

## WHSG Wider Reading List

Strong applicants to Oxbridge and other competitive universities have often explored their chosen subject through wider reading outside of their A Levels. This is a 'super-curricular' activity as it is mostly for academic exploration and builds on what you are studying in school. The selection of reading lists and resources below have been gathered from Cambridge departmental and college websites, as well as the websites of other universities and online resources. They **are not** required reading and you are not expected to have read them before application or interview; however they provide some suggestions for how you may start to explore your own academic interests individually and enrich your school experience.

It is important to critically engage with your wider reading: think about the authors' arguments and use of evidence, and whether you agree. Reading quality news sources can be a useful way to encounter stories relevant to your academic interests and, more generally, to practise assessing arguments and weighing evidence. Some suggestions include:

- Broadsheet newspapers: The Guardian, The Times, Independent, Daily Telegraph
- BBC News online: [www.bbc.co.uk/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)
- The Economist: [www.economist.com/](http://www.economist.com/)
- CNN online: <http://edition.cnn.com/>
- The New Statesman magazine: [www.newstatesman.com/](http://www.newstatesman.com/)

### Recommended reading by subject

#### Art

*The Andy Warhol Diaries*, Edited by Pat Hackett

*The American Leonardo: A Tale of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Obsession*, Art and Money by John Brewer

*The Shock of the New*, by Robert Hughes

*Story of Art*, by E.H Gombrich

[www.thisiscolossal.com](http://www.thisiscolossal.com)

#### Biology

*The Selfish Gene*, Richard Dawkins

*Bad Science*, Ben Goldacre

*Y: The Descent of Man*, Steve Jones

*The Epigenetic Revolution*, Nessa Carey

New Scientist magazine

Anything relating to Attenborough

British Medical Journal

#### Chemistry

*Periodic tales*, Hugh Aldersey-Williams

*Bad Pharma*, Ben Goldacre

*The pleasure of finding things out*, Richard Feynman

*Uncle Tungsten*, Oliver Sachs

#### Classical Civilisations

*Love, sex and tragedy: how the ancient world shapes our lives*, S. Goldhill

*Courtesans and Fishcakes: the consuming passions of classical Athens*, J. Davidson

*Beowulf*, Anon

*Translations*, Brian Friel

*The Old Man & the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway

*Wolf Hall*, Hilary Mantel

*Metamorphoses*, Ovid

*Gulliver's Travels*, Jonathon Swift

## **Computer Science**

*Trigger Happy: The inner life of videogames*, Stephen Poolw

*Accidental Empires*, Robert X Cringley

Wired magazine

*The Pattern On The Stone: The Simple Ideas That Make Computers Work*, W. Daniel Hillis

*Computer Science: A Very Short Introduction*, Subrata Dasgupta

## **Product Design**

*Thames and Hudson – the eco-design handbook*, Alastair Fuad-Luke

*The Measure of Man and Woman: human factors in design*, Alvin Tilley

## **Drama and theatre**

*Macbeth*, W. Shakespeare

*Equus*, P. Shaffer

## **Economics and Business**

The Economist

*What you see is what you get*, Sir Alan Sugar

*The Google Story*, David A. Wise

*The Intelligent Investor*, Benjamin Graham

*Freakonomics*, Levitt & Dubner

*Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces that Shape Our Decisions*, Dan Ariely

*Undercover Economist*, Tim Harford

## **English Literature**

Read widely and think critically about what you read. Pursue your own interests in literature, but bear in mind that it is a good idea to read some pre-twentieth century works and poetry as well as contemporary novels.

*Shakespeare*, Bill Bryson

*Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley

*Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte

*The Turn of the Screw*, Henry James

*The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde

*The Secret Agent*, Joseph Conrad

*Mrs Dalloway*, Virginia Woolf

## **English Language and Literature**

*Mother Tongue*, Bill Bryson

*An introduction to language*, Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman and Nina Hyams

*A Little Book of Language*, Crystal

## **French**

*Action Grammaire*, Phil Turk

Any French newspapers

## **Geography**

*Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet*, Mark Lynas

*The White Tiger*, Aravind Adiga

*Here on Earth*, Tim Flannery

National Geographic

## **German**

*Alles Klar*, Paul Rogers and Jeremy Long  
German newspapers, e.g. Die Welt, Das Bild, Die Zeit

## **Government & Politics**

*Servants of the people*, Andrew Rawnsley  
*The End of the party*, Andrew Rawnsley  
*Back from the brink: The inside story of the Tory resurrection*, Peter Snowdon

## **History**

*The Swerve*, Stephen Greenblatt  
*Wild Swans*, Jung Chang  
*Revolutionary Russia 1891 – 1991*, Orlando Figes  
*Testament of Youth*, Vera Brittain  
BBC History magazine  
History Today magazine

## **Mathematics & Further Mathematics**

*The Music of the Primes*, Marcus du Sautoy  
*Fermat's Last Theorem*, Simon Singh  
*Alex's Adventures in Numberland*, Alex Bellos  
*1089 and all that: A journey into mathematics*, David Acheson  
*Why do buses come in threes?*, Rob Easterway

## **Media Studies**

*Reading television*, Fiske & Hartley  
*Ways of seeing*, Berger  
*Desperately seeking the audience*, Ien Ang

## **Philosophy and Ethics**

*Think*, Simon Blackburn  
*'Epistemology: A Beginner's Guide'*, Robert M. Martin  
*'Philosophy: Basic Readings'*, Nigel Warburton  
*'Ethics in the Real World'*, Peter Singer  
*'Ethics: A Very Short Introduction'*, Simon Blackburn  
*'The Quest for a Moral Compass'*, Kenan Malik  
*'Philosophy of Mind: A Beginner's Guide'*, Ian Ravenscroft  
*'The Puzzle of God'*, Peter Vardy  
*'Philosophy of Religion'*, Brian Davies  
*'At the Existentialist Café'*, Sarah Bakewell

## **Physical Education**

Journal of Sports Sciences  
*The story of sport in England*, N. Wigglesworth

## **Physics**

*From Greek atoms to quarks*, Sally Morgan  
*Surely you're joking Mr Feynmann?*, Richard Feynmann  
*A Briefer History of time*, Stephen Hawking  
*Why don't penguins' feet freeze?*, New Scientist  
*The quantum universe: everything that can happen does happen*, Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw

**Psychology**

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, Mark Haddon

*The Lucifer Effect*, Phillip Zimbardo

*The Psychopath test*, Jon Ronson

*The private life of the brain*, Susan Greenfield

**Sociology**

*Watching the English*, Kate Fox

*Living Dolls: The return of sexism*, Natasha Walter

*1984*, George Orwell

*We need to talk about Kevin*, Lionel Shriver

**Spanish**

*Guernica*, Dave Boling

*The Return*, Victoria Hislop

Literature and newspapers in Spanish

**Textiles (Art)**

*Cool Green Hunting*, Dave Evans

*The Measure of Man and Woman: human factors in design*, Alvin Tilley