



HEAD START PACK FOR STUDENTS APPLYING FOR A LEVELS



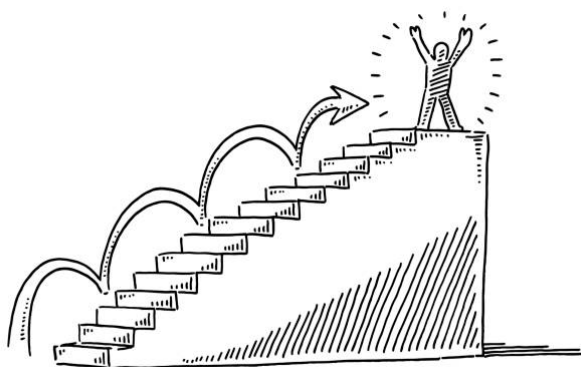
Below are a range of activities and resources for you to engage with before starting you're a Levels at Barnet and Southgate College. These will put you in an excellent position to begin your course with us in September and maximise your results!

Getting ready for A Levels...

As you transition from GCSE to A Levels, it's crucial to understand that the demands will significantly increase, requiring a higher level of commitment, discipline, and critical thinking skills. You'll need to hone your ability to analyse complex concepts, manage your time effectively, and express your ideas articulately. Developing resilience in the face of challenges and being proactive in seeking support when needed are also essential qualities for success at A Levels. Mastering these skills not only sets you up for academic achievement but also prepares you for the rigours of higher education and the professional world beyond. A Levels serve as a stepping stone toward your future endeavours, whether it's pursuing higher education, entering the workforce, or embarking on entrepreneurial ventures. By excelling in your A Levels, you open doors to a multitude of opportunities, empowering you to achieve your aspirations and make a meaningful impact in your chosen path!

For success in A Levels you will need to develop...

- ✓ Independent study skills
- ✓ Time management skills
- ✓ Organisation
- ✓ Self-discipline
- ✓ Being proactive
- ✓ Critical thinking



You should get ahead by ordering your course textbooks, getting a separate folder for each subject with coloured dividers to separate the topics, writing paper and a set of pens, and any other equipment you might need such as a calculator and ruler.



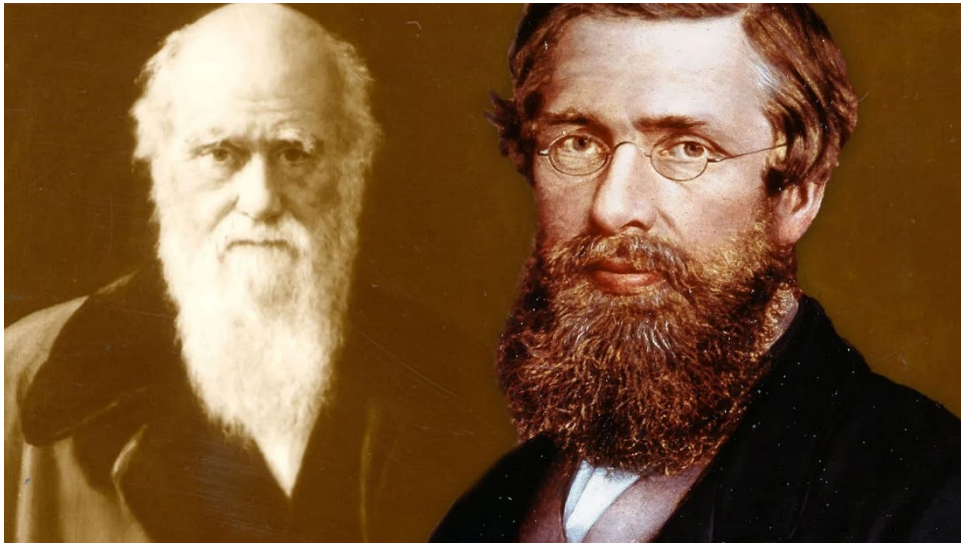
Now give the head start activities below a go...!

A Level Biology

Something to Watch

A historical insight into the joint presentation of the concept of Evolution by Darwin and Wallace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOiUZ3ycZwU>



Something to Listen to

The origin of Life on Earth as narrated by Sir David Attenborough

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07f45xx>



Something to Read

An example of Natural selection in action – and quickly!

A population of finches on the Galapagos has been discovered in the process of becoming a new species. This is the first example of speciation that scientists have been able to observe directly in the field. Researchers followed the entire population of finches on a tiny Galapagos island called Daphne Major, for many years, and so they were able to watch the speciation in progress.

The research was published in the journal Science.

The group of finch species to which the Big Bird population belongs are collectively known as Darwin's finches and helped Charles Darwin to uncover the process of evolution by natural selection. In 1981, the researchers noticed the arrival of a male of a non-native species, the large cactus finch.

Professors Rosemary and Peter Grant noticed that this male proceeded to mate with a female of one of the local species, a medium ground finch, producing fertile young. Almost 40 years later, the progeny of that original mating are still being observed, and number around 30 individuals.

"It's an extreme case of something we're coming to realise more generally over the years. Evolution in general can happen very quickly," said Prof Roger Butlin, a speciation expert who wasn't involved in the study.

What makes a species? This new finch population is sufficiently different in form and habits to the native birds, as to be marked out as a new species, and individuals from the different populations don't interbreed. Prof Butlin told the BBC that people working on speciation credit the Grant professors with altering our understanding of rapid evolutionary change in the field. In the past, it was thought that two different species must be unable to produce fertile offspring in order to be defined as such. But in more recent years, it has been established that many birds and other animals that we consider to be unique species are in fact able to interbreed with others to produce fertile young.

"We tend not to argue about what defines a species anymore, because that doesn't get you anywhere," said Prof Butlin. What he says is more interesting is understanding the role that hybridisation can have in the process of creating new species, which is why this observation of Galapagos finches is so important. The researchers think that the original male must have flown 65 miles from the large cactus finches' home island of Española. That's a very long way for a small finch to fly, and so it would be very unlikely for the bird to make a successful return flight.



By identifying one way that new species can arise, and following the entire population, the researchers state this as an example of speciation occurring in a timescale we can observe.

In most cases, the offspring of cross-species mating are poorly adapted to their environment. But in this instance, the new finches on Daphne Major are larger than other species on the island, and have taken hold of new and unexploited food.

For this reason, the researchers are calling the animals the "Big Bird population".

To scientifically test whether the Big Bird population was genetically distinct from the three species of finch native to the island, Peter and Rosemary Grant collaborated with Prof Leif Andersson of Sweden's Uppsala University who analysed the population genetically for the new study.

Prof Andersson told BBC News: "The surprise was that we would expect the hybrid would start to breed with one of the other species on the island and be absorbed... we have confirmed that they are a closed breeding group."

Due to an inability to recognise the songs of the new males, native females won't pair with this new species.

And in this paper, new genetic evidence shows that after two generations, there was complete reproductive isolation from the native birds. As a result, they are now reproductively - and genetically - isolated. So they have been breeding exclusively with each other over the years.

"What we are saying is that this group of birds behave as a distinct species. If you didn't know anything about [Daphne Major's] history and a taxonomist arrived on this island they would say there are four species on this island," said Prof Andersson. There is no evidence that they will breed again with the native medium ground finch, but even if they did, they now have a larger size and can exploit new opportunities. Those advantageous traits may be maintained by natural selection. So hybridisation can lead to speciation, simply through the addition of one individual to a population. It may therefore be a way for new traits to evolve quickly. "If you just wait for mutations causing one change at a time, then it would make it more difficult to raise a new species that way. But hybridisation may be more effective than mutation," said Prof Butlin.

Something to Think About

The origin of the species was published on the 24th November 1859 (Murray) – why do Darwin's ideas still cause controversy today?

A Level Business

Things to think about

1. Do you think an innovative idea guarantees the success of an entrepreneur in the business world?
2. What characteristics do you think are the characteristics required to be a successful business man or woman?
3. Do you think it is more important to care about the environment and employees rather than the profit?
4. To what extent do you think businesses have grown and expanded organically in comparison to businesses that have merged with other business or have been acquired?
5. What do you think is the extent of the economic damage caused by the coronavirus and how do you think this impacts UK businesses?

Things to watch

Jeff Bezos - [Billionaire Documentary](#) - Amazon, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Mindset

Warren Buffet - [Billionaire Documentary](#) - Investment, Mindset, Business, Berkshire Hathaway



Richard Branson - [Billionaire Documentary](#) - Entrepreneur, Lifestyle, Risk, Instinct

Aldi vs Lidl: [Supermarket wars](#)

How Apple nearly collapsed | [Inside The Storm](#) | Full episode

How Starbucks nearly collapsed | [Inside The Storm](#) | Full episode

Things to read

[Why is Microsoft so successful?](#)

[The world's 50 most innovative companies 2020](#)

[Tesla becomes the most valuable car company in the world at \\$190bn](#)

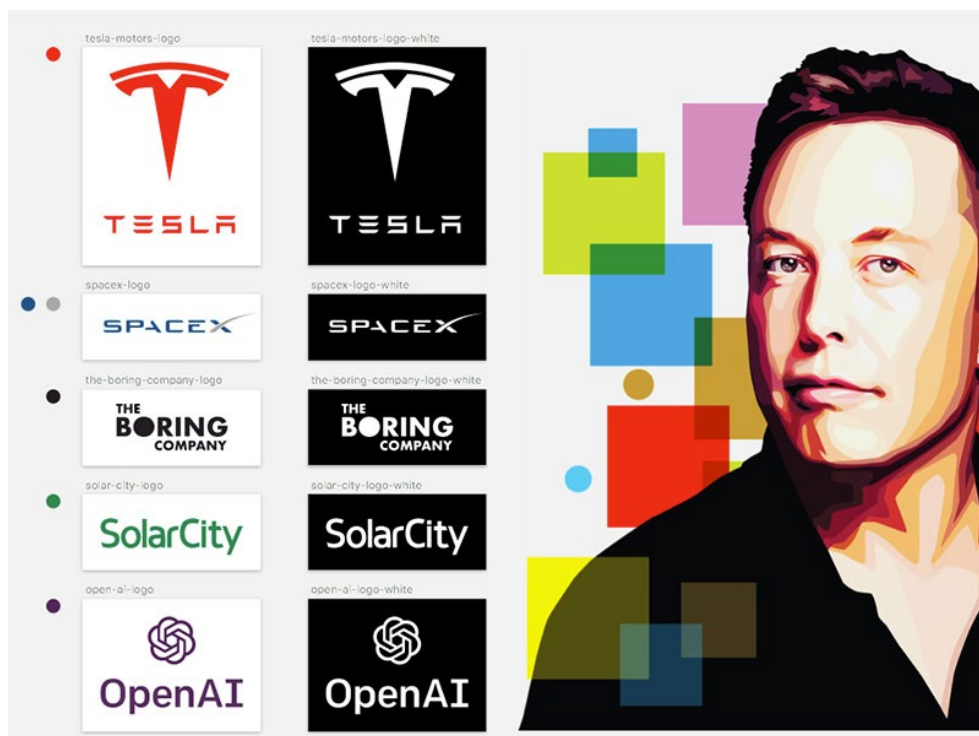
[Why brand image matters more than you think](#)

[Why marketing your product is more important than the product itself](#)

[Firms can't cope with no deal and virus - CBI boss](#)

[High street brands in fight for survival amid coronavirus fallout](#)

[List of shops that have collapsed into administration in 2020 as UK lockdown hits high street](#)



A Level Chemistry

Something to watch

<http://www.periodicvideos.com>

[Investigating the Periodic Table with Experiments - with Peter Wothers](#)

[Secrets of the super-elements](#)

Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Period 1	1 H																	2 He
Period 2	3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
Period 3	11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
Period 4	19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
Period 5	37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
Period 6	55 Cs	56 Ba	57 La	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
Period 7	87 Fr	88 Ra	89 Ac	104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Nh	114 Fl	115 Mc	116 Lv	117 Ts	118 Og
				58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu	
				90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr	

Something to read about

<https://acsmediakit.org/blog/five-life-changing-chemicals-discovered-by-accident/>

<https://www.science.org.au/curious/chemistry>

<http://www.compoundchem.com/>

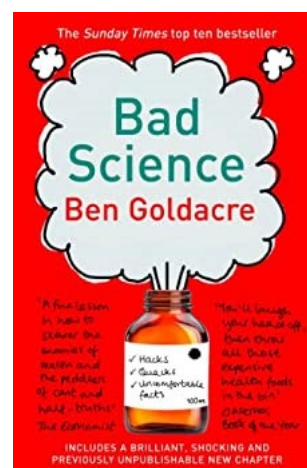
What happened on your birthday?

<https://edu.rsc.org/resources/collections/on-this-day-in-chemistry>

"A short history of nearly everything" by Bill Bryson

"Stuff matters" by Mark Miodownik

"Bad Science" by Ben Goldacre



Something to think about:

How many molecules are there in a drop of water?

How old are the atoms that make you?

Why is lobster blood blue and what makes the smell of vanilla?

Are we made mostly of empty space?



A Level Economics



Something to Think About

Why are teachers and nurses paid so much less than a Premier League Footballer?



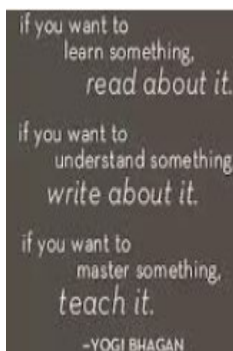
Something to Listen to

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/economicsexplained/episodes/Australia-Should-Be-Poor--Why-Isn't-It-e2e08f6/a-aaqao21>

Australia Should Be Poor. Why Isn't It?

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/economicsexplained/episodes/Something-Terrible-Is-Happening-in-Italy-e2dcstj/a-aaokh0g>

Something Terrible Is Happening in Italy



Something to Watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkJITKUaF3Q>

Young Generations Are Now Poorer Than Their Parents and It's Changing Our Economies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9edWX7TTsLw>

Who owns water? | DW Documentary

A Level English Language and Literature

If you're thinking about English Language and Literature A Level, here are some activities to give you a Head Start:

Things to think about

You will learn about methods of language analysis, such as:

- Phonetics, Phonology and Prosodics
- Lexis and Semantics
- Grammar, including Morphology
- Pragmatics
- Discourse

Think about how language might differ/be similar in the openings of a novel and an autobiography.

Consider a range of speech features in literature and in real-world communication. Would you expect to see similarities?

What differences might you expect to see in real and fictional events that cover the same topic? Think about first person accounts and imagined responses.

Things to Read

War Photographer – Carol Ann Duffy

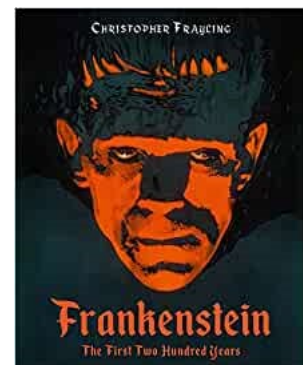
Home-Thoughts, from abroad – Robert Browning

Checking out me history – John Agard

The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini

Frankenstein – Mary Shelley

[The Power of Language](#): How Words Shape People, Culture – Alex Shashkevich



Things to Watch/Listen to

[Stories Are Waiting in Paris](#) - The AQA Anthology: Paris is a set text for our AS and A-level English Language and Literature specifications.

[Language is Power](#) - Lindsay Johns

Shaun of the Dead (2004 Dir. Edgar Wright)

Shakespeare in Love (1999 Dir. John Madden)

1917 (2019 Dir. Sam Mendes)

Emma (2020 Autumn de Wilde)



A Level English Literature

Things to Watch

If you are thinking of studying English at Barnet College, we would like you to look at the National Theatre Website. Many of the plays we teach are available free for you to watch on on-line: "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "Othello." There is also an interesting stage adaptation of "Frankenstein".



TV Series

A Very British Romance

Novels that Shaped our World

The Woman in White https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.d0b6e7ba-2e91-c754-e9be-821791229e1b?ref_=imdbref_tt_wbr_pvs_piv&tag=imdbtag_tt_wbr_pvs_piv-21

Films

Shaun of the Dead (2004 Dir. Edgar Wright)

Shakespeare in Love (1999 Dir. John Madden)

1917 (2019 Dir. Sam Mendes)

Emma (2020 Autumn de Wilde)

Things to Read

"Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley

["Goblin Market"](#) by Christina Rossetti.



[Goblin Market](#) – You can also watch an adaptation of the poem.

Things to think about

For something to think about: "What do you think are the main differences between poetry and prose?" Why do different writers use different forms, such as poetry, novels and drama? How might our reaction to a text differ from that of the audience at the time that it was written? (context of production vs reception).

Maya Angelou is a poet and an author. Why did she choose to write 'Still I Rise' as a poem? How different would it be as a play or a novel? It was written in 1978 – how might the audience's reaction differ now from then?

Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqOqo50LSZ0>

A Level History

The first year of your history A-level will help you to deepen your understanding of the world we live in today, through learning about 20th century British and American history. Here are some things to think about as you start to explore the 20th century:

- What echoes of the 20th century can you see in the world today?
- How important was activism in getting more rights for women, people of colour, LGBTQ+?
- The Second World War led to the creation of the NHS and the welfare state in Britain. What impact do you think the pandemic has had on politics?

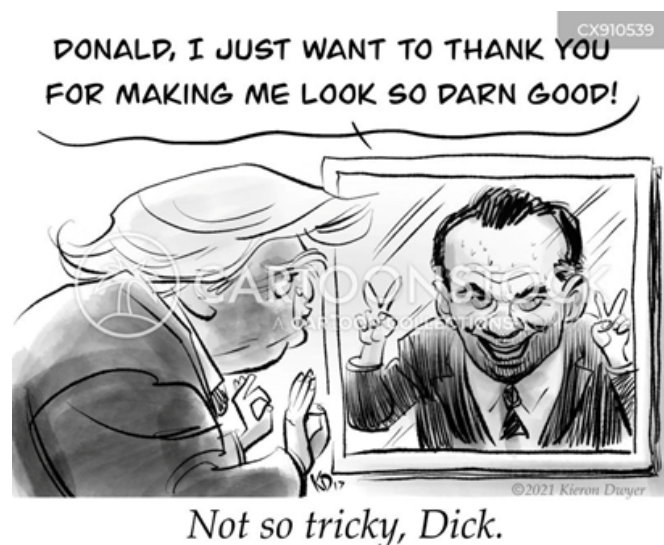
SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The USA course covers the presidencies of Eisenhower, John F Kennedy, Lyndon B Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan.

Find out about the Watergate scandal during Richard Nixon's presidency:

<https://www.history.com/topics/1970s/watergate>

and then think about the message of this cartoon:



SOMETHING TO WATCH (documentaries):

Britain in the 20th century

Andrew Marr's *Making of Modern Britain* – 1900 – 1945

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_eICyolb8Q

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWmO0-uC_yw

Andrew Marr's History of Modern Britain – 1945 - 2007

An introduction to 1950s America:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6dsc5p5-3A&list=PL3H6z037pboHR-knzU-dc9XecG8UKrZs0&index=9>

American presidents

JFK:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjA4mtnCkM4>

Nixon:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tV9JT4pZH_o

Reagan:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcu580_nspQ

SOMETHING TO WATCH: Films

Made in Dagenham – About the strike in Dagenham car plant that helped lead to equal pay for women in British law

Selma – The Civil Rights movement in America

All the President's Men – The Watergate scandal

SOMETHING TO READ:

Background on British politics:

<https://history.blog.gov.uk/2012/05/01/number-10-under-lloyd-george-1916-1922/>

Articles give a good introduction to 1950s America

<https://www.nytimes.com/1997/12/28/nyregion/at-50-levittown-contends-with-its-legacy-of-bias.html?pagewanted=all&src=pm>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/postwarera#1950s-america>

SOMETHING TO LISTEN TO:

BBC Witness History: The Watergate Scandal

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3cszmsj>

BBC Prime Ministers props: Stanley Baldwin's iron gates

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07nrlqn>

A Level Law

Something to Read



[The weird laws that are still enforced in the UK.](#)



[The essential cases every law student should know](#)

Something to Watch/Listen to

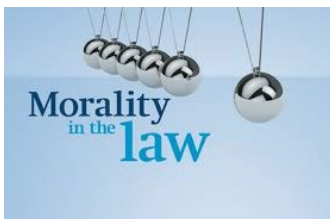


[Adnan Syed is 17 and arrested for the murder of his ex-girlfriend. Can you solve the murder?](#)



[Do Juries Make the Right Decision?](#) Two sets of juries hear the same case on murder. Do they both make the same decision? What decision would you have made?

Something to Think About



Moral Dilemma

A runaway train is heading down the tracks toward five workers who will all be killed if the trolley proceeds on its present course. Adina is on a footbridge over the tracks, in between the approaching train and the five workers. Next to her on this footbridge is a stranger who happens to be very large. The only way to save the lives of the five workers is to push this stranger off the footbridge and onto the tracks below where his large body will stop the train. The stranger will die if Adina does this, but the five workers will be saved. Should Adina push the stranger off the footbridge, killing him but saving the five workers?

Legal Dilemma

R v Dudley and Stephens 1884

The two defendants, Dudley and Stephens became shipwrecked by a storm. They were forced to abandon their ship and were stranded in a small emergency boat with two others including a young cabin boy. They had been stranded for 18 days. The food had run out 7 days earlier and they had had no water for five days. Dudley and Stephens decided that it would be better to kill the cabin boy as he was close to death, and he had no family in order for the remaining three to survive. Dudley and Stephens killed the cabin boy and all three men fed on the boy. They were rescued four days later. On their return to England Dudley & Stephens were charged with the boy's murder. Should they be convicted of murder? Is there a moral obligation to follow the law?

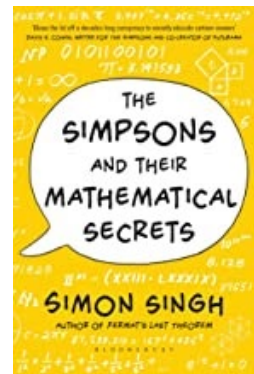
A Level Maths



[Watch](#) - Maths can be real fun, watch how Matt Parker makes magic with numbers

Read - What does mathematics has in common with Simpsons?
Read in the book

Simon Singh



[Read interesting facts about Maths](#)

Maths can be fun but it is also a hard work. You will need to be really good in algebra and know your trigonometry to be successful, so before you start try to practice a bit [ALGEBRA](#) -algebraic manipulations, indices, equations and simultaneous equations

and [GEOMETRY](#) - properties of 2D shapes, Pythagoras theorem and trigonometry ratios

(open the links to find exercises to practice before you start maths)

Think – Mathematics is a lot about logic and logical deductions and problem solving. Think outside of the box. Do you want to have a go? Visit

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

Can you find the Missing Number?

© www.ShakeTheBrain.com

A Level Media Studies

A Level Media Studies involves both theoretical analysis and a practical production. The theoretical analysis requires that you take a keen interest in a range of media texts and how they are constructed to appeal to their audience.

Things to Think About

Where do we get the information we rely upon to form our opinions?

How much influence does the media have on our lives?

Who owns the media and how does this effect the content of media texts?

What changes have you seen in the way we consume media content over the past five years?

Things to Read

- *David Gauntlett* - Media, Gender and Identity

An introduction to the relationship between media and gender identities. The writer provides new ways of looking at media's influence on gender and sexuality.

- *Noam Chomsky* - Manufacturing Consent

Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky depict how an underlying elite consensus largely structures all facets of the news. Examines the way in which the marketplace and the economics of publishing significantly shape the news and that much news reporting is actually propaganda.

- *Stuart Hall* - [Reception Theory](#)

An interesting introduction into how a media text is encoded by the the people who make it and then decoded by the audience that consume it. Hall is a prominent theorist in media and cultural studies.

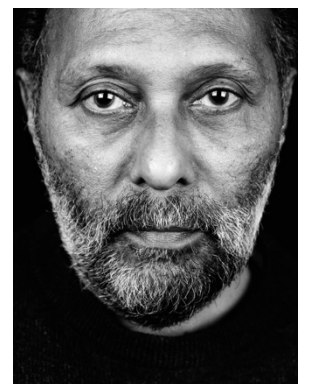
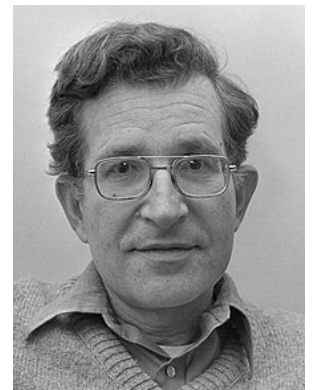
- *Paul Gilroy* - Post Colonial theory

A concise introduction into the afro-Caribbean writer's work on Post colonial theory. It explains both what colonialism was and how its impact is still present in the world today.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvdPnmjhdYQ>

- *The ipaper*

Among the Close study products you will be working on is the 'ipaper'. The course requires that you have a good understanding of how media texts are constructed, the messages they present to the consumer and the type of audience they appeal to.



You should ensure that you read an online newspaper as frequently as you can.

The [paper](#) is an excellent place to start if you do not already read a national paper.

Reading a paper on a regular basis will keep you informed of events the media considers important. You will also be able to familiarise yourself with how the paper presents these stories to its audience.

Films to Watch

I, Daniel Blake

Social realist text that explores working class life in north-east England. Directed by veteran film maker Ken Loach.

Official Secrets

The true story of a British whistleblower who leaked information to the press about an illegal NSA spy operation designed to push the UN Security Council into sanctioning the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Examines the role of the media in monitoring state activity that threatens British values.

Hidden Figures

The story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. The film examines the struggle of the women to overcome institutional racism.



Visual Storytelling

In preparation for next year's A level media course it would be beneficial for you to develop during the summer holiday digital filmmaking skills.

The link provide gives you the opportunity to explore different areas of digital documentary filmmaking, including,

Shooting

Listening

Finding the story

Telling someone else's story

Finishing and sharing the story

Use the [PDF](#) link as a reference to support developing your documentary idea.

The Task

Create a folder on your computer titled, 'visual storytelling', save your work in this folder . Identify an idea/story close to home that you could construct into a documentary:

Explain what the story is about.

Explain what is the main message of your documentary.

Describe the characters in your documentary.

Describe the main documentary locations and film 2 photographs for each location.

Describe what are the shot types, and why you will be using them for filming your documentary.

Produce an 8 picture mood-board that represents your documentary. Select a range of images on one page and display a title.

During the first term at college you will have the opportunity of filming and editing your documentary idea.



A Level Photography

Something to Watch / Listen to

Watch: 3 very different documentaries about very different types of photography



Everybody Street

YouTube



Faces & Places

Netflix



Finding Vivian Maier

Amazon Prime

Online Exhibition

Carrie-Mae Weems A gifted storyteller who works accessibly in text and image, she's created new narratives around women, people of color and working-class communities, Weems produces striking images that communicate her strong beliefs and ideas on identity.

<https://www.artsy.net/artist/carrie-mae-weems>

Listen

[Podcasts](#) - Six short stories from six exciting photographers



Something to Read

[The art of visual storytelling in pictures](#)



Something to think about:

What is the impact of visual storytelling?

OR

Think about a subject or theme that personally inspires you. A photography project that you would enjoy developing, creating a visual story that communicate your ideas through a series of photographs, in a genre of your choice.



A Level Physical Education

Things to think about?

- Who is sport for?
- How much can athletes earn?
- Where does the money come from?
- What motivates successful athletes to keep going?
- What should happen when athletes cheat?
- Do countries 'specialise' in particular sports?
- Can good athletes 'switch' sports?
- Does professionalism improve sport?
- What makes a successful coach?
- What ONE rule would you change in your favourite sport?



Things to Read

'Bounce' - by Matthew Syed (GB International Table Tennis players). Sport Psychology, easy to read!

Lance Armstrong - admitted cheating after years of success as a cyclist

Maria Sharapova – suspended from tennis for taking a banned medication

Ian McKinley – lost eye playing Irish rugby, took up coaching, now Italian rugby international

Colin Kaepernick –NFL player unable to find team after protesting police brutality

Serena Williams – tournaments won and money earned. What motivates her to keep going?

Jamaican school athletics – why is it so popular?

Things to Watch

The English Game – Netflix – Football & the early history of professionalism

The Last Dance – Netflix – Basketball - Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan

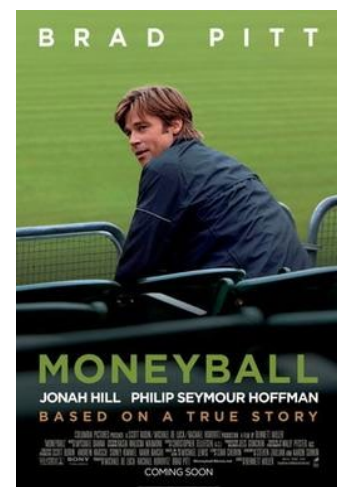
Coach Carter – Netflix – Basketball – based on a true story of a high school basketball coach

The Game Changers – Netflix – Diet and Nutrition

Last Chance U – Netflix – American Football

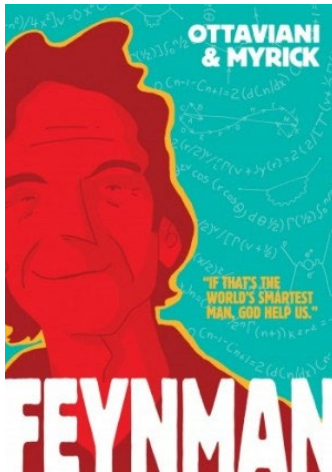
Moneyball – Netflix – Baseball / Business / performance analysis

Losers – Netflix - Sport Psychology (series covering many sports)

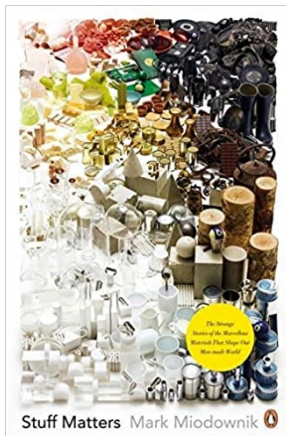


A Level Physics

Something to Read



[A comic book style illustrated biography of Richard Feynman's life.](#)



[Materials' properties history and explanation of all the items on the authors roof terrace.](#)

Something to Watch

[Horizon's episode](#) - on the research into the physics and possibility of traveling through time.

[Brian Cox](#) - on Wonders of the Universe

Films:

The Theory of Everything (2015)

Interstellar (2014)

Something to Think about

What is the densest subject in the universe?

How do bats use sound to navigate?

Why do objects float in liquids denser than themselves?

What is Wi-Fi

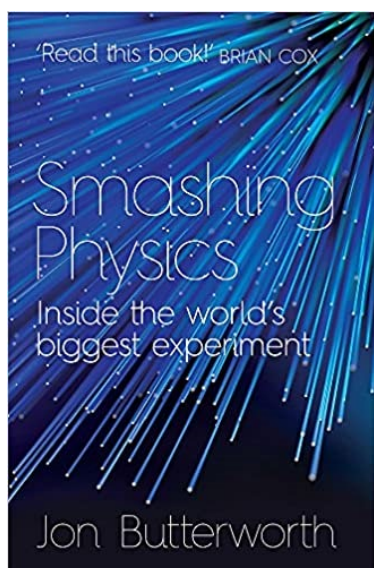
Also... thinking about [this situation](#) can you describe why there is a difference between the two scenarios.

There is also an optional mathematical extension question.

Year 12

Year 12 students wishing to prepare themselves for and gain an insight into the physics and subject matter of the 2nd Year of A-Level Physics could consider the following material.

Something to Read



[Smashing Physics](#). The story of the discovery of the Higgs Boson at CERN's Large Hadron Collider by one of the scientists who was involved.

Something to Think about

A [mathematically challenging scenario](#) introducing the concept of circular motion to forces, energy, momentum with this 'beads falling round a hoop' problem.

A Level Politics

Something to think about

- How can we restore trust in politics?
- What forces led to Donald Trump becoming president?
- Is unemployment benefit a disincentive to work?
- Has democracy had its day?

'I Side With' Quiz

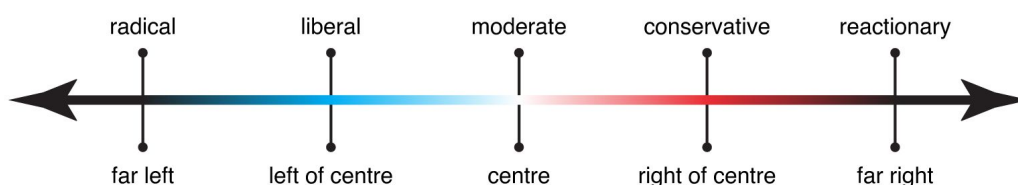
Not sure if you're 'right wing' or 'left wing'? Don't know if you should vote Labour, Conservative, Green or UKIP? Find out which political party your own beliefs align with most closely here: <https://uk.isidewith.com/>



Political Compass Test

Do you believe humans need a strong government, or do you believe the more freedom we have the better? Do you believe in high taxes to pay for public services, or do you believe taxation is theft? Do you believe Answer a set of multiple-choice questions to find out which political ideologies best describes your views: <https://www.politicalcompass.org/test>

Political spectrum



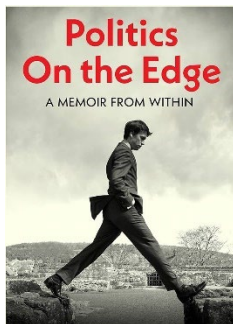
Something to Read

The Week (magazine)

A useful weekly summary of key news stories from the UK and around the world.



Politics on the Edge



Rory Stewart was an MP fired from the Conservative Party for voting against Brexit in 2019, after 9 years in Parliament. He has also worked as a governor in Iraq, founded a charity in Afghanistan, and now hosts a successful Politics podcast with Alastair Campbell called 'The Rest is Politics'. His book *Politics on the Edge* recalls his time in Parliament, dealing with floods, prisons, foreign aid, Brexit and Boris Johnson, and reveals the broken nature of British politics.

Something to Watch (Documentaries)

The Thick of It

Fictional comedy depicting British politics
Available on BBC iPlayer and Netflix

Thatcher: A Very British Revolution

Documentary series illustrating the rise and fall of Margaret Thatcher
Available on BBC iPlayer

We will also study US politics so you will need to familiarise yourself with American political structures on both a state and federal level.

[13th: The Criminalisation of African-Americans in the US Prison System](#)

[Charlottesville: Race and Terror](#)

[The Protests in Minneapolis, Louisville, and Washington DC](#)

Something to Watch (Films)

Brexit: The Uncivil War

Film which uncovers the forces that led to Brexit

I, Daniel Blake

Film exploring poverty and the inadequacies of the benefit system in Britain.

The Riot Club

A thinly veiled version of the Bullingdon club, which included members such as Boris Johnson.

A Level Psychology

Things to Think About

- What makes somebody good or evil?
- Why do we have different personalities?
- What causes mental illnesses?
- Would you be a good eyewitness to a crime?
- Does social media benefit or damage our mental wellbeing?



Things to Read

Books:

Mistakes Were Made (But Not by Me) - Carol Travis and Elliot Aronson

Examination of how the mind copes with beliefs that are contradictory.

The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat - Oliver Sacks

A series of essays looking at a range of neurological conditions.



- The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil by Philip Zimbardo
- The Psychopath Test: A Journey Through the Madness Industry by Jon Ronson
- Reaching Down the Rabbit Hole: Extraordinary Journeys into the Human Brain by Dr Allan Ropper and Brian David Burrell

Online:

- [Simply Psychology](#), Research digest and Psychology
- There are many interesting articles (and podcasts) on BPS research digest: <https://digest.bps.org.uk/> e.g. [The Placebo Effect, Digested – 10 Amazing Findings](#), [10 Hellish Psychology Studies You'll Be Glad Not To Have Participated In](#), <https://digest.bps.org.uk/2020/05/04/aspiring-to-be-rich-may-damage-your-relationships/>

Things to Watch

Films: The Secret Life of 4, 5 and 6 Year Olds

Insightful documentary observing personality development in young children.

Channel 4

Kids on the Edge

A series of documentaries that go behind the scenes at the Tavistock clinic to explore what goes on in children's minds.

Channel 4

Loosing It: Our Mental Health Emergency

Series which follows the mental health crisis team from Nottinghamshire NHS

Channel 4

Mindhunter

Fictional series about the behavioural science unit of the FBI, relates to the topic psychopathology.

Netflix

The Mind Explained

20 minute documentaries explaining various aspects of psychology

Netflix

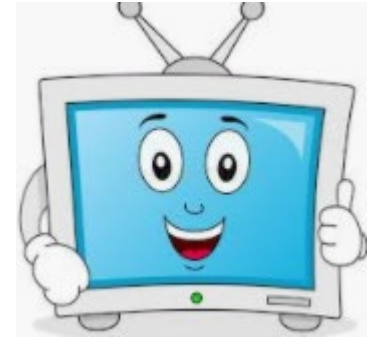
3 Identical Strangers

Unethical experiment examining the nature nurture debate

Netflix

Other Films

- A Beautiful Mind
- Memento
- Amy
- 12 Angry Men
- Good Will Hunting



A Level Sociology

Things to Think About

Why do we love “Love Island”?

Because it gives us an insight into relationships so that we can avoid the pitfalls?

Because it feels safer to watch other people having relationships rather than having our own?

Because it is a “reality” that is more interesting than our own?

Because it gives us the opportunity to judge people? Are these judgements our own or are we manipulated into thinking a certain way? If so, who is manipulating us?

Why has “kick it out” failed to do exactly that?

With more BAME players than ever before, why have we seen a rise in racist incidents in football?

Can music make us violent?

To what extent, if at all, is drill responsible for the rise in knife crime?

Things to Read

Malcolm Gladwell – Tipping point

An interesting examination of the way in which social trends can spread like a virus.

Stephen J. Dubner and Steven Levitt – Freakonomics

Economic theory applied to unusual situations. Explaining why teachers cheat for example.

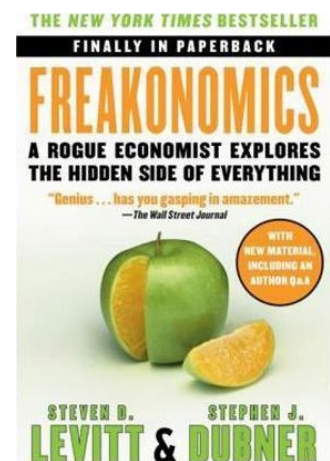
Owen Jones – Chavs

Explores negative stereotyping and ridicule of the working class particularly in the media

Sudhir Venkatesh - Gang Leader for a Day

An observational study of the organisation of a crack gang in Chicago

Review: <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/gang-leader-for-a-day-by-sudhir-venkatesh-790843.html>



Things to Watch

TV

[Man like Mobeen](#) - series 1-3

Comedy containing a number of sociological and political themes such as poverty, crime, racial police profiling, family breakdown and multiculturalism.

Top boy - series 1-3

Available on Netflix

Compelling, gritty drama teeming with sociological themes ranging from gang violence, community breakdown, immigration, toxic masculinity and gendered occupations.

Explained

US documentary series on Netflix exploring various social and cultural issues such as the gender pay gap, cults and the future of meat. (20 minutes per episode)

Music

Childish Gambino - [This is America](#)

A chilling exposé of historical and institutional racism in American culture.

Beyonce - [Formation](#)

Illustrating police brutality

Idles - [Danny Nedelko](#)

Celebrating diversity and multiculturalism

Young Fathers - [Toy](#)

Video depicting world leaders as spoilt children

Lady Gaga - [Til it Happens to You](#)

Video revealing the high incidents of sexual assaults of girls at college campuses in the US



Films (UK)

I, Daniel Blake

Film exploring poverty and the inadequacies of the benefit system.

Sorry We Missed You

A critical examination the delivery industry that has evolved as a consequence of businesses like Amazon.

Made in Dagenham

A dramatised version of women getting equal pay

Educating Rita

An exploration of the impact of social class on educational aspiration



Films (International)

I am Not Your Negro

Institutional racism in US culture

OJ. Made in America

Race, class, sport and celebrity

Marriage Story

Drama exploring gender and divorce

Parasite

Korean film exposing the myth of social mobility



Extended Project Qualification

The extended project is ideally suited to students with an enquiring mind who like to think outside the box. It is a self-directed, independent research project investigating any topic that is a source of fascination to the student. Generally speaking, the research will culminate in the production of a written paper, however where appropriate it could be in the creation of an artefact, a short film or a painting for example. Projects that stand out are those where the student has an evident passion in the area of investigation.

Previous Titles Include

Outracing Evolution – To What Extent is Modern Medicine Advantageous for our Survival in this Day and Age?

With specific reference to British clubs, to what extent is there racism in European football from the 1990's to the present day?

What is the relationship between music, memory and our emotions?

Is the education system failing pupils with special needs?

How can we explain the different perceptions of mental illness in different parts of Turkey?

To what extent is having a pet therapeutic?

Are social media influencers responsible for fuelling violence among young people?

