle settings of familiar shows to German. Examples: *Good Bye Lenin!*, *Das Leben der Anderen*, or even German-dubbed versions of popular English shows.
- **Podcasts and radio** - Listen to German podcasts to improve listening comprehension. Examples: *Coffee Break German*, *Deutsch - warum nicht?* *ARD Radio Podcasts*

History

For Cold War books, only 1943-1953 needs to be read up on:

The Cold War - John Lewis Gaddis
The Cold War - Mike Sewell
We Now Know - John Lewis Gaddis
The Cold War - Martin Walker
Russia's Cold War - Jonathan Haslam
Stalin - Isaac Deutscher
The Cold War - Odd Arne Westad
Stalin and Khrushchev - Michael Lynch
The Penguin History of the USA - Hugh Brogan
The Blockade Breakers - Helena Schrader
The Berlin Airlift - Barry Turner
The USA & The Origins of the Cold War - John Lewis Gaddis
The Cold War - David Painter
The Cold War - Hugh Higgins
Origins of the Cold War - Melvyn Leffler & David Painter
The Cold War - JPD Dunbabin
Russia, America and the Cold War - Martin McCauley
Origins of the Cold War - Martin McCauley
The Cold War - Robert McMahon
The Cold War - Steve Phillips
Korea: The Unknown War - Jon Halliday & Bruce Cumings
Europe Since 1870 - Jame Joll
The Cold War in Asia - Vivienne Sanders (nb not related to Mr Sanders)
The Cold War - Bradley Lightbody
The Cold War - ILV Fisch
Cold War & Common Sense - Thomas Wilson
The Korean War - Peter Lowe
Stalin - Robert Service
Revolutionary Russia, 1891-1991 - Orlando Figes
Europe and the Cold War - David Williamson
America's Cold War - Campbell craig & Fredrik Logevall
WW2: Behind Closed Doors - Laurence Rees
Debating the Origins of the Cold War - Ralph B Levering et al.
Khrushchev Remembers - Strobe Talbott
Inside the Kremlin's Cold War - Zubok & Pleshakov

And for British Politics 1780-1930:

Chartism - Edward Royle
The Great Reform Act - Michael Brock
Peterloo - Donald Read
Gladstone - Graham Goodlad
Democracy & Reform - DG Wright
The Pankhursts - Martin Pugh
Gladstone - Richard Shannon
Gladstone - Roy Jenkins
19th Century Britain - Anthony Wood
Perilous Question - Antonia Fraser
William Pitt the Younger - William Hague
Pitt the Younger - Derek Jarrett

Maths/Further Maths

READ

- Ian Stewart - Does God Play Dice? (Chaos, randomness, and whether mathematics can predict the universe)
- Simon Singh - Fermat's Last Theorem (A story of proof, persistence, and obsession)
- Marcus du Sautoy - The Music of the Primes (Prime numbers and one of the greatest unsolved problems in mathematics)
- Plus Magazine (Cambridge University) - short, accessible articles.
- *Try this: Summarise one key idea from your reading in 200-300 words or explain where it links (or doesn't!) to A level maths.*

WATCH

- 3Blue1Brown - The Essence of Calculus and The Essence of Linear Algebra
- Numberphile - Short videos on proofs, primes, and famous problems
- Oxford Mathematics (YouTube) - Public lectures and accessible research talks
- *Try this: Create a one-page visual summary of a video or explain the main idea as if teaching a Year 9 student.*

LISTEN

- Oxford University Mathematics Podcasts (Modern research explained by mathematicians)
- BBC Radio 4 - More or Less (Statistics, data, and how numbers are misused)
- Numberphile Podcast (Informal conversations with mathematicians)
- *Try this: Write down three key takeaways and one question the podcast made you curious about.*

RESEARCH

- TMUA problems - logic, proof, and problem-solving
- STEP Foundation modules
- Millennium Prize Problems (What is the problem? Why does it matter?)
- Historical problems e.g. Königsberg bridges, squaring the circle
- Mathematical modelling e.g. epidemics, traffic flow, population growth
- *Try this: Produce a one-page research poster or explain the problem clearly without using equations.*

Music

READ

- BBC Bitesize - Music: [click here](#). This reinforces key terms and presents Impressionism, Expressionism and Neo-Classicism clearly, helping you strengthen analytical vocabulary and listening skills.
- Eduqas Specification: [click here](#). This shows exactly what you must know, helping you focus revision on set styles and required listening skills for exams.
- Classic FM - Impressionism: [click here](#). This explains Impressionist features like harmony and texture, helping you confidently identify them in listening and written responses.
- Guardian Modern Classical Guide: [click here](#). This introduces Expressionism and Neo-Classicism, helping you understand stylistic contrasts and develop stronger contextual knowledge for essays.

WATCH

- Debussy & Impressionism Videos: [click here](#). This helps you hear Impressionist techniques in context, improving your ability to recognise features in exam listening questions.
- Schoenberg & Expressionism Videos: [click here](#). This explains atonality and expression, helping you approach challenging listening extracts with greater confidence.
- Stravinsky & Neo-Classicism: [click here](#). This shows how older styles are reused, helping you compare musical features across different periods.
- Popular Music Production: [click here](#). This explains recording and structure, helping you analyse Popular Music more effectively in exams.

LISTEN

- Impressionism Playlist: [click here](#). Regular listening helps you recognise stylistic features and improves confidence when identifying Impressionist music.
- 20th Century Playlist: [click here](#). This exposes you to Expressionism and Neo-Classicism, helping you compare contrasting musical styles.
- BBC Sounds Music: [click here](#). This will benefit you because it provides context about composers and styles, strengthening your understanding for essay writing.
- Song Exploder: [click here](#). This breaks down songs, helping you understand structure and production in Popular Music.

RESEARCH

- TES Practice Questions: [click here](#). This gives exam-style practice, helping you apply knowledge of key styles and improve written responses.
- BBC Bitesize Quizzes: [click here](#). This tests your knowledge quickly, reinforcing understanding of musical elements and styles.
- Listening Comparison Task: [click here](#). This will benefit you because comparing pieces develops analytical skills needed for high-level exam answers.
- Playlist Annotation Task: [click here](#). Creating and annotating playlists strengthens listening, terminology and independent study skills.

Physical Education

READ

- The Talent Code by Daniel Coyle 2009
- Bounce by Matthew Syed 2010
- The Greatest by Matthew Syed 2017
- Black Box Thinking by Matthew Syed 2015
- The Sports Gene by David Epstein 2013
- Range by David Epstein 2019
- Moneyball by Michael Lewis 2003
- The Perfection Point by John Brenkus 2010
- Legacy by James Kerr 2013
- Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell 2008
- Inverting the Pyramid by Jonathan Williams 2008

WATCH

- [Anatomy of an Olympian](#)
- Netflix: Icarus - Russian Doping Scandal, The Last Dance, The English Game, Rising Phoenix, Court of Gold, Miracle, Moneyball, Beckham, Concussion
- Free Solo - Disney+
- Air - Amazon Prime Video
- Any Ted talks by David Epstein

LISTEN

- [Radio 5 Live](#)
- [TalkSPORT Radio](#)
- Podcasts: [BBC Sports](#), [The High-Performance Podcast-Performance Podcast](#), [The real Science of Sport](#), Stick to Football, The Rugby Pod, That Peter Crouch, The Bill Simmons, Tailenders, Sky Sports Cricket

RESEARCH

- Lance Armstrong: Antihero - [click here](#)
- Making sense of sports - Ellis Cashmore, 2010
- The [Journal of Applied Physiology, Sport and Society](#)
- The Burdened Walk of Tiger Woods - [click here](#)
- FourFourTwo - [click here](#)
- Rugby Pass - [click here](#)
- The Athletic (subscription required)

Physics

READ

- Surely You're Joking Mr Feynman: Adventures of a Curious Character - Richard Feynman
- Moondust: In Search of the Men who Fell to Earth - Andrew Smith
- Quantum Theory Cannot Hurt You - Marcus Chown
- A Short History of Nearly Everything - Bill Bryson

WATCH

- Gravity (2013) - Alfonso Cauron
- Interstellar (2012) - Christopher Nolan
- The Imitation Game (2014) - Mortem Tyldum
- Ted Talk - Is There More Than One Universe? - [Click here](#)
- Ted Talk - The "Smoking Gun" Data - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - The History of the Universe - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - Giant Telescopes and Detectors - [click here](#)

LISTEN

- Titanium Physicists - [click here](#)
- BBC Science - [click here](#)
- TWIS - [click here](#)

RESEARCH

- Black Holes - [click here](#)
- Hiding Objects from Heat Sensing Cameras - [click here](#)
- How Quantum Mechanics Lets Heat Cross a Vacuum - [click here](#)

Politics

READ

- How Westminster works....and why it doesn't
- British Politics - The Basics
- Politics on the Edge
- The Politics Book - Big Ideas, Simply Explained
- The Power of Geography

WATCH

- The Tony Blair Story (2026)
- Brexit, The Uncivil War (2019)
- Coalition (2015)
- The Iron Lady (2011)
- Yes Minister (1980)

LISTEN

- The Rest is Politics
- The A Level Politics Show
- The Guardian in Focus
- Daily Politics from the New Statesman

RESEARCH

- P. Stoneman (2025) - "Moral foundations and political ideology in the UK"
- LC Maschette (2024) - "Was Margaret Thatcher a conservative?"
- Kenneth Waltz - Theory of International Politics (1979)
- The New Yorker / The Economist piece "Liberalism According to The Economist"

Psychology

- **Command Words:** Command words are the words and phrases used in exams and other assessment tasks that tell students how they should answer the question.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology/teach/command-words>

- **Subject Specific Vocabulary:** The following subject specific vocabulary provides definitions of some key terms used in our A-level Psychology specification.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology/teach/subject-specific-vocabulary>

- **Resource List:** a list of free resources to help support the Psychology specification.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology/teach/resource-list>

- **Super Curricular Resources:** These are activities that go 'above and beyond' the specification. This type of extra research is essential to help you prepare for university and for writing your UCAS and Apprenticeship applications. Make sure you keep a record of everything you do.

- <https://sothendhsb.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/SHSBStaff-SDPsychology/EX4Nzf0cq1RAIsTNRSDA8q8BrFBi1FUg0vmakMmrDVtYow?e=NxbJzB>
- <https://www.alevelpsychologytutor.co.uk/supercurricular>
- <https://townsend.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Psychology-.pdf>
- https://www.samuelwhitbread.org.uk/_site/data/files/sixth_form/enrichment/subjects/28EF8C3270E57CED6931BD21CD303CFC.pdf

Religious Studies

COMPONENT 1 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

- Read: The Problems of Philosophy - Bertrand Russell. Focus on chapters about appearance vs reality and knowledge. Stretch task: Evaluate whether Russell's empiricism undermines Plato's Theory of Forms.
- Watch: CrashCourse Philosophy - "Arguments for the Existence of God" & "The Problem of Evil and Suffering" (YouTube). Stretch task: Identify weaknesses in each argument and compare them to scholars on the OCR spec (e.g. Aquinas vs Anselm).
- Listen: Philosophy Bites (episodes on God, mind, or metaphysics). Stretch task: Summarise one episode and connect it to a specific exam topic (e.g. religious language or mind-body debate).
- Research: Investigate Alvin Plantinga's modal ontological argument Stretch task: Compare Plantinga's version with Anselm and evaluate whether it avoids Kant's criticism.

COMPONENT 2 RELIGION & ETHICS

- Read: Utilitarianism - John Stuart Mill Focus on higher vs lower pleasures. Stretch task: Critically assess whether Mill successfully solves Bentham's weaknesses.
- Se7en Stretch task: Analyse the moral reasoning of the antagonist using ethical theories (Kantian ethics vs Utilitarianism). Extension: Is the villain ever morally justified?
- Listen: The Moral Maze. Stretch task: Identify which ethical theories different speakers implicitly use in a debate.
- Research: Explore Virtue Ethics beyond the spec. Stretch task: Argue whether virtue ethics is a stronger approach than the four normative theories on the OCR course.

COMPONENT 3 DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS THOUGHT (Christianity)

- Read: Mere Christianity - C. S. Lewis Stretch task: Evaluate Lewis' moral argument for God in relation to natural law and conscience.
- Watch: The Passion of the Christ Stretch task: Analyse how the film presents atonement. Which theory (e.g. substitution, moral influence) is most evident?
- Listen: Ask NT Wright Anything - N. T. Wright Stretch task: Compare Wright's views on resurrection or scripture with traditional teachings in the OCR spec.
- Research: Investigate Liberation Theology in more depth Stretch task: Evaluate whether Christianity should be politically active, using scholars like Gustavo Gutiérrez.

Spanish

READ

- La Sombra Del Viento - Carlos Ruiz Zafon
- La Casa en Mango Street - Sandra Cisneros
- El Coronel No Tiene le Escriba - Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- Todos Mis Cuentos - Ana Maria Matute

WATCH

- Land Without Bread (1933)
- Spirit of the Beehive (1973)
- Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown (1988)
- Summer 1993 (2017)
- Ted Talk - Do you Want to be Bilingual - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - the Secrets of Learning a New Language - [click here](#)
- Ted Talk - 10 things Polyglots do Differently - [click here](#)

LISTEN

- Simple Stories in Spanish - [click here](#)
- News in Slow Spanish - [click here](#)
- Radio Ambulante - [click here](#)

RESEARCH

- Spanish News articles - [click here](#)
- National Geographic - [click here](#)
- Articles about Spain - [click here](#)

Additional resources

Cambridge Masterclasses:

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/masterclasses>

UEA Masterclasses:

<https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/information-for/young-people/subject-taster-sessions>

UCAS Subject Spotlights:

<https://www.ucas.com/applying/before-you-apply/what-and-where-to-study/subject-tasters>

