

A Level Reading Week Materials

Art

Students are encouraged to explore the work and philosophies of acclaimed artists through International Galleries. Please look up the work of *Lucian Freud*, *Peter Howson* and *Paula Rego*. The following links are useful starting points:

For Peter Howson: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/artists/peter-howson>

For Paula Rego: <http://www.tate.org.uk/context-comment/video/studio-paula-rego>

For Lucian Freud: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/artists/lucian-freud>

If you are not on it already you should also look up Pinterest as a visual resource for Art and Artists.

Mr Armitage's Pinterest page is: <https://uk.pinterest.com/mrarmitage/>

Biology

The CGP book 'Head Start to A-level Biology' will be provided to all pupils. Students are required to read through the whole book and answer all questions that appear at the bottom of the pages. The intention is to enable all pupils (regardless of GCSE course followed) to have the same basic Biology knowledge before the AS course begins.

Business Studies

Business Studies is a very popular subject at a national level, and most people (including you) will work in a business organisation of some sort in their lifetime. It used to be the view that great business leaders were born, not made, but it is accepted now that much can be learned from studying other businesses and their leaders. Indeed, there are several hundred different business or management degrees that can be studied at UK universities, some of which are very prestigious indeed, such as Economics and Management at Oxford. Businesses are of huge importance. They create employment, income, wealth and new products and they can be powerful forces for good.

TV programmes such as *The Apprentice* and *Dragon's Den* make business decision-making seem overly-simplistic when in reality around 2/3 of new businesses fail in their first 3 years, because of failures to adequately research the market, or to manage their finances, or due to events beyond their control, such as new competition, or economic downturn. Yet, poor business decisions are not simply the curse of the young, naïve business start-up. The main UK banks' mis-selling of payment protection insurance and of cynically fixing LIBOR; supermarkets and food companies not checking whether the ingredients of their products match what's on the label; or Tesco attempting to launch itself in America – all of these are examples of established companies making costly mistakes.

The articles and websites below are a good, non-textbook, introduction to some current issues in Business Studies.

Articles

- Rise in bedroom entrepreneurs: The increasing numbers of young people starting up their own businesses <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/21161377>
- Starbucks, Google and Amazon grilled over tax avoidance: Examining the ethics of minimising tax payments <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-20288077>
- Primark to pay victims compensation: The ethics of 'sweatshop' labour
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-22346220>
- The pursuit of happiness in the workplace: Why contented workers tend to be more productive
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/6b1fd178-81cf-11e2-ae78-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2U7PJfIxI>

Websites

- FT Business Education: <http://www.ft.com/business-education>
- Tutor2u Business Studies blog: <http://www.tutor2u.net/blog/index.php/business-studies/>
- Seth Godin: Top marketing guru's blog with interesting insights on the latest issues in business <http://sethgodin.typepad.com/>

Chemistry

All students attending the induction course will be issued with a 'Head Start to A level Chemistry' book which is designed to bridge the gap between GCSE and A level Chemistry. We recommend that the students read and research the topics in this book and test their understanding by completing the exercises within this material.

Classical Civilisations

Students should:

- watch the film Troy
- explore the British Museum Ancient Greece website (www.ancientgreece.co.uk)
- read Leonie Picard's Odyssey.

Computer Science

Computer Science is not the same as ICT! It involves a lot of programming, and an understanding of *HOW* computers do useful things (ICT is only interested in *USING* a computer to do useful things).

Computer Science A level is not an easy option and is not for the faint-hearted. There is a lot of theory to learn besides getting to grips with programming structures and techniques.

A large part of the course involves programming, and we will be learning to program using a language called VB.NET (Visual Basic Dot Net). The 'Basic' programming language is easy to learn (it isn't called Basic because it's easy! Basic stands for: Beginners All Symbolic Instruction Code!). You can start learning about Basic programming now, by using this website: www.runbasic.com

Click on the 'Learn' tab and you will soon be learning how to write and test your own computer programs! The Basic language on this website is very similar to VB.NET, and having a go with this during Reading Week and over the summer will give you a head start when you start the course in September.

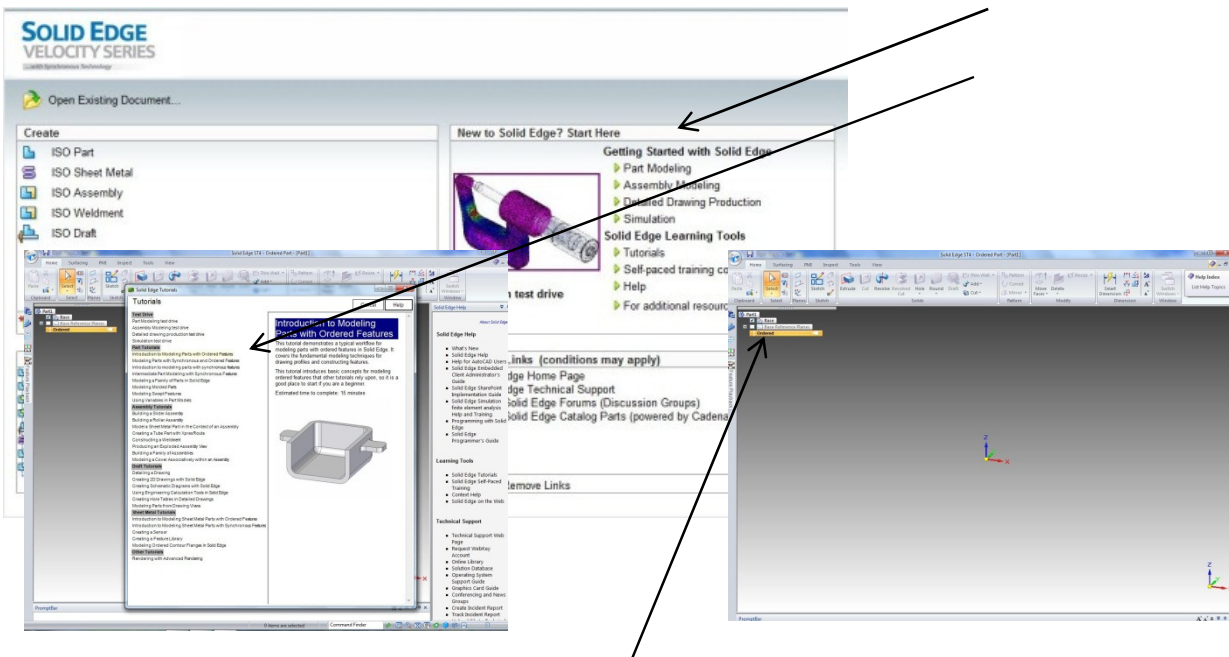
We will also learn about Internet scripting languages such as JavaScript, PHP and CSS.

Get ahead with these too by using the following links: www.w3schools.com www.codeavengers.com www.codeacademy.com

Design and Technology

Graphic Products

From the internet, Download and Install and load *Solid Edge ST4* and complete the Tutorial called “Part Tutorials” - “Introduction to Modelling Parts with Ordered Features” under Tutorials (arrowed here).



Ensure the page is set to Ordered (right click the yellow box and change at bottom of list if not).

Work through this tutorial until completed to give yourself a good grounding in Solid Edge.

Product Design Resistant Materials

Complete the Solid Edge exercise as outlined for Graphic Products above, and...

Watch YouTube videos typing in the following headers:

- How plastic bottles are recycled into polyester
- Thermoforming, vacuum forming and 5-axis CNC trimming from HPTA- Warringham
- What is the rotational moulding process
- How it's made MDF & Chipboard flooring
- How plastic bottles are made
- T-shirt screen printing process
- Principles of Good Design by Dieter Rams (Braun) and Jonathan Ive
- Independent Lens | OBJECTIFIED | Film Clip #4 | PBS

Systems & Control

Complete the Solid Edge exercise as outlined for Graphic Products above, and... watch YouTube videos typing in the following headers:

- Materials Testing: Charpy Test
- Materials Testing: Rockwell Hardness Test
- Tensile Test
- Complete PCB Cycle Design to Production
- PC Board Assembly - Wave Soldering Machine
- SM014 wave soldering process
- DGTronik: wave soldering process (1)

Drama and Theatre

The Drama and Theatre specification requires you to study a number of theatre practitioners from the traditional to the contemporary. In preparation for this, some research around the following practitioners will be of benefit to anyone interested in studying Drama and Theatre at A Level:

- **Konstantin Stanislavski and The Method**
- **Bertolt Brecht and the Verfrumdungseffekt**
- **Antonin Artaud and The Theatre of Cruelty**
- **Steven Berkoff and Total Theatre / Physical Theatre**
- **Jacques Le Coq**
- **Frantic Assembly**
- **Complicite**

You will also be required to study certain substantial scripted texts for performance; one of these texts is listed below. It would be beneficial for you to read this to help prepare you for the coming year:

- **Machinal** by Sophie Treadwell – ISBN 978-1-85459-211-8
(This is the specific version prescribed by the examination board)

Economics

The study of Economics is likely to be completely new to you, and yet economic activities and economic consequences are all around you, every day. One of the criticisms of Economics used to be that it could never be called a 'hard' science, due to the difficulties of carrying out controlled experiments, as in Chemistry or Physics. However, as a social science, Economics is evolving all the time, with fascinating links to Politics, Psychology, Geography and Law, among other subjects. Indeed, one of the rapidly growing fields of economic study is referred to as Behavioural Economics, which applies an improved understanding of the way the brain works to issues such as insurance, consumer buying behaviour and the causes of the banking crisis.

The articles and websites below are a good, non-textbook, introduction to some current issues and applications of Economics.

Articles

They have ways of making you spend: Telegraph article on consumer psychology and how businesses use their understanding of it to relieve us of money.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/3634141/They-have-ways-of-making-you-spend.html>

The Government's 'Nudge Unit' to be privatised: David Cameron's economic think-tank which uses behavioural economics to 'nudge' people towards making better life choices.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-22362727>

Legal battle over who owns the fish in the sea: Debate about who actually owns the seas...

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-22363873>

Three weeks that changed the world: Guardian article on the 2008 banking crisis.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2008/dec/28/markets-credit-crunch-banking-2008>

Websites

The Undercover Economist: An often amusing website of Tim Harford, known as the Undercover Economist, who uses economic theory to explain the world around us and the choices we make.

<http://timharford.com/articles/undercovereconomist>

David Smith, Economics UK: Website and blog of David Smith, Economics Editor of the Sunday Times. An intelligent and wry look at macroeconomics in the news.

<http://www.economicsuk.com/blog>

Bank of England Target 2.0: Website of this prestigious competition open to sixth form students of Economics.

<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/Pages/targettwopointzero/default.aspx>

English Language

The best value single book to help study the AS English Language course is the following:

Sara Thorne: Mastering Advanced English Language Palgrave Macmillan £18.99 (much cheaper deals online) ISBN: 978-1403994837

Though this is not an “easy” book, it contains all the technical linguistic knowledge you need in order to tackle the A-level course successfully.

You may find it helpful to borrow **David Crystal’s Rediscover Grammar** from your local library. It is now pretty costly at £20:50 and is published by Pearson/Longman: the ISBN is 978-0582848627. It is much less detailed than Thorne, but more easily digested and has useful examples to illustrate the grammatical points.

Steve Campsall’s excellent website <http://www.englishbiz.co.uk/> has good introductions to key issues in linguistics. Find the A-level English Language section on the home page and try working through some of the guides there.

You can get a taster of the course by looking at online publicity material for student textbooks ~ e.g:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/d/Books/AQA-Level-English-Language-Student/0198334001/ref=pd_sim_14_4?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=KE6DP1K5B98QJZ1P49H6

https://www.amazon.co.uk/d/Books/Level-English-Language-AQA-Student/1107465621/ref=pd_bxgy_14_img_2?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=XZC16EHFJDS8C13FA1ZR

English Literature

You should read a selection of novels from the following list:

<i>A Clockwork Orange</i>	Antony Burgess	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Jane Austen
<i>The Road</i>	Cormac McCarthy	<i>Enduring Love</i>	Ian McEwan
<i>Heart of Darkness</i>	Joseph Conrad	<i>Nineteen Eighty Four</i>	George Orwell
<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	Henry James	<i>Staying On</i>	Paul Scott
<i>The Ghost Road</i>	Pat Barker	<i>Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha</i>	Roddy Doyle
<i>Mrs Dalloway</i>	Virginia Woolf		
<i>North and South</i>	Elizabeth Gaskell		

These texts can be used in your Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) or coursework essay and it will be useful if you have read 2-3 of these texts when we start this topic next year.

We also recommend the following *two* texts as useful background reading:

Tragedy A Very Short Introduction Adrian Poole OUP / *The Art of Fiction* David Lodge Penguin

Geography

Although the subject of Geography may be very familiar to you, you may find that A level Geography moves away from the traditional approach of Human and Physical Geography. A level Geography is more contemporary and issues based. This means that you need to have a good understanding of what is going on in the world. We recommend that you keep up to date with topical global issues and keep an eye on the news on a daily basis. Geography covers a wide range of topics so watch out for political, social, economic and environmental news.

Twitter: Please follow the Geography Department on Twitter to keep up to date about recent course developments, TV programmes to watch, websites to view and articles to read. @BirkdaleGeog

Government and Politics

1. Read the politics section of The Telegraph and The Guardian.
2. Watch the news.

History

Students are encouraged to complete some or all of the following tasks:

- Read the Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers.
- Watch the film - *Gone with the Wind*.
- Read *Henry VIII* by JJ Scarisbrick – this book is almost as old as I am but it is still the definitive biography on Henry. Particularly focus on the introduction. Note that Scarisbrick is a Catholic Historian.
- Watch *The Man for all Seasons*.

Latin

Students should complete the Cambridge Latin Course unit IV to the end of stage 33.

Mathematics

Go to the mymaths website (www.mymaths.co.uk). Log on using username birkdales and password divide.

From the *Resources* box on the left of the screen, select A Level.

Then click the *Core 1 tab* which appears in the main body of the page.

Work through the lessons and online homeworks under the Algebra and Indices and Surds tabs. Both of these will refresh GCSE topics which are key to starting the A level course most successfully.

Modern Languages

Skill area:	FRENCH	GERMAN	SPANISH
Comprehension: listening & reading (News items) (Foreign language films)	Tv5.org http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/7-jours/ Amélie, Les Intouchables	Deutsche Welle http://www.dw.de/deutsch-lernen/deutschkurse/s-2068 Lola Rennt, Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage	News in slow http://www.newsinslowspanish.com/ (User name:birkdale Password: grayson) Como agua para chocolate, El laberinto del fauno
Vocabulary	Mot à Mot New Advanced French Vocabulary (5 th edition)	Wort für Wort New Advanced German Vocabulary (5 th edition)	Palabra por Palabra New Advanced Spanish Vocabulary (5 th edition)
Grammar (Revise the main tenses – past, present & future)	http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/	http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/	http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/
Topics: Start with Media, Music, Film & Cinema	http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html Account ID: 4598 Password: bitesize	http://gut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html Account ID: 3595 Password: bitesize	http://oye.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html Account ID: 1185 Password: bitesize

Music

Music students should ensure they have a good grasp of music theory; please visit www.musictheory.net

Students should also visit www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/music/ and explore specifically areas that may not have been taught on their GCSE course.

Finally students should practice their instrument with the aim of having about 5-6 minutes of music ready to perform by September.

Music Technology

Music Tech students would benefit from reading back issues of Music Tech magazine (these are available from the school reception).

Students should also practice sequencing skills in addition to general music theory revision as for the A level music course.

Physical Education

Students should ensure they are aware of current trends in in sport. The following websites are recommended:

www.ukспорт.gov.uk

www.sportengland.org.uk

Students should also read the sports sections of broad sheet newspapers to refresh their knowledge of the sports situation in the world at the current time.

Physics

Students should revise their GCSE physics so that they return with the level of knowledge that they went into their examinations with.

Students will be issued with a Headstart booklet during their induction lesson. This should help to bridge the gap from GCSE to A-level, so they should aim to read this and complete the exercises before September.

They should read *New Scientist*, *Scientific American*, *Focus* and other Science/Technology magazines or articles.

Students should also ensure that their maths is revised thoroughly, that they are confident with rearranging equations and that they understand straight-line graphs.

Psychology

Students are advised to go to www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/psychology and read the content of this website. The topics we study in Y1 are social influence, psychopathology, biological rhythms, psychopathology, attachment, research methods and human memory. There are also quizzes, video clips and many links to explore, which will help students to understand the course.

Students could also purchase a very good general psychology book entitled *'The science of mind and behaviour'* by Richard Gross (7th edition). This is an excellent book, which covers all aspects of psychology. It is not a textbook but will be excellent for background knowledge and understanding of this subject.

Religious Studies

Some useful introductory texts:

A Beginner's Guide to Ideas by William Raeper and Linda Smith ISBN 0 7459 2136 1

Examining Philosophy and Ethics by Patrick J Clarke ISBN 0 7487 6009 1

Questions about God by Patrick J Clarke ISBN 0 7487 6554 9

Ethics and Religion by Joe Jenkins ISBN 0 435 30367 8

Moral Problems by Michael Palmer ISBN 0 7188 2791 0

And a useful website: www.philosophicalinvestigations.co.uk