



Robert Smyth Academy Sixth Form Summer Reading List

Art AQA, Specification 7202

- *Ways of Seeing* by John Berger
- *365 Days of Art: A Creative Exercise for Every Day of the Year* by Lorna Scobie
- *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms* by Michael Clarke
- *Art: The Definitive Visual Guide* Andrew Graham Dixon
- *Contemporary Art: A Very Short Introduction* by Julian Stallabrass
- *Why Your Five Year Old Could Not Have Done That: Modern Art Explained* by Susie Hodge
- www.tate.org.uk/art
- www.artcyclopedia.com

Biology OCR, Specification A

- *A Level Biology for OCR A (Science A Level for OCR)* by Ann Fullick, Jo Locke, et al.
- *The Selfish Gene* by Richard Dawkins
- *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson
- *New Scientist* magazine, published monthly

Business Studies Edexcel, Specification 9BS0

- Radio 4's *More or Less* (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qshd>)
- In Business BBC Radio 4 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006s609>
- Wake Up to Money BBC Radio 5 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0070lr5>
- Global Business (BBC World Service) [BBC World Service - Global Business](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006sz6t)
- 'The Bottom Line' from BBC Radio <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006sz6t>
- *The Undercover Economist* by Tim Harford
- *Fifty Things that Made the Modern Economy* by Tim Harford

Chemistry OCR, Specification A - H432

- www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/chemistry-a-h032-h432-from-2015/
- *Head Start to A-level Chemistry (CGP A-Level Chemistry)* by CGP Books
- <https://edu.rsc.org/student> - Lots of resources to extend your chemistry knowledge.

Computer Science OCR, Specification H446

- *The Code Book* by Simon Singh; Fourth Estate, 2002. Not strictly about Computer Science, but an interesting introduction to code-breaking and cryptography, fields that have a strong connection to Computer Science.
- *Hello World: How to be Human in the Age of the Machine* by Hannah Fry; Black Swan, 2019. "...a tour of the good, the bad and the downright ugly of the algorithms that surround us."
- [Computerphile - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8butISFwT-Wl7OV0akVAgyQ) – Videos on how aspects of computer systems function.
- [Isaac Computer Science](https://www.isaac-computer-science.com/) - Free online puzzles and work for A level Computer Science.
- [Explaining Computers - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8butISFwT-Wl7OV0akVAgyQ) – Very well put together research on how computers function.

- [Object-Oriented Programming \(OOP\) in Python 3 – Real Python](#) – Tutorials on how to code with OOP (Object Orientated Programming) - Upskill yourself ready for the Coursework(NEA)!
- [Python Web Scraping Tutorials – Real Python](#) - Web scraping is gathering data from online and processing it to show specifics. This could be used in the Coursework (NEA) to help attain the higher grades.
- Keep a log of any situations that you think could or would be suited to a computational solution. For example, students waiting for the school bus, rather than waiting in the rain, the bus notifies when 5 min away. This would require live GPS data and a database of locations the bus stops.

Economics EDEXCEL, Specification 9EB0

- Radio 4's *More or Less* (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qshd>)
- Economics in Ten podcast ([Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#))
- *The Undercover Economist* by Tim Harford
- *Fifty Things that Made the Modern Economy* by Tim Harford

English Language and Literature AQA, Specification 7707

- *The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood
- *The Paris Wife* – Paula McLain
- *Down and Out in Paris and London* – George Orwell
- *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* – Gertrude Stein
- *Paris, I Love You but You're Bringing Me Down* – Rosecrans Baldwin
- *A Tale of Two Cities* – Charles Dickens
- *Marie Antoinette* – Lady Antonia Fraser
- *The Collected Stories* – Ernest Hemingway
- *Notre-Dame de Paris* – Victor Hugo
- *The Most Beautiful Walk in the World* – John Baxter
- *Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution* – Simon Schama
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5U4yLBqLeGU> Landmarks in Paris
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPvBXsiA9Zs> Ernest Hemingway biography - he comes up in the anthology.

English Literature AQA, Specification 7712

- *Othello* by William Shakespeare
- *The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald
- Reading around the roaring '20s would be beneficial. This is particularly good: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/157593.Flapper>

French AQA, Specification 7262

- <https://savoirs.rfi.fr/fr/apprendre-enseigner> Easy news in French, with lots of language activities.
- <https://www.1jour1actu.com/> A news online magazine aimed at French teenagers.
- <https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/frenchindex.html#Grammar> Consolidating grammar.

Further Mathematics OCR, Specification B (MEI) H645

- *Alex's Adventures in Numberland: Dispatches from the Wonderful World of Mathematics* by Alex Bellos
- *Can You Solve My Problems?: A casebook of ingenious, perplexing and totally satisfying puzzles* by Alex Bellos

Geography EDEXCEL, Specification 9GE0

- BBC News / The Guardian for geography-related news, especially on the following topics:
 - Year 12: tectonic hazards, coasts, globalisation, regeneration
 - Year 13: rivers and floods, carbon and energy, superpowers, human rights
- *Prisoners of Geography* by Tim Marshall

German AQA, Specification 7661

- www.dw.com/en/learn-german/s-2469 Deutsche Welle (Learning / German Culture / News)
- www.youtube.com/channel/UCbxb2fqe9oNgglAoYqsYOtQ Easy German (YouTube Channel - Grammar and Cultural Topics)
- www.newsinslowgerman.com/ Slow News in German (Podcast)

History AQA, Specification 7262 (options we cover 1C (Tudors) and 2Q (USA))

- <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042/specification-at-a-glance>
- Mark Stacey - Oxford AQA History: The American Dream, Reality and Illusion 1945-80 (THE key textbook which all students NEED to purchase)
- D Murphy - *Flagship History, United States 1917-2008*
- V Sanders - *Civil Rights in the USA 1945-68*
- *Citizen Kane* - film
- *The Great Gatsby* – novel and/or film
- *The Butler* - film
- *The Cold War* - CNN TV (Complete series)
- David Ferriby, Tony Imperato, Angela Anderson – Oxford AQA History AQA A-level History: The Tudors: England 1485-1603 (Paperback, 2015)
- J Guy, *Tudor England*, OUP, 1998
- *King Henry VII: Winter King*, Thomas Penn
- *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*, Elizabeth DVDs – D Starkey
- *Henry VIII: The Mind of a Tyrant*, D Starkey (4 part series)
- *Six Wives* with Lucy Worsley, BBC One

Mathematics OCR, Specification B (MEI) H640

- You can use www.mathsgenie.co.uk to find lots of questions to revisit GCSE 7 – 9 work.
- www.corbettmaths.com has tutorial videos.

Media Studies Eduqas

- Campaign magazine <https://www.campaignlive.co.uk/> is focused on advertising and brand strategy.
- BBC News Media Analysis www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c207p54mlzpt/media
- The Guardian's Media section www.theguardian.com/uk/media

Music EDEXCEL, Specification 9MU0

- www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_radio_three Listening to new music and exploring composers.
- www.classicfm.com/composers/bach/guides/chorales-guide/ An article on Bach Chorale.

Music Technology EDEXCEL, Specification 9MT0

- www.musictech.net/category/features/
- www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtZcTSildlehSjSrzaH1X0wAHpDjeJa6k
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/pegzch/playlists>

PE OCR, Specification H555

- *OCR A Level PE (Year 1 and Year 2)* by Sarah Powell
- <https://www.brianmac.co.uk/>
- <https://www.brainscape.com/subjects/a-level-pe>
- www.uksport.gov.uk
- <https://www.eis2win.co.uk/>
- Journal of Sport Sciences
- Sports autobiographies
- Sports, fitness and health magazine articles

Physics OCR, Specification A H556

- Richard Feynmann's *Six Easy Pieces* or *Lectures on Physics* (Volume 3 is good)
- Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time* or *Universe in a Nutshell*
- *Mr Tompkins* by George Gamov
- *The First 3 Minutes* by Steven Weinberg
- *The Strangest Man: The Hidden Life of Paul Dirac* by Graham Farmelo
- *Special Relativity and Classical Field Theory* by Leonard Susskind
- <http://subjects.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk/science/quizzes/Physics%20Past%20Papers/Main%20Index.htm> To get a feel for course content visit the school website resources.
- Why not discover the laws of physics yourself with a playground of interactive simulations? <https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulations/category/physics>

Politics EDEXCEL, Specification 9PLO

- *Required textbook: Edexcel GCE Politics AS and A-level Student Book 2nd Edition* by Andrew Colclough, Graham Goodlad, Samantha Laycock, Ian Levinson
- *Politics on the Edge* by Rory Stewart
- *The Prime Ministers* by Steve Richards
- *What Does Jeremy Think? Jeremy Heywood and the Making of Modern Britain* by Suzanne Heywood
- An overview of the basics: <http://simplepolitics.co.uk/>
- [The Rest is Politics](#) podcast

Psychology AQA, Specification 7182

- *The Idiot Brain* by Dean Burnett
- *The Happy Brain* by Dean Burnett
- *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* by Oliver Sacks
- *Why We Sleep* by Matthew Walker
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* by Mark Haddon
- *Thinking in Pictures* by Temple Grandin
- *The Brain, the Story of You* by David Eagleman
- *Incognito* by David Eagleman
- *Thinking Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman
- Tutor2u.net
- Psych Boost on YouTube
- SimplyPsychology.org

Product Design Eduqas

- *Design for the Real World: Human Ecology and Social Change* by Victor Papanek
- *Invention by Design: How Engineers Get from Thought to Thing* by Henry Petroski
- *Small Things Considered* by Henry Petroski
- *Material Innovation: Product Design* by Andrew H. Dent and Leslie Sherr
- https://www.ted.com/talks/don_norman_3_ways_good_design_makes_you_happy
Don Norman's TED Talk on good design.

Sociology AQA, Specification 7192

- *Educating Yorkshire* or *Educating Essex* from Channel 4
- Any Louis Theroux
- *Benefits Street* or *Can't Pay Take It Away* - Good to look at social circumstances of poverty
- *I, Daniel Blake* - Gives an alternative view of the above
- *Fahrenheit 9/11* - Good for state, crime and corruption
- *The Hunger Games* - Good at looking at class division and revolution
- *Minority Report* - Good on surveillance - quite similar to today!
- *Animal Farm* – George Orwell
- *Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley
- *Lord Of The Flies* – William Golding
- *1984* – George Orwell
- *Noughts & Crosses* – Malorie Blackman

Spanish AQA, Specification 7692

- <https://neiljones.org/category/spanish-ks5/> A website with videos and worksheets on the current Year 12 topics and grammar for revision.
- <https://www.newsinslowspanish.com/spanish-podcast> This is great to practise listening skills with current news.
- <https://www.donquijote.org/spanish-culture/> Interesting reading about Spanish history and culture with links to different artists and traditions.

Textiles AQA, Specification 7204 (Art & Design Textile Option)

- www.textileartist.org/textile-art-groups Interviews with textile artists, giving great insight and well worth a read through!
- www.62group.org.uk/ A group of textile artists who are quite famous in the textile world. They often have exhibitions, etc. and many of the artists could become a focus of future projects.
- www.vam.ac.uk/ Collections can be viewed on-line, including their costume/fashion. Linked to this is <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000f1xp/secrets-of-the-museum-series-1-episode-1>
- www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/may/05/interior-designer-abigail-aherns-garden-style-fireplaces-and-chandeliers Abigail Ahern is a great contemporary interior designer and, if this is your thing, she is an excellent choice to research as a working professional. She has a website, but you might find more information on her from interviews, such as this one.
- www.vogue.co.uk/shows HUGE collection of fashion shows can be viewed, including ready-to-wear, menswear and haute couture (which is the really expensive, "out-there" fashion). This is a great resource to look at and use for research in the future. Great for students interested in fashion!