

Wider Reading Booklet



Dear student,

Better readers make more successful students!

The primary aim of this booklet is to offer you books which you can read around your subjects and as part of your preparation for university. We urge you to take an active approach, engage with these sources, interrogate them and use them to build the viewpoints that you present in your essays.

You will have to become disciplined readers for university – students who form and maintain good habits, and use their time well, employing the skills and strategies they develop.

Our experience has convinced us that with a small amount of effort, most students can become better readers and hence more successful students.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.”

Dr. Seuss

Enjoy you reading!

Sixth Form Teachers

Architecture	<p><i>A History of Architecture in 100 Buildings</i> (Cruikshank) <i>The Future of Architecture in 100 buildings</i> (Kushner)</p>
Art and Photography	<p>Art <i>Ways of Seeing</i> (Berger) <i>Shock of the New</i> (Hughes) <i>Seven Days in the Art World</i> (Thornton) <i>The Story of Art</i> (Gombrich) Photography <i>On Photography</i> (Sontag) <i>Regarding the Pain of Others</i> (Sontag) <i>Ways of Seeing</i> (Berger) <i>Understanding a Photograph</i> (Berger) <i>Photography A Concise History</i> (Baar)</p> <p>Walter Benjamin. The work of art in the age of mechanical reproduction. https://web.mit.edu/allanmc/www/benjamin.pdf Hito Steyerl. In defence of the poor image. https://www.e-flux.com/journal/10/61362/in-defense-of-the-poor-image/ Hito Steyerl. Duty Free. Art in the age of planetary civil war. https://www.versobooks.com/books/2992-duty-free-art Rosalind Krauss. Sculpture in the expanded field. http://www.onedaysculpture.org.nz/assets/images/reading/Krauss.pdf</p>
Classics	<p><i>SPQR</i> (Mary Beard) <i>Rubicon</i> (Tom Holland) <i>The Histories</i> (Tacitus) <i>The 12 Caesars</i> (Suetonius) Greek plays of: <i>Sophocles, Euripides, Aeschylus and Aristophanes</i> <i>Virgil's Aeneid</i> (the translation of Book VI by Seamus Heaney is particularly fine) and <i>Lucretius De Rerum Natura</i></p>
Computer Science	<p><i>The Soul of a New Machine</i> (Kidder) <i>The Code Book</i> (Singh) <i>The Phoenix Project</i> (Kim) <i>Will Computers Revolt</i> (Simon) <i>The Pattern On The Stone</i> (Hillis) <i>Alan Turing: The Enigma</i> (Hodges) <i>Once upon an algorithm</i> (Erwig) <i>Steve Jobs</i> (Isaacson) <i>Hackers: Heroes of the Computer Revolution</i> (Levy) <i>The Road Ahead</i> by Bill Gates <i>The Cluetrain Manifesto</i> (Levine, Locke, Searls, Weinberger) <i>The Facebook Effect: The Inside Story of the Company That is Connecting the World</i> (Kirkpatrick) <i>Outliers: The Story of Success</i> (Gladwell)</p>

	<p><i>The Chip: How Two Americans Invented the Microchip and Launched a Revolution</i> (Reid)</p> <p><i>Alibaba: The House That Jack Ma Built</i> (Clark)</p>
Economics	<p><i>Freakonomics</i> (Levitt and Dubner)</p> <p><i>The Lexus and The Olive Tree – A Study of Globalisation</i> (Friedman)</p> <p><i>Grave New World – The End of Globalisation</i> (King)</p> <p><i>Hard Times</i> (Clark and Heath)</p> <p><i>Winner Takes All</i> (Moyo)</p> <p><i>The Ascent of Money</i> (Ferguson)</p> <p><i>The Price of Inequality and The Great Divide</i> (Stiglitz)</p> <p><i>End This Depression Now</i> (Krugman)</p> <p><i>How the West Was Lost</i> (Mayo)</p> <p><i>22 Things They Didn't tell You About Capitalism</i> (Chang)</p> <p><i>The Undercover Economist</i> (Harford)</p> <p><i>The End of Poverty</i> (Sachs)</p> <p><i>What Money Can't Buy; The Moral Limits of the Market</i> (Sandel)</p> <p><i>The Very Short Introduction to Marx</i> is a good study and look at the ideas of current leading thinkers in economics such as: Amartya Sen (his theories on foreign aid creating dependency) and of presenters such as Robert Peston (see his book WTF) and Stephanie Flanders</p>
English Language	<p><i>Change: Progress or Decay?</i> (Aitchison)</p> <p><i>The Myth of Mars and Venus</i> (Cameron)</p> <p><i>How Language Works</i> (Crystal)</p> <p><i>English & Media Centre: Language Handbook– Key Thinkers on Key Topics</i></p> <p><i>Language and Power</i> (3rd edition) (Fairclough)</p> <p><i>Doing Pragmatics</i> (3rd edition) (Grundy)</p> <p><i>Language and Power: a resource book for students</i> (Simpson & Mayr)</p> <p><i>Language and Gender</i> (2nd edition) (Talbot)</p>
English Literature	<p>General Literary theory:</p> <p><i>Literary Theory: An Introduction</i> (Terry Eagleton)</p> <p><i>Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction</i> (Jonathan Culler)</p> <p>Psychoanalytical theory:</p> <p><i>Reading for the Plot: Design and Intention</i> (Peter Brooks)</p> <p><i>Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism</i> (Maud Ellman)</p> <p><i>The Essentials of Psychoanalysis</i> (Anna Freud (ed.), Sigmund Freud)</p> <p><i>Freud: A Very Short Introduction</i> (Anthony Storr)</p> <p><i>How to Read Freud</i> (Granta) (Josh Cohen)</p> <p>Marxist theory:</p> <p><i>Marxism and Literary Criticism</i> (Terry Eagleton)</p> <p><i>Marxist Literary Theory: A Reader</i> (Terry Eagleton)</p> <p>Feminist theory:</p> <p><i>Gender Trouble</i> (Judith Butler)</p> <p><i>Bodies that Matter</i> (Judith Butler)</p> <p><i>A Room of One's Own</i> (Virginia Woolf)</p>

History	<p><i>The Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England</i> (Mortimer) <i>The Winter King – Henry VII</i> (Penn) <i>Silk Road</i> (Pete Frankopan) <i>The Celts</i> (Alice Roberts) <i>The Romanovs</i>(Montefiore) The 'Very Short Introduction to... series' is very good (Machiavelli, Marx, Mill)</p>
Geography	<p><i>Earth, An Intimate History</i> (Fortey) <i>Globalism and Regionalism and Capitalism as if the Earth mattered</i> (Porritt) <i>Future Shock</i> (Tofler) <i>A Blueprint for Survival</i> (The Ecologist and Penguin books) <i>Population Geography</i> (Jones) <i>The Skeptical Environmentalist</i> (Lomberg – indeed anything by him) <i>Jungle: A Harrowing True Story of Survival</i> (Ghinsberg) <i>Surviving Extremes</i> (Middleton – he teaches Geog. At Oxford) <i>Earth From Space</i> (Johnston) <i>Belching Out the Devil: Global Adventures with Coca-Cola</i> (Thomas) Anything by James Lovelock on Gaia and for the human and cultural side <i>Tribe</i> (Bruce Parry) Anything by the Prof. of Geog. at UCLA Jared Diamond <i>Caesar's Last Breath – the epic story of the air around us</i> (Kean) <i>Reading Rocks</i> (Maddox)</p>
Mathematics	<p><i>Fermat's Last Theorem</i> (Singh) <i>Does God Play Dice and Nature's Numbers</i> (Stewart) <i>Easy as Pi</i> (Ivanov) <i>The Music of the Primes</i> (du Sautoy) <i>Just Six Numbers</i> (Rees) <i>In Code</i> (Flannery) <i>Numbers, Sets and Axioms</i> (Hamilton) <i>The Universe and the Teacup – the Maths of Truth and Beauty</i> (K.C. Cole) <i>Algebra and Geometry</i> (Beardon) <i>Hidden Connections, Double Meanings</i> (Wells) <i>Elastic Fishponds. The Maths that governs our World</i> (Elwes) <i>The Norm Chronicles</i> (Blastland and Spitgethaltes) <i>Our Mathematical Universe</i> (Te.g.mark) <i>Weapons of Math Destruction</i> (O'Neill) <i>Ian Stewart's 17 equations that changed the world and Thinking in Numbers</i> (Temmet)</p>

Media and Communication Studies	<p> <i>Convergence Culture</i> (Jenkins) <i>Videocracy: How YouTube Is Changing the World . . . with Double Rainbows, Singing Foxes, and Other Trends We Can't Stop Watching</i> (Allocca) <i>A Critical Introduction to Media and Communication Theory</i> (Hooks) <i>Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: A Reader</i> (Storey) <i>Media Experiences</i> (Hill) <i>Ill Effects: The Media Violence Debate</i> (Barker and Petley) <i>Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices</i> (Hall) <i>Superwomen: Gender, Power, and Representation</i> (Cocca) <i>Creative Explorations: New Approaches to Identities and Audiences</i> (Gauntlett) <i>Media, Gender and Identity: An Introduction</i> (Gauntlett) <i>Narrative and Genre: Key Concepts in Media Studies</i> (Lacey) <i>Pop Brands: Branding, Popular Music, and Young People</i> (Carah) <i>Subculture: The Meaning of Style</i> (Hebdige) <i>Gender, Branding, and the Modern Music Industry</i> (Lieb) <i>Digital Cultures, Understanding new medias</i> (Creeber and Martin) <i>The TV Crime Drama</i> (Turnbull) <i>The TV Detective: Voices of Dissent in Contemporary Television</i> (Piper) <i>Ready Player One</i> (Cline) <i>There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack</i> (Gilroy) </p>
Medicine	<p> <i>Do No Harm</i> (Marsh) <i>When Breath Becomes Air</i> (Kalanithi) <i>Fall Down Seven times, Get Up Eight</i> (Higashida) <i>Hippocratic Oaths</i> (Tallis) <i>A very short introduction to Medical Ethics</i> (Short intro series) <i>The Rise and Fall of Modern Medicine</i> (Le Fanu) <i>NHS Plc – the privatisation of health care</i> (Pollock) <i>Betraying the NHS</i> (Mandelstram) <i>NHS SOS</i> (Davis and Tullis), <i>The Political Economy of Health Care</i> (Tudor Hart) <i>Being Mortal</i> (Gawande) <i>Causing Death and Saving Lives</i> (Glover) <i>How doctors think</i> (Groopman) <i>Diagnosis; Dispatches from the Frontlines of Medical Mysteries</i> (Sanders) <i>Bad Pharma</i> (Goldacre) <i>So you want to be a Doctor</i> (DevMetcalf) <i>A Very Short Introduction to the Eye</i>(Lund) <i>The Eye Book</i> (Grierson) <i>The Ophthobook</i> (Tim Root) </p>

Philosophy	<i>On Meditations</i> (Rene Descartes) <i>Lord of the Flies</i> (William Golding) <i>On Liberty</i> (John Stuart Mill) <i>Philosophy Files</i> (Stephen Law) <i>Philosophy: The Basics</i> (Nigel Warbuton) <i>Practical Ethics</i> (Peter Singer) <i>What is Good?</i> (A.C. Grayling) <i>How to outwit Aristotle</i> (Peter Cave) <i>Do you think what you think you think?</i> (Julian Baggini) <i>The Philosophical Life</i> (Miller) <i>What do we really know?</i> (Blackburn) <i>Gorgias</i> (Plato)
Politics	<i>The Origins of Political Order</i> (Fukuyama) <i>The Spectre at the Feast</i> (Gamble) <i>The Establishment and how they get away with it</i> (Jones) <i>British Politics</i> (Madgwick) <i>Mind The Gap</i> (Mount) <i>The Politics Book</i> (Kelly) <i>After Europe</i> (Krastev) <i>Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything You Need To Know About Global Politics</i> (Marshall) <i>Divided: Why We're Living in an Age of Walls</i> (Marshall) <i>This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate</i> (Klein) <i>No Log</i> (Klein) <i>Shock Doctrine</i> (Klein) <i>How the world works</i> (Chomsky)
Psychology	<i>They f**k you up</i> (James) <i>The man who mistook his wife for a hat</i> (Sacks) <i>Reaching Down the Rabbit Hole: A Renowned Neurologist Explains the Mystery and Drama of Brain Disease</i> (Ropper & Burrell) <i>The Skeleton Cupboard -The making of a clinical psychologist</i> (Bryon) <i>Children's Minds</i> (Donaldson) <i>The Locked Ward: Memoirs of a Psychiatric Orderly</i> (O'Donnell) <i>Classic Case Studies in Psychology: Third edition</i> (Rolls) <i>Opening Skinner's Box: Great Psychological Experiments of the Twentieth Century</i> (Slater) <i>50 Great Myths of Popular Psychology: Shattering Widespread Misconceptions about Human Behavior</i> (Lilienfeld) <i>Dibs in Search of Self: The Renowned, Deeply Moving Story of an Emotionally Lost Child Who Found His Way Back</i> (VAXline) <i>Memories of Childhood: Life in the Romanian Orphanages (1)</i> (Burcea) <i>Cognitive Behavioural Therapy For Dummies</i> (Branch) <i>The Story of Psychology, Updated & Revised Edition</i> (Hunt) <i>Madness: A Brief History</i> (Porter) <i>What is Madness?</i> (Leader) <i>Out of the Dark</i> (Royston and Caine) <i>Mindhunter: Inside the FBU Elite Serial Crime Unit</i> (Douglas/Olshaker) <i>The Killer Across the Table</i> (Douglas/Olshaker) <i>The Jigsaw Man</i> (Britton)

Science: Biology	<p><i>The Chemistry of Life</i> (Rose) Anything by the geneticist Steve Jones (note particularly <i>Language of the Genes</i>, <i>Almost Like a Whale</i> and <i>Y:The Ascent of Man</i>) <i>Genome</i> (Matt Ridley) <i>The Wisdom of the Genes</i> (Wills) <i>Life on the Edge: Quantum Biology</i> (Al-Khalili and MacFadden) <i>The Selfish Gene and The Extended Phenotype</i> (Dawkins) <i>Junk DNA</i> (Carey) <i>Life Ascending</i> (Nick Lane) <i>The Revenge of Gaia</i> (Lovelock) <i>50 Genetic Ideas You Really Need To Know</i> (Henderson) <i>Zoobiquity</i> (Horowitz and Bowers) <i>Creation: The Origin of Life</i> (Rutherford) <i>The Sixth Extinction</i> (Kolbert) <i>Great Myths of the Brain</i> (Jarrett) <i>The Gene – an Intimate History</i> (Mukherjee) <i>How We Live and Why We Die</i> (Wolpert) <i>Honeybee Democracy</i> (Seeley)</p>
Science: Chemistry	<p><i>The Chemistry of Life</i> (Rose) <i>Chemistry</i> (Brock) <i>Principles of Biochemistry</i> (White, Handler and Smith) <i>Chemistry for Changing Times</i> (Hill, McCreary and Kolb) <i>Materials Science</i> (Ramsden) <i>The Periodic Kingdom</i> (Atkins) <i>Mendeleev’s Dream – the search for the elements</i> (Strathern) <i>Periodic Tables – The Curious Life of the Elements</i> (Aldersty and Williams) <i>The Disappearing Spoon</i> (Kean) <i>50 Ideas you really need to know about Chemistry</i> (Birch) <i>The Periodic Table – a field guide to the elements</i> (Parsons and Dixon)</p>
Science: Physics	<p><i>The Physics of the Impossible and Parallel Worlds</i> (Kaku) <i>Hyperspace</i> (Khan) <i>Smashing Physics: inside the world’s biggest experiment</i> (Butterworth) <i>Seven brief lessons on Physics</i> (Rovelli) <i>Chaos</i> (Gleich) <i>Quantum</i> (Kumar) <i>How to teach Quantum Physics to your Dog</i> (Orzel) <i>The Ele.g.ant Universe</i> (Greene) <i>Just Six Numbers</i> (Rees) <i>About Time</i> (Frank) <i>The Wonders of the Solar System</i> (Cox) <i>A Space Traveller’s Guide to the Solar System</i> (Thompson) <i>Ripples in Spacetime</i> (Schilling) <i>Calculating the Cosmos</i> (Stewart) <i>The Ascent of Gravity</i> (Chown)</p>

Sociology	<i>Chavs</i> (Jones) <i>Gang Leader for a Day</i> (Ventakesh) <i>The Spirit Level</i> (Wilkinson & Pickett) <i>The Sociological Imagination</i> (Wright-Mills) <i>An introduction to Sociology</i> (Berger) <i>Living Dolls</i> (Walter) <i>Everyday Sexism</i> (Bates) <i>The McDonaldisation of Society</i> (Ritzer) <i>No Logo</i> (Klein) <i>Teach yourself postmodernism</i> (Ward) <i>A beginners guide to social theory</i> (Best) <i>A very short introduction to series: Capitalism; Communism; Criminology; Feminism; Globalisation; Marx; Sociology</i> <i>Sociology a brief but critical introduction</i> (Giddens)
Spanish	<i>Bodas de Sangre</i> (Federico García Lorca) Films: <i>Mujeres al borde de una ataque de nervios,</i> <i>Como agua para chocolate</i> <i>Diarios de Motorcicleta</i> <i>Volver</i> <i>El Laberinto del Fauno</i>
Sport/P.E.	<i>Bounce: The Myth of Talent and the Power of Practice</i> (Syed) <i>Ahead of the Game: How to Use Your Mind to Win in Sport</i> (Lazarus) <i>Run, Swim, Throw, Cheat: The science behind drugs in sport</i> (Cooper) <i>Exercise Physiology: Nutrition, Energy, and Human Performance</i> (McArdle) <i>Sport Psychology: A Complete Introduction</i> (Perry) <i>Biomechanics of Sport and Exercise</i> (McGinnis)



Reading Critically

WHY DO YOU NEED TO READ CRITICALLY?

Regardless of the subject you are studying, you need to be able to read critically. Doing so enables you to:

- interpret evidence, data and arguments – questioning them and their relevance
- identify the significance of a theory or piece of work to your own work
- develop well-reasoned arguments and theories of your own
- use evidence to justify your own arguments.

WHY ARE YOU READING?

As you progress further through your studies at college, and on to university, you will read a wide variety of texts, but you'll read them in different ways, depending on what you need them for. Thinking about this before you start reading a text can save you time and enable you to apply your critical reading skills where they are most needed; you don't want to examine a text intensively if you only need an overview of its contents!

You could use these questions to help you think about why you're reading and how this may impact upon the approach you choose to take.

- Why am I reading this text? Is it to get some brief quotes for a presentation, pre-reading to get an overview of a topic before a lecture or to understand a critic's argument for an essay?
- What do you already know?
- How will you know when you have read enough? You can't read every text, so you'll need to choose quality, not quantity and it may be wise to start with an accessible text to get you started with a good overview and foundation of knowledge first.

FACTS VS OPINIONS

Knowing the difference between facts and opinions is crucial to reading critically. Some texts you read will be factual, some will be more opinion-based and others will contain a mixture of the two. Reading critically involves being able to distinguish between what is a fact and what is an opinion.

Opinions are not reliable, unless they are supported by clear references to research and evidence. They are also viewpoints that people have, but others may disagree. On the other hand, a fact is something everyone knows to be true, something that can't easily be argued with.

BE AWARE OF HEDGING

Hedging involves writers using words which suggest a degree of caution in what they are saying, for example: could, possibly, likely or may – essentially, words which ‘hedge’ their comments with some caution.

CONSIDERING EVIDENCE

You’ll no doubt be aware by now that for a writer or a text to have credibility, they need to support what they say with evidence. People might refer to this as ‘reliable evidence’ – reliable, meaning the type that most of us would agree is a valid form of evidence. When you read critically, you’ll need to ascertain whether or not you think the supporting evidence used in a text is reliable, and therefore to what extent the text/writer can be taken into account for the purposes you have for your reading.

When you see these kinds of words, you can notice that the writer is avoiding their opinion or a statement coming across as a fact – but it does signal to you that the writer is expressing something which is not a fact and that others may feel/know differently.

HAVING OPINIONS AS A READER

We all have opinions about a wide range of things we come across in our lives, studies and reading. Did you know that opinions, however, can affect the way in which we read and digest a text? If you agree with what a writer says, you may be more likely to accept what you read, whereas if you disagree with what they say, you may be more tempted to reject what they say without really considering their arguments. It is so important, therefore, to be mindful of your opinions and to be able to put these to one side and really consider the writer’s arguments and evidence.

AVOID GENERALISATIONS

At school, you’ll have been asked to avoid making generalisations in your speech and writing in many subjects. For example, in GCSE English you’ll have no doubt learnt to avoid saying things like ‘everyone in the nineteenth century believed...’

When you read critically, you need to be mindful of similar (but likely more subtle) comments in texts. You’ll need to be able to judge what you read to see whether they are justified in making the statements they do. You’ll weigh up their arguments and evidence in a balanced way to read critically.

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN READING CRITICALLY

Step 1

When was it written? How does this affect its reliability?

What is the text about exactly? Is it relevant to your work and what you're reading for?

Who wrote it? Are they an expert in this field? Do they have any political/other bias that may impact upon their work which should be taken into consideration?

Has the text been through a peer-review process?

Has the text been funded by sources which may affect its objectivity?

Step 2

What evidence has been referred to? How is it used and interpreted? Is this reliable?

What alternative theories or methods are there?

How was the research conducted?

Is the argument and conclusion convincing, in light of the above?

Step 3

How is it similar or different to other research, or other theories, you have read?

How is it relevant to your work?

What implications does it pose for further research avenues?

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR READING CRITICALLY

FIND A QUIET LOCATION

This may seem obvious, but reading critically requires a lot of thinking, in addition to the focus of reading an academic text which may not be easy to read. To help you achieve this focus, find somewhere quiet, where you are unlikely to be disturbed and where you are free of distractions. To help with this, it can be useful to tell those you live with what you're doing so that they can be supportive and also ensure that your phone is on silent. Research shows the benefits of focused time without distractions of notifications 'pinging' off at various points, taking our minds away, so try to create this space for yourself at home or at a library.

READ SLOWLY

This may appear obvious, but if you are examining a text, you need to allow yourself the thinking time to really understand what the text is saying and to ask questions about whether certain aspects are reliable (e.g. the research methodology) or whether there is a lack of evidence for certain points the writer makes.

QUESTION

As you start to read critically, you may need some support or prompts to ensure you're thinking about key areas, such as reliability of evidence. There are several things to consider at various points as you read through a text or extract, and so having reminder questions next to you can be really supportive as you get used to the process. Use the questions on the previous page to help you, until you become familiar with this and no longer need it.

MAKE NOTES

Your teachers may have already shared with you some approaches to note taking, or you may have developed your own, but here are some extra tips which may be helpful when you are reading critically.

To save time re-writing the text, you could make notes in the margin – this will help you to refer back to key sections later. You may wish to develop a 'key' so you have consistent symbols, e.g. question marks for things you want to look back on and question in more depth, or you may use key words.

TAKE REGULAR BREAKS

We all need regular breaks from studying, reading and the work we do. Critical reading is such a focused and intensive task that taking breaks to have a drink can help us to maintain our focus, ensuring that we step back, and don't become lost in the text and lose track of everything. Breaks could involve having a drink and something to eat, a walk around the block – but it could also just be sitting back, reflecting on the prompt questions and thinking about what you've learnt from your reading so far. Doing so provides you with much-needed consolidation time, which can really benefit your reading and processing.

“Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider. Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested: that is, some books are to be read only in parts, others to be read, but not curiously, and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention.”

FRANCIS BACON