



SIXTH FORM

The St John's Sixth Form Super-Curricular Programme



STJOHN'S
MARLBOROUGH



What is the The St John's Super-Curricular Programme?

Our super-curricular programme is designed to help you expand your knowledge and passion for your A-Level subjects beyond the standard curriculum. Inside this resource, you will find a curated list of suggested books, films, videos, podcasts, places to visit, things to do and competitions to enter for each subject we offer at A-Level. These activities are intended to deepen your understanding, broaden your perspectives, enhance your overall educational experience and prepare you for further study.

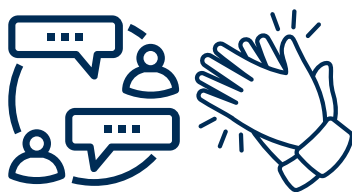


How to Use This Resource

Explore and Engage: Dive into the recommended resources to discover new and exciting aspects of your subjects. These suggestions are meant to ignite your curiosity and foster a greater appreciation for the material you are studying.

Log Your Activities: After completing an activity, be sure to log it in the Activity section of Unifrog. This not only helps you keep track of your learning journey but also strengthens your applications for universities, apprenticeships, or employment.

Share and Celebrate: Inform your subject teachers about the activities you have completed. They can log your achievements on Class Charts, ensuring your efforts are recognised and celebrated.



The links and ideas provided are suggestions to get you started. They are not exhaustive, and your learning journey is unique; we support your initiative to explore beyond these recommendations. If you read, listen to, watch or visit something of interest, then please tell your teachers all about it: we love receiving recommendations from our students.

Enjoy your exploration & the enrichment which comes with diving deeper into your subjects!



unifrog

What is Unifrog?

Unifrog is a platform we use to help students explore their career interests, choose the best post-school pathways, and successfully complete their applications.

How do I use it?

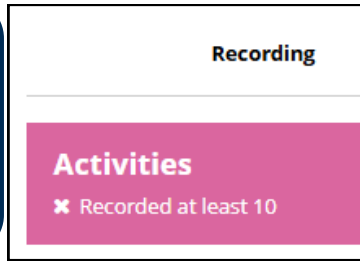
Follow this guide to log your engagement with the Sixth Form Super-Curriculum in **8 simple steps**.

1

Log in to Unifrog
www.unifrog.org

2

Scroll down to the **'Recording'** section and select **'Activities'**



3

Click the **'Add an activity'** button

+ Add an activity

4

Give the activity a title:
Subject + Super-Curriculum

* Title
27 of 50 characters

5

Select the activity type:
Extracurricular reading

* Activity type

6

Write a **description** of what it was you read and how it deepened your knowledge for A-level study e.g.

7

Select from the list of relevant **skills**

Reading

8

Select the **dates** in which you completed this task.

Date started 2026
Date finished 2026

Reading Adam Kay's *This Is Going to Hurt* helped me understand the real-world application of A-level Biology, particularly in human reproduction and development. His experiences working in obstetrics highlighted the complexity of pregnancy, fetal growth, and hormonal regulation. The memoir also demonstrated how biological knowledge underpins medical diagnosis and treatment, showing the importance of topics such as genetics, homeostasis, and disease in healthcare.

Add activity

And click **'add activity'** to finish!

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Art

READ



- The Shock of the New: Art and the Century of Change by Robert Hughes
- The Story of Art by E. H. Gombrich
- Art: The Definitive Visual Guide - A visual overview of movements and masterpieces by DK
- Ways of Seeing by John Berger
- The World Atlas of Street Art by Rafael Schacter
- Book of Branding - a guide to creating brand identity for startups and beyond by Radim Malinic
- The Illustrated Story of Art by DK
- The Power of Art by Simon Schama

LISTEN



- Art Curious
- The Art Newspaper Podcast
- The Great Women Artists Podcast
- David Zwirner Podcasts
- Art Biz Podcast
- The Savvy Painter
- The Modern art Notes Podcast

VISIT



- Tate Modern, London
- The National Gallery, London
- The Royal Academy, London
- Tate Modern gallery, London
- The National Portrait gallery, London
- The Holburne Museum, Bath

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Art

WATCH



- Frida (2002, rating 15) - A biography of artist Frida Kahlo, who channelled the pain of a life-changing injury and her tempestuous marriage into her work.
- Basquiat (1996, rating 15) - The brief life of Jean Michel Basquiat, a world-renowned New York Street artist struggling with fame, drugs and his identity
- Tate Britain's Great Art Walks
- My Left Foot (1989, rating 15) - Christy Brown, born with cerebral palsy, learns to paint and write with his only controllable limb - his left foot
- Lust for Life (1956, rating PG) - Biographical film about the life of Van Gogh
- Sky Arts - Artist of the Year
- Grayson's Art Club
- Peggy Guggenheim: Art Addict (2015, rating 15)
- 'Ways of Seeing' (1972) - Whether exploring the history of the female nude or the status of oil paint, this landmark BBC series showed how art revealed the social and political systems in which it was made.

FIND ONLINE



- Pinterest
- WikiArt
- Colour Palette Generator
- Artsy
- Artists Network
- Google Cultural Institute Art Project

COMPETE / DO

- Apps: Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Photoshop Sketch
- Young Artist's Summer Show - Royal Academy of Arts
- Oexmann Art Competition - Wiltshire



Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Biology

READ



- This is Going to Hurt – Adam Kay
- The Origin of the Species – Charles Darwin
- The Immortal life of Henrietta Lacks – Rebecca Skloot
- The Selfish Gene – Richard Dawkins
- Bad Science – Ben Goldachre
- The man who mistook his wife for his hat – Oliver Sacks

LISTEN



- Royal Society of Biology: Youtube
- Seneca podcasts: Biology A Level Podcasts by Seneca (senecalearning.com)
- A Question of Science with Brian Cox

WATCH



- TED talks: Ideas about Biology (ted.com)
- BBC biology videos: Biology – BBC News
- Miss Estruch: Miss Estruch – YouTube
- New Scientist Podcast: The World, the universe and us Youtube
- David Attenborough documentaries on BBC
- Surgeons: At the Edge of Life – BBC following the life of pioneering surgeons
- This is going to Hurt – BBC
- AQA Required Practicals – Malmesbury Education (youtube)
- The Bionic Vet – BBC

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Biology

COMPETE / DO

- • Compete - Biology Olympiad



VISIT

- • Visit - Oxford University Museum of Natural History - Oxford
- • Visit - We are the Curious - Bristol
- • Visit - Science and Innovation Park - Wroughton
- • Visit - The old operation theatre, London



FIND ONLINE

- • Miss Estruch: Miss Estruch Biology - Biology teacher, tutor and study skills expert.
- • Physics and maths tutor: Biology Revision - PMT (physicsandmathstutor.com)
- • Seneca learning: Free Homework & Revision for A Level, GCSE, KS3 & KS2 (senecalearning.com)



Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Business

READ



- The Everything Store – Brad Stone – A readable case study of Amazon, useful for growth, strategy, innovation, and leadership.
- Business Adventures – John Brooks – Short real-world business stories that develop understanding of risk, decision-making, and corporate behaviour.
- How Innovation Works – Matt Ridley – Explains technological change and innovation in a clear, non-technical way suitable for A-level students.
- Gigged – Sarah Kessler – Explains the rise of the gig economy, platforms like Uber, and implications for workers and businesses.
- The \$100 Startup – Chris Guillebeau – Very readable and motivating, showing how small start-ups can scale with limited capital.
- Purple Cow – Seth Godin – Focuses on differentiation and standing out in competitive markets—great for product differentiation and innovation.
- Becoming Steve Jobs – Brent Schlender & Rick Tetzeli – Focuses more on Jobs' development as a manager and leader, useful for understanding how leadership styles evolve.
- Levi Roots: You Can Get It If You Really Want – Levi Roots – Excellent A-level case study covering entrepreneurship, risk-taking, funding, and branding from Dragon's Den to mass retail.
- Tesla: How Elon Musk and a Band of Engineers Created the Most Successful Car Company in the World – Erik Brynjolfsson & Andrew McAfee – Focuses on technological change, competitive advantage, and long-term strategy (selected chapters work best).
- The IKEA Story – Bertil Torekull – An excellent A-level text on entrepreneurship, cost leadership, corporate culture, and global expansion.
- Losing the Signal: The Untold Story Behind the Extraordinary Rise and Spectacular Fall of Nokia – Jacquie McNish & Sean Silcoff – One of the best real-world texts for understanding strategic failure, resistance to change, and technological disruption.

LISTEN



- BBC Radio 4 – The Bottom Line: Clear discussions about real business decisions, strategy, and leadership using current examples [BBC Radio 4 – The Bottom Line](#)
- BBC World Service – Business Daily: Short, engaging episodes focused on global businesses, markets, and topical economic issues. [BBC Sounds – Business Daily – Available Episodes](#)
- HBR IdeaCast: Short expert-led episodes on leadership, strategy, innovation, and workplace change.
- How I Built This (NPR): Founder stories that work well for enterprise, growth strategies, branding, and risk-taking.

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Business

WATCH



- The Social Network (2010) - Entrepreneurship, business growth, ownership, conflict between shareholders, and ethical issues.
- Million Dollar Traders - Share dealing documentary - [Million Dollar Traders - Part 1 | British reality TV Series & Course created by Lex van Dam](#)
- The Men Who Made Us Spend (BBC) - Explores marketing techniques, branding, and consumer behaviour over time. [The Men Who Made Us Spend S01E01](#)
- The Big Short (2015) - Financial markets, risk, regulation, and the consequences of unethical business behaviour.
- Inside the Factory (BBC) - Operations management, efficiency, automation, and productivity. [BBC Player | Inside the Factory](#)
- Harvey Jones: Trouble at the Top and Troubleshooter - Excellent for leadership styles, organisational culture, and change management. [Troubleshooter: Morgan - Change or Die. 2000](#)
- Super Size Me (2004) - A must-use case for CSR, ethics, stakeholder pressure, branding, and reputational risk. [Super Size Me \(2004\) - Documentary \(SWESUB\)](#)
- Inside the supermarket - Sainsbury - [BBC Inside the Supermarket, Series 1, Episode 1](#)

VISIT



- Museum of Brands Explore 200 years of consumer history through packaging, advertising, and brand evolution – great for marketing and branding studies. [Victoria and Albert Museum, London](#)
- [The Photographers Gallery, London](#)
- [Martin Parr Foundation, Bristol](#)
- [The Fox Talbot Museum, Lacock](#)
- Triumph Factory Visitor Experience - Hinckley: The visitor experience includes displays and behind-the-scenes insight into a major UK manufacturing brand's history and production processes. [Triumph Factory Visitor Experience | Destination Motorcycles](#)
- Land Rover Factory Tours: Provides tours of cutting-edge automotive manufacturing facilities, showing modern production, automation and quality control. [Visit Land Rover Cutting-Edge Manufacturing Facilities](#)
- JCB World Tour & Factory Experience: Explore the history of JCB, see heavy machinery in action, and learn about innovation, manufacturing and global strategy.
<https://www.jcb.com/en%2%80%91gb/heritage/museum%2%80%91&%2%80%91experience>
- Fuller's Brewery Tour - London: Guided tours through the historic Griffin Brewery with insight into production, branding, marketing, supply chain and customer experience.
<https://fullers.co.uk/visit/griffin%2%80%91brewery%2%80%91tour>

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Business

COMPETE / DO



- Entrepreneurship Essay Competitions - Cambridge Judge Entrepreneurship Lab run essay competitions aimed at sixth formers exploring business or entrepreneurial topics – great for analytical skills and UCAS applications. <https://www.kingselab.org/essay-competition>
- The Real Business Challenge - A free UK enterprise competition that sets business tasks (often in partnership with major brands) to develop teamwork, creativity and commercial awareness run by the Careers and Enterprise Company
- The Tenner Challenge - A business challenge for 11-19-year-olds where pupils are given £10 to start and grow a business in four weeks, developing enterprise and financial skills. <https://www.10xchallenge.org.uk/en/>
- Young Enterprise Company Programme A flagship national programme where teams of students set up and run a real student-led company for a year.
- Research - models such as Ansoff, Porter and Maslow
- Research - the collapse of major companies (Wilko, Woolworths, Blockbuster Video, Comet Electricals).

FIND ONLINE



- Investopedia / The Plain Bagel Accessible explainers on financial operations, online business valuation, risk, and modern digital business trends. <https://www.investopedia.com>
- Shopify Masters / Shopify YouTube. While aimed at entrepreneurs, it's highly informative for students on how online retail businesses and e-commerce websites operate
- History Cooperative (Business & Economic History section) A collection of scholarly but accessible articles on industries, firms, and business change over time.
- Companies House - UK Company Data & History. Official registry – often includes incorporation dates, filings, and historical changes for UK businesses.
- Funding Universe (Company Histories) A large collection of free historical company histories showing growth, strategy, and failures.
- Harvard Business School Case Collection (Business History cases). Academic cases focusing on business history – some free summaries, others available via school access. www.online.hbs.edu
- Tutor2u Business - Excellent A-Level focused videos on topics like e-commerce, marketing strategy, stakeholders, and technology in business. <https://www.tutor2u.net/business/topics/>
- Taking The Biz a well-regarded online resource specifically aimed at A-Level Business students. <https://www.youtube.com/TakingTheBiz>

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Chemistry

READ



- Bad Science – Ben Goldachre
- The Disappearing Spoon and Other Extraordinary True Tales from the Periodic Table – Sam Kean
- Chemistry for Breakfast: The Amazing Science of Everyday Life – Mai Thi Nguyen-Kim
- Periodic Tales: The Curious Lives of the Elements – Hugh Aldersey-Williams
- The Periodic Table – Primo Levi
- Grunt: The curious science of humans at war – Mary Roach

LISTEN



- Chemistry for your life – Chemistry For Your Life (transistor.fm)
- Chemistry in its elements – Periodic Table: Podcast (rsc.org)
- A Question of Science with Brian Cox

WATCH



- Watch · New Scientist Podcast: The World, the universe and us Youtube
- Chemistry: A Volatile History BBC Four – Chemistry: A Volatile History – Episode guide
- TED Talks: Ideas about Chemistry (ted.com)

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Chemistry

FIND ONLINE



- Royal Society of Chemistry: Support for students
- My Physics and Maths Tutor
- Save My Exams
- Allery Chemistry – YouTube

VISIT



- Science and Innovation Park – Wroughton
- We are the Curious – Bristol

COMPETE / DO



- UK Chemistry Olympiad (Jan Year 13) UK Chemistry Olympiad | RSC
- Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Lower Sixth (June Year 12) Cambridge Chemistry Challenge
- School's Analyst (June Year 12) Schools' Analyst | RSC

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Classical Civilisations

READ



Non-Fiction:

- Persian Fire: The First World Empire and the Battle for the West by Tom Holland
- Rubicon: The Last Years of the Roman Republic by Tom Holland
- Dynasty: The Rise and Fall of the House of Caesar by Tom Holland
- Pax: War and Peace in Rome's Golden Age by Tom Holland
- The Greeks: A Portrait of Self and Others by Paul Cartledge
- X Marks the Spot: An Adventurous History of Archaeology by Michael Scott

Supplementary Classical texts:

- The Iliad by Homer
- The Argonautica by Apollonius of Rhodes
- Metamorphoses by Ovid
- Aesop's Fables
- Lives of the Twelve Caesars by Suetonius
- Parallel Lives by Plutarch (sometimes split into Greek Lives and Roman Lives)
- Greek Tragedies by Aeschylus, Euripides and Sophocles: Agamemnon, Ajax, Electra, Philoctetes, Alcestis, Hippolytus, Medea, Oedipus the King, and Antigone.

LISTEN



Podcasts which cover Classical history or culture:

- The Ancients
- Short History Of...
- In Our Time: History
- The Rest is History
- Ancient Civilisations
- Dan Snow's History Hit

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Classical Civilisations

WATCH



- Greek Island Odyssey with Bettany Hughes [EXAMPLES](#)
- 8 Days That Made Rome [EXAMPLES](#)
- Sappho: Love & Life on Lesbos with Margaret Mountford [Sappho Love - Life on Lesbos with Margaret Mountford \(BBC\)](#)
- Ovid: The Poet and the Emperor [Ovid - The Poet and the Emperor \(BBC\)](#)
- Julius Caesar Revealed [Julius Caesar Revealed - BBC iPlayer](#)
- The Destiny of Rome [Betrayal, Alliances, and War: Rome After Caesar's Fall | SLICE HISTORY | FULL DOCUMENTARY](#)

COMPETE / DO



- The Gladstone Memorial Prize competition: [2026 Gladstone Memorial Essay Prizes - The Classical Association | The Classical Association](#)
- Y13 Greek Club: Available to any Y13s who would like to familiarise themselves with the Greek alphabet (both reading and writing it) and understanding Greek derivations in English.

VISIT



- The British Museum
- The Ashmolean Museum
- London Museum
- The Roman Baths at Bath

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Computer Science

READ



- Algorithmic Puzzles, by Anany and Maria Levitin
- Algorithms to Live By: The Computer Science of Human Decisions by Brian Christian and Tom Griffiths
- Brown Dogs & Barbers, by Karl Beecher
- The Code Book, by Simon Singh
- The Emperor's New Mind, by Roger Penrose
- Godel, Escher, Bach, by Douglas Hofstadter
- How Google Works, by Eric Schmidt and Jonathan Rosenberg
- I am AWAKE, by Fisher Samuels
- New Scientist Magazine
- New Turing Omnibus, by A.K. Dewdney
- The Pattern on the Stone, by W. Daniel Hillis
- The Register News Website



LISTEN

- Curious Cases
- DeepMind: The Podcast
- Oxford University's Computer Science Podcasts
- Programming Throwdown
- Rabbit Hole
- Software Engineering Radio
- Spark with Nora Young
- Twit: Security Now
- Twit: This Week in Tech
- Uncharted with Hannah Fry

WATCH

- A Brain in a Supercomputer (2009)
- A.I. Artificial Intelligence (2001)
- Hidden Figures (2016)
- The Imitation Game (2014)
- The Social Network (2010)
- The Year Open Data Went Worldwide (2010)



Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Computer Science

COMPETE / DO

- [Advent of Code](#)
- [Bebras Challenge](#)
- [The British Informatics Olympiad](#)
- [The British Algorithmic Olympiad](#)
- [CanSat Competition](#)
- [The Experience AI Challenge](#)
- [The International Computer Science Competition](#)
- [National Cipher Challenge](#)
- [The Raspberry Pi Foundation Coding Challenge](#)



FIND ONLINE

- [Craig 'n' Dave - OCR A-Level Computer Science](#)
- [CSNewbs - OCR A-Level](#)
- [Isaac Computer Science](#)
- [PMT - Computer Science Revision](#)
- [Seneca Learning](#)



VISIT

- [Museum of Computing, Swindon](#)
- [Amazon Fulfilment Centre Tour, Swindon](#)
- [The National Museum of Computing, Milton Keynes](#)
- [Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes](#)
- [The Centre for Computing History, Cambridge](#)
- [Science Museum, London](#)
- [National Videogame Arcade, Sheffield](#)

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level D&T Product Design

READ



The Design of Everyday Things – Don Norman

A must-read on user-centred design and why products succeed or fail.

Cradle to Cradle – William McDonough & Michael Braungart

Introduces sustainable design thinking and circular economy ideas.

Stuff Matters – Mark Miodownik

Brilliant for understanding materials science in an engaging way.

Hooked – Nir Eyal

Insight into how products are designed to influence user behaviour.

Product and Furniture Design (The Manufacturing Guides) – Rob Thompson

A practical look at how mass produced products are made.

Making It – Chris Lefteri

More than a hundred production methods in detail.

How Bad Are Bananas – Mike Berners-Lee

The carbon footprint of everything.

1000 Design Classics – Phaidon

Inspiration from the most iconic and influential designers.



LISTEN

99% Invisible Stories about hidden design in everyday life.

The Design Better Podcast Interviews with top designers about process and innovation.

Material Matters Focuses on sustainable materials and emerging technologies.

WATCH



Abstract: The Art of Design Each episode profiles a leading designer.

TED Talks (search product design, sustainability, innovations etc)

Objectified A feature-length documentary about our relationship with manufactured objects

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level D&T Product Design

COMPETE / DO



<https://www.craftanddesigncouncil.org.uk/> Open design competition for anyone working with jewellery or precious metalwork.

<https://uksdc.org/> UK Space design centre team competition.

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/library/collection/425396/design-challenges-competitions-and-events> For STEM based competitions.

Try reverse engineering or product disassembly: Take apart everyday products to understand design for manufacture.

Learn CAD using Fusion 360 or SolidWorks

Build a personal project (e.g. sustainable packaging, smart product, ergonomic redesign)

FIND ONLINE



<https://www.dezeen.com/> Keeps you updated on cutting-edge design.

<https://www.core77.com/> Industry insights, case studies.

<https://www.instructables.com/> Step-by-step builds.

<https://materialdistrict.com/> Explore innovative and sustainable materials.

<https://www.instituteofmaking.org.uk/> Part of UCL, including materials library and events.

VISIT



Design Museum Excellent exhibitions on product design and innovation.

Science Museum Focus on engineering, materials, and technological development.

V&A Museum Huge design collections spanning history and modern practice.

University design departments (open days at places like Loughborough University or University of the Arts London). See student work and facilities.

Local manufacturing sites or workshops (e.g. furniture makers, CNC workshops, 3D printing studios)

New Designers Exhibition A showcase of the best design graduates

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Economics

READ



- The Undercover Economist - Tim Harford Explains everyday life (coffee shops, traffic, supermarkets) using core econ ideas
- 23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism - Ha-Joon Chang - Short economics chapters, controversial takes on traditional economics theory—excellent for critical thinking.
- Cracking Economics - Tejvan Pettinger - beginner-friendly intro to macroeconomics
- Economics in One Lesson - Henry Hazlitt - A classic intro to economic reasoning about cause and effect.
- Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies - Jared Diamond - Why did some societies become rich and powerful while others didn't?
- 50 Economics Ideas You Really Need to Know (2012) Ed Conway - Explains ideas like comparative advantage, inflation, globalisation, and market failure
- Material World: A Substantial Story of Our Past and Future (2023) Ed Conway - How six basic materials – sand, salt, iron, copper, oil, and lithium – underpin the entire global economy.
- When Money Dies: The Nightmare of Deficit Spending, Devaluation, and Hyperinflation in Weimar Germany - Adam Ferguson - consideration on the causes of Hyperinflation
- The Economist - A globally respected weekly magazine covering economics, politics and business with in-depth analysis.
- Economic Review Magazine

VISIT



- Bank of England Museum Tour https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- London Stock Exchange Group – Purpose & Virtual Events. LSEG runs regular virtual events/webinars where senior leaders discuss financial markets, infrastructure, and trends – you can register to attend these from anywhere [Contact | London Stock Exchange](#)
- Insider London – Virtual City of London Finance Tour: This online educational tour walks through London's financial heart, covering key institutions like the London Stock Exchange building, the Bank of England, and other City landmarks, often with a live Q&A afterwards. [Virtual Tours | Insider London](#)
- Bristol Archives (via Bristol Museums You can organise talks, document-based workshops or group visits using archives that contain port records, merchant documents and historical maps showing trade networks and business records from Bristol's past. <https://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-archives/whats-at/talks-tours-group-visits/>

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Economics

WATCH



- Economics Help – Economics discussion YT channel analysing economic policy and questions.
- Economics Explained – Broader economics perspective connecting theory with real world events and global economic issues – useful for essays and contextual examples.
- Crash Course Economics – From the Crash Course series, short, animated lessons explain major economics concepts in an engaging, digestible format – excellent if you prefer visual and narrative learning.
www.youtube.com/c/crashcourse/search?query=economics
- Masters of Money (BBC Series) A BBC documentary series hosted by Stephanie Flanders explaining the ideas of Keynes, Hayek and Marx – directly relevant to sections on economic schools of thought and macro theory.
- The City Uncovered with Evan Davis (BBC) – While an older BBC series than others, it offers excellent insight into finance, banking and risk – very useful for macro case studies like financial crises.
- Economics Explained – Real world & policy explained simply
- Economics Online – Topic explanations & statistics – Smaller channel with conceptual and stats content.
- FutureLearn Economics Courses Short online courses delivered by universities; some include video lectures on economic theory & policy.

LISTEN



- Freakonomics Radio – A hugely popular podcast (and radio programme) that explores economics and behaviour in real-world contexts, often linking back to Freakonomics themes like incentives, markets and unexpected consequences.
- The Economics Show (Financial Times) – A weekly economics podcast from the Financial Times hosted by Soumaya Keynes and colleagues, with smart analysis and discussions on topical global economic issues.
- Planet Money (NPR) – Engaging storytelling that explains complex economic ideas through compelling narratives – short and accessible episodes are ideal for students.
- 50 Things That Made the Modern Economy (BBC) – Hosted by Tim Harford, this radio show/podcast tells the economic history behind a key invention, system or idea – such as the fridge or the gramophone – and explains how these shaped the modern economy.
- Econverse Podcast (University of Nottingham) – A student-led podcast exploring economics issues and careers with expert guests – useful for understanding how economics applies beyond the classroom.
- 5 Minutes Economics Short, A-level friendly episodes that explain current economic topics and concepts in about five minutes – ideal for revision and keeping up with hot topics

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Economics

COMPETE / DO



- Interactive Budget Game <https://ifs.org.uk/election-2024/be-chancellor>
- The Budget Game: Can you run the UK economy? <https://ig.ft.com/chancellor-game/>
- Virtual Chancellor Games Could you do better than Reeves as chancellor?
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/ng-interactive/2025/nov/20/you-be-the-chancellor-play-our-interactive-budget-game>
- Research the role of Modern Monetary Policy
- Research Fiscal Policy
- Understand the role of Comex, BMBA and The Financial Conduct Authority
- Young Economist of the Year (UK) Organised by the Royal Economic Society in collaboration with partners such as the Financial Times and KPMG. Open to students in Year 10–13 (A-Level age), this essay competition encourages you to analyse a chosen economic question and produce a written (or media) response.
- res.org.uk/committees/pd-education-committee/young-economist-of-the-year/
- Economics Olympiad (UK + International Finals) A growing competition that brings together students aged 14–19 to think critically about economics globally. Top performers from the UK can advance to international finals https://economicsolympiad.co.uk/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- Economics World Cup A global, virtual competition that tests students' ability to think like economists rather than memorise content. Teams (or individuals) work through rounds that focus on reasoning and economic problem solving; participation is open to high schoolers worldwide. [https://www.economicsworldcup.org/?utm_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.economicsworldcup/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
- Minds Underground Economics Essay Competition An essay competition aimed at Year 12 (though younger entrants are often welcome) where students analyse economic topics – such as behavioural, international, or environmental economics – and produce university-level essays.
https://www.mindsunderground.com/economics-competition?utm_source=chatgpt.com

FIND ONLINE



- Institute of Fiscal Studies (1) [Institute for Fiscal Studies - YouTube](#)
- Institute of Economics Affairs (1) [Institute of Economic Affairs - YouTube](#)
- Research Monetary Policy and Fiscal Policy
- Resolution Foundation (1) [Resolution Foundation - YouTube](#)
- Bank of England (1) [Bank of England - YouTube](#)
- Royal Economics Society (1) [RoyalEconomicSociety - YouTube](#)

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level English Language

READ



- Bryson, Bill, 'Troublesome words'
- Cameron, Deborah 'The feminist critique of language'
- Cockcroft, Susan 'Language and society'
- Crystal, David 'The Cambridge encyclopedia of the English language', 'How language works'
- 'Introducing linguistics', 'Rediscover grammar', 'The English language', 'A little book of language' and 'The stories of English'
- Fowler, Roger 'Language in the news'
- Hirsch, Afua 'Brit(ish): on race, identity and belonging'
- Hughes, Arthur 'English accents and dialects'
- Montgomery, Martin 'An introduction to language and society'
- Nuttall, Jenni 'Mother Tongue: The Surprising History of Women's Words'
- Peccei, Jean Stilwell 'Child language'
- Pinker, Steve 'The language instinct'
- Pople, Ian 'An introduction to text and discourse analysis'
- Sunderland, Jane 'Language and gender'
- Talbot, Mary 'Language and gender'
- Thomas, Linda 'Language, society and power'
- Trask, R L 'Language change' and 'Linguistics: a graphic guide'
- Trudgill P 'The dialects of England'
- Truss, Lynne 'Talk to the hand'

LISTEN



- The Reith Lectures <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/p00gmvwX>
- The Lexis Podcast https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/lexis-lexispodcast-Jc01A_BbH-r/
- The Language of Others - Radio 4 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08k1stz>
- BBC 'Word of Mouth' - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz>
- BBC 'Child' series on child development - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/m001v4dd>

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level English Language

WATCH



- The Adventure of English – Documentary series available on YouTube
- Rob Words YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@RobWords>
- Some excellent TED Talks:
 - Stepehn Pinker 'What our language habits reveal'
https://www.ted.com/talks/steven_pinker_what_our_language_habits_reveal
 - Anne Curzan 'What makes a word real?'
https://www.ted.com/talks/anne_curzan_what_makes_a_word_real
 - John McWhorter 'Texting is killing language, jk'
https://www.ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_txtng_is_killing_language_jk
 - Anything in this series 'Talks for people who love words':
https://www.ted.com/playlists/117/talks_for_people_who_love_words

FIND ONLINE



- If your knowledge of grammar isn't up to scratch, improve it by using: EnglishBiz: grammar essentials - <http://www.englishbiz.co.uk/grammar/>
- Dan Clayton's blog is a really great resource. He is an examiner and text book writer for the AQA specification. There is a lot of information here, so start by browsing for different topics using the labels on the right: <https://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/?m=1>
- Look up interesting words, sayings and phrases by looking at the index section on this website: <https://www.worldwidewords.org/genindex-a.html>
- 'About Words' <https://dictionaryblog.cambridge.org/category/new-words/>

COMPETE / DO



- BBC Young Writers Award
- The Author of Tomorrow Award
- Write for the school newspaper 'The Granham Gazette'

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level English Literature

READ



- Any of the literary classics on this list: <https://www.penguin.co.uk/discover/articles/100-must-read-classic-books>
- 'Reading Lessons: The Books We Read at School, the Conversations They Spark and Why They Matter' by Carol Atherton
- 'Why Read? Selected Writings 2001-2021' by Will Self
- EMC magazine
- 'The Great War and Modern Memory' by Paul Fussell
- 'Where Poppies Blow: The British Soldier, Nature, the Great War' by John Lewis-Stempel
- 'No Man's Land: Writings from a World at War' by Pete Ayrton
- 'Letters from a Lost Generation' Edited by Alan Bishop and Mark Bostridge

LISTEN



- Voices of the First World War - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b03t7p9l>
- International perspectives on WW1 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b04ww52g>
- The effect of World War One from a global perspective <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p021d1jx>
- WW1 'The Cultural Front' World War One - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b05sg8vv>
- In Our Time- Wilfred Owen <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001df48>
- Oxford University lectures on Shakespeare's plays: <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/approaching-shakespeare>
- Overdue - podcast about the books you've been meaning to read <https://overduepodcast.com/>
- Debutiful - Podcast about new literature <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/debutiful/id1490046203?at=11lDJ&ct=1525087X38cBbd0778f0837e8bb7ad3737c0e720>
- 'Free Thinking' programme exploring the changing context of marriage <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002mn16>
- BBC Radio 4 - Love Across the Racial Divide
- BBC Radio 4 Extra - Shakespeare: Love Across the Racial Divide, 1. Othello
- 076 - Othello, by William Shakespeare - The Play Podcast
- Radio 4 book club <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006s5sf/episodes/player>
- BBC Radio 4 'The Poetry Detective' <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002ntsk>
- The Great Gatsby: Old Money, Murder, and the American Dream <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-great-gatsby-old-money-murder-and-the-american-dream/id1876049295?i=1000752780643>

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level English Literature

WATCH



- Different versions of 'Othello' - DVDs available through the school library
- BBC Teach 'I Was There' Youtube Series: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcvEcrcF_9zLkbtO1kTTSRTkVYuvv4dgo
- British Library video on atrocity propaganda: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeGveZWF500>
- MASSOLIT lectures <https://massolit.io/> (log in using your school email and a password of your choosing)
- 'They Shall Not Grow Old' (2018) directed by Peter Jackson
- 'The Long Shadow: The Great War and International Memory' lecture by David Reynolds <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZdJ4Opk4TI>

COMPETE / DO



- Take part in our sixth form literary debate in September as part of Marlborough Literature Festival
- Write for our school newspaper, 'The Granham Gazette'
- Become a 'Reader Leader' through the sixth form volunteering opportunities
- 'Shadow' literary prizes e.g. Carnegie, Man Booker, etc. You can take part in Carnegie shadowing as part of one of our student book clubs - visit Mrs Stokes in the library to find out more and read about it here <https://carnegies.co.uk/take-part/>
- The British Library's online events and workshops: <https://events.bl.uk/whats-on/online-school-events>
- The John Locke Institute Essay Competition
- The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition
- Cambridge University Fitzwilliam College Essay Competition
- Oxford University Essay Competitions (Various Colleges)

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level English Literature

FIND ONLINE



- The National WW1 Museum - <https://www.theworldwar.org/about-wwi>
- Gatsby and WW1 - <https://www.theworldwar.org/learn/about-wwi/borne-back- ceaselessly-past-fitzgerald-gatsby-and-wwi>
- The History of WW1 in 100 moments [History of the First World War in 100 moments](https://www.independent.co.uk/history/history-of-the-first-world-war-in-100-moments) | [The Independent](https://www.independent.co.uk/history/history-of-the-first-world-war-in-100-moments)
- Love Poetry: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/categories/love>
- WW1 Poetry organised by year - <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/70139/the-poetry-of-world-war-i>
- A close reading of 'Dulce et Decorum Est' <https://www.britishlibrary.cn/en/articles/a-close-reading-of-dulce-et-decorum-est/>
- The English Renaissance with example poets <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/154826/an-introduction-to-the-english-renaissance>
- Modernism with example poets <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/152025/an-introduction-to-modernism>
- Romanticism with example poets <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/152982/an-introduction-to-british-romanticism>

VISIT



- The British Library (London) which holds original manuscripts (Shakespeare folios, Wilfred Owen's drafts, etc).
- The Imperial War Museum – WW1 context
- Local/national theatre productions of set texts, as well as National Theatre Live events in cinemas.
- The Globe Theatre, London – visit the theatre where 'Othello' was first performed.
- Stratford Upon Avon – Shakespeare's hometown contextualises his education, classical influences, and social mobility. It is also the home of the Royal Shakespeare Company theatre which frequently runs productions of his plays.

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Forensics

READ



- • Unnatural Causes – Dr. Richard Shepherd
- • The Real Silent Witnesses – Wensley Clarkson
- • 50 Facts Everyone Should Know about Crime & Punishment: The Truth Behind The Myths (Treadwell & Lynes, 2019)
- • An introduction to Crime and Criminology (EBOOK) The Open University (2023)
- • When the dogs dont bark – Angela Gallop
- • Still Life with Bones by Angela Hagerty

LISTEN



- • Podcast – natural history of crime by Patricia Wiltshire

WATCH



- • BBC 2: Forensics: The Real CSI
- • BBC: Silent Witness (Drama)
- • BBC: The Truth About My Murder (TRIGGER WARNING: Real life cases in the UK covered and how the forensics help to solve the cases, can be distressing)

COMPETE / DO



- • Work experience linked to data analysis and labs
- • Fun challenge: Escape rooms – can you use your skills to solve problems and get out!

VISIT



- • True Crime Museum in Hastings
- • Oxford University Natural History Museum
- • National Justice Museum in Nottingham

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Health & Social Care

READ



- This is Going to Hurt – Adam Kay
- Labours of Love – Madeleine Bunting
- The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse – Charlie Mackesy
- Tender: The Imperfect Art of Caring – Penny Wincer

LISTEN



- Alliance Live: focuses on lived experiences
- The care exchange: insights for social care managers
- Health on the Line: discussing current issues in the system
- Community Care Podcast: development in the systems
- All in the Mind: BBC Radio 4 – show with the latest evidence on mental health
- Happy Podcast by Fearn Cotton: Discussing simple practical steps to support well being

WATCH



- This is going to hurt – BBC
- Critical: Between Life and Death – Netflix/NHS A documentary following a major London Trauma system
- One Born every Minute – Channel 4 – following a delivery ward, good insight into patient care and person-centred approaches
- 24 hours in A&E – Channel 4
- Panorama: Crisis in Care – BBC Highlighting the strain on adult social care system

COMPETE / DO/ VISIT



- To support your work experience and understanding of the systems consider volunteer work with local care homes, community groups and health care charities.

FIND ONLINE



- NHS Website
- UK charities linked to the body's systems and the malfunctions on the course e.g Diabetes UK

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level History

READ



Tudors

- 'The Tudors: The Complete Story of England's Most Notorious Dynasty' by G. J. Meyer
- 'The Six Wives of Henry VIII' by Alison Weir
- 'How to Be a Tudor' by Ruth Goodman
- 'Tudor England' by John Guy

International Relations

- 'Catastrophe: Europe goes to War 1914' by Max Hastings
- 'The Sleepwalkers: How Europe went to war in 1914' by Christopher Clark
- 'Peacemakers' by Margaret MacMillan
- 'The Origins of the Second World War' by AJP Taylor

LISTEN



- 'Not Just the Tudors' – Podcast
- 'The Rest is History' – Podcast
- 'Dan Snow's History Hit' – Podcast
- 'Gone Medieval' – Podcast, covers the Wars of the Roses, Richard III and Henry VII.
- (All of these podcasts have multiple programmes about course related content and beyond)

WATCH



- History Hub (Royal Holloway University) channel on YouTube – lots to explore, course related and beyond.
- History Hit channel on YouTube – covers many areas of History

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Mathematics

READ



- Alcock, Lara - How to study for a mathematics degree (Maths 510.71)
- Bellos, Alex - Alex's adventures in numberland (Maths 510)
- Courant, Richard - What is Mathematics? (Maths 510)
- Earl, Richard - Towards higher mathematics (Maths 510.76)
- Hoffman, Paul - The Man who loved only numbers (510.92)
- Hofstadter, Douglas - Godel, Escher, Bach: An eternal golden braid (Maths 511.3)
- Houston, Kevin - How to think like a mathematician (Maths 510)
- Kaplan, Robert & Ellen - The art of the infinite (Maths 510)
- Kanigel Robert - The man who new infinity (Maths 510.92)



LISTEN

- My Favorite Theorem - A podcast where mathematicians talk about a theorem they love – explaining what it is and why it matters, often in an accessible, conversational way.
- The Numberphile Podcast - From the team behind the popular YouTube channel Numberphile, this show features interviews and discussions with people who are passionate about numbers and maths ideas.
- The Joy of X / The Joy of Why - Hosted by Steven Strogatz, this series explores big ideas in mathematics and science with researchers and thinkers – great for seeing how maths connects to real research and big questions.
- Breaking Math - A podcast that dives into mathematics, science, engineering, and the logic behind systems shaping technology and the world – fun for curious students asking “why” things work.
- Relatively Prime: Stories from the Mathematical Domain - Narrative-style episodes that tell compelling stories about maths and its people – good for inspiration and discovery.
- Math ED Podcast (Math Education Podcast) - Interviews with researchers and educators about ideas in maths education – useful for students thinking about how maths works conceptually.
- Curious Cases (BBC) – with Hannah Fry & Dara Ó Briain - Not exclusively maths, but this science podcast uses maths thinking to explore curious questions from listeners – and positively showcases mathematical reasoning.
- The Infinite Monkey Cage - Mainly science & comedy, but often touches on maths-related topics and the logic behind scientific ideas when discussing physics, probability and data thinking.

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Mathematics

WATCH



- Dara Ó Briain: School of Hard Sums - A British maths-based comedy/game show where puzzles and problems are solved with humour and insight – a fun way to see maths thinking in action.
- The Code (BBC Two) - A maths documentary presented by Marcus du Sautoy that explores how mathematics underlies patterns in nature, science and technology. Each episode tackles a different theme and connects mathematics to the real world.
- Project Mathematics! (PBS series) - An educational video series created by Caltech that explains core maths concepts (like geometry and trigonometry) with clear historical and practical context – great for revisiting foundational ideas in a deeper way.
- 3Blue1Brown - Visual, intuitive explorations of advanced maths (e.g., calculus, linear algebra, infinite series).
- Numberphile - Short, fascinating maths stories and ideas from mathematicians.
- Stand-up Maths - Matt Parker blends humour with clever maths insights and curiosities.
- Vi Hart - Creative and playful deep dives into patterns, puzzles and maths concepts.



VISIT

- Winchester Science Centre & Planetarium, Winchester - Interactive science centre with exhibits that explore maths in space, physics and technology, plus a planetarium – excellent for visualising maths in real-world contexts.
- History of Science Museum, Oxford - A fascinating collection showing the development of scientific instruments and ideas – great for history of maths, measurement tools and the evolution of mathematical thinking.
- Science Zone UK, Bournemouth - An interactive science museum with hands-on experiences (including some maths-related problem-solving exhibits), useful for seeing maths applied playfully and practically.
- Science Dome (and nearby) Dinosaur Dome, Bournemouth - Planetarium-style and immersive science experiences that tie into maths of the universe and patterns, nice add-on alongside a main science visit.
- Somerset Earth Science Centre, Radstock - While focused on earth science, many exhibits link to data interpretation, geometry (rocks/crystals) and measurement – useful for applied maths thinking.
- Science Museum, London - Includes Mathematics: The Winton Gallery which showcases mathematical ideas in context of real science and technology and is great for KS5 students exploring the subject's impact.
- Royal Observatory, Greenwich - Offers astronomy, data and modelling workshops. (Often recommended for maths & science trips.)



COMPETE / DO

- Compete in the SMC
- Become a Year 12 maths mentor for GCSE maths students

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Mathematics

FIND ONLINE



- Pure Maths

Algebra & Functions

- NRICH (Algebra investigations) <https://nrich.maths.org/advanced> - Functional equations, manipulation, proof-style tasks
- Underground Mathematics - Algebra & Structure <https://undergroundmathematics.org> - Deep questions on functions, inequalities and algebraic structure
- Desmos <https://www.desmos.com> - Explore transformations, compositions and parameter changes visually

Coordinate Geometry

- GeoGebra <https://www.geogebra.org> - Lines, circles, parametric curves, loci
- NRICH - Geometry & Measures <https://nrich.maths.org/geometry> - Reasoning and proof with coordinates

Trigonometry

- GeoGebra Trigonometry Resources <https://www.geogebra.org/trigonometry> - Identities, graphs, radians, modelling
- 3Blue1Brown (Visual Trig & Waves) <https://www.3blue1brown.com> - Conceptual understanding of trig functions

Exponentials & Logarithms

- Desmos (Exponential & Log graphs) <https://www.desmos.com/calculator> - Compare growth rates, asymptotes, modelling
- Plus Maths - Real-world growth models <https://plus.maths.org>
- Logarithms in science, finance and data - <https://plus.maths.org>

Calculus (Differentiation & Integration)

- 3Blue1Brown - Essence of Calculus - <https://www.3blue1brown.com/topics/calculus> - Outstanding conceptual understanding
- Underground Mathematics - Calculus - <https://undergroundmathematics.org/calculus> - Rigorous problems and proofs
- GeoGebra Calculus Tools <https://www.geogebra.org/calculus> - Areas, rates of change, tangents

Sequences & Series

- NRICH - Sequences and Patterns <https://nrich.maths.org/sequences> - Reasoning and generalisation
- 3Blue1Brown - Infinite series <https://www.3blue1brown.com> - Visual intuition for convergence
- Statistics / Data Presentation & Interpretation
- Our World in Data <https://ourworldindata.org> - Real datasets for interpretation and critique
- Desmos (Statistical plots) <https://www.desmos.com> - Histograms, box plots, regression

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Mathematics

FIND ONLINE



Probability

- NRICH – Probability - <https://rich.maths.org/probability> - Structured reasoning problems
- Plus Maths – Probability in context - <https://plus.maths.org/content/plus-magazine-probability> - Risk, randomness, real-life modelling

Statistical Distributions (Binomial, Normal)

- GeoGebra Probability Calculator - <https://www.geogebra.org/probability> - Visualise distributions and parameters
- 3Blue1Brown – Probability intuition - <https://www.3blue1brown.com> - Why distributions behave as they do

Mechanics / Kinematics

- GeoGebra Mechanics Simulations <https://www.geogebra.org/mechanics> - Motion graphs, parametric movement
- Underground Mathematics – Mechanics - <https://undergroundmathematics.org/mechanics> - Modelling assumptions and reasoning

Forces & Newton's Laws

- NRICH – Modelling & Mechanics <https://rich.maths.org/mechanics> - Problem solving with constraints
- Plus Maths – Maths of motion <https://plus.maths.org/content/physics-and-maths> - Links between maths and physics

Further Maths Topics:

Matrices & Linear Algebra

- 3Blue1Brown – Linear Algebra <https://www.3blue1brown.com/topics/linear-algebra> - Exceptional visual explanations
- GeoGebra Matrices <https://www.geogebra.org/matrix-calculator>

Complex Numbers

- NRICH – Complex Numbers <https://rich.maths.org/complex> - Geometric interpretation
- 3Blue1Brown – Complex plane <https://www.3blue1brown.com>

Proof & Problem Solving

- Underground Mathematics – Proof <https://undergroundmathematics.org> - Elegant, challenging proof problems
- UKMT (Senior & Olympiad) <https://www.ukmt.org.uk> - Develops reasoning and resilience

Super-Curricular Suggestions for BTEC Media

WATCH



Films (for representation, genre, industry, audience)

- Inception (2010) – complex narrative structure, genre hybrid, global audience appeal
- Get Out (2017) – horror + social commentary, race representation, marketing strategies
- The Social Network (2010) – media industry, entrepreneurship, audience engagement
- Parasite (2019) – cross-cultural cinema, class representation, global film reception
- Black Panther (2018) – superhero genre, representation, fandom, merchandising

TV Series (for audience, representation, genre)

- Stranger Things (Netflix) – nostalgia marketing, audience targeting, transmedia storytelling
- Breaking Bad – anti-hero narrative, genre conventions, audience engagement
- Love Island (UK) – reality TV conventions, representation, audience participation
- The Great British Bake Off – reality TV, branding, social media fandom, demographics
- Doctor Who – long-running series, representation across time, genre evolution

News & Documentaries (for media institutions & representation)

- The Great Hack (Netflix) – Cambridge Analytica case, media institutions, audience influence
- 13th (Netflix) – media framing of race, representation, political messaging
- Our Planet (Netflix) – nature documentary, branding, audience engagement



COMPETE / DO

- Create a short video project (60 seconds) a mini documentary about your school or area, a product advert or a short story video, editing the footage using apps like Capcut or Clipchamp.
- Analyse an advert from a major brand like Nike, Apple Coke
- Create a Media diary for 1 week tracking all the media you consume
- Design a media product – create a concept for a magazine cover, a film poster or a YouTube channel
- Start building a small media portfolio (videos, designs, research notes)
- Research a media industry. Choose a company such as the BBC, Netflix, or Disney. Find out: what media they produce, who their audience is, how they make money and what platforms they use.

Super-Curricular Suggestions for BTEC Media

FIND ONLINE



Online & Short-Form Media (for digital media & new platforms)

- YouTube Channels:
- Nerdwriter1 – video essays, media critique, narrative analysis
- Every Frame a Painting – film language, editing, cinematography
- TikTok trends & memes – participatory culture, viral content, audience analysis
- Web series: High Maintenance – distribution via streaming, audience segmentation

Short Media Texts / Ads

- Classic campaigns like Nike “Dream Crazy” with Colin Kaepernick – branding, representation, audience response
- Music videos like Beyoncé “Formation” – representation, ideology, fandom

VISIT



Film & TV Production

- Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter
- BFI Southbank – major centre for film culture and education

Broadcasting & Journalism

- BBC Broadcasting House – learn about news production, media institutions, and broadcasting
- Sky Studios Elstree – insight into large-scale studio production

Museums & Media Culture

- The Design Museum – exhibitions on branding, advertising, digital design, and visual communication
- Victoria and Albert Museum – strong collections on photography, fashion, design, and digital media

Digital Media & Interactive

- Outernet London – immersive digital screens and interactive media installations

London Film Museum – focuses on film history, props, and production

Super-Curricular Suggestions for BTEC MEDIA

READ



- BTEC National Creative Digital Media Production Revision Guide
- BTEC National Creative Digital Media Production Revision Workbook
- Digital Filmmaking: The Changing Art and Craft of Making Motion Picture
- Master Shots: 100 Advanced Camera Techniques to Get an Expensive Look on Your Low-Budget Movie
- The Filmmaker's Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide for the Digital Age
- Sound Design: The Expressive Power of Music, Voice and Sound Effects

LISTEN



Media Theory & Analysis

- You Must Remember This – deep dives into classic Hollywood, film history, representation, and industry practices.
- The Media Show (BBC) – analysis of media trends, industry news, and ethical debates in journalism and digital media.
- Buffering the Vampire Slayer – media criticism with focus on narrative, genre, fandom, and representation (great for TV case studies).

Film & TV Industry Insights

- Scriptnotes – hosted by John August, focuses on screenwriting, storytelling, and industry insights.
- The Business (KCRW) – behind-the-scenes look at Hollywood, production, and media economics.
- Still Processing (New York Times) – cultural commentary on TV, film, and pop culture narratives.

Critical & Cultural Studies

- MediaNurse – media representation, diversity, and critical analysis of news and entertainment.
- MediaTalks – discussions on media literacy, ethics, and industry shifts.
- Pop Culture Happy Hour (NPR) – fun but analytical look at media, representation, and audience reception.
- The Rest Is Entertainment – hosted by author/producer Richard Osman and journalist Marina Hyde, offering behind-the-scenes insights into the TV, movie, and media industry

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Photography

READ



- The Shock of the New: Art and the Century of Change by Robert Hughes
- On Photography by Susan Sontag
- Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography by Roland Barthes
- Street Photography by Brian Lloyd Ducker
- The Photographers Eye by Michael Freeman
- What We See When We Read by Peter Mendelsund

LISTEN



- Art Curious
- The Art Newspaper Podcast
- Street Photography Magazine
- The University of Oxford Podcasts: Photography

WATCH



- Basquiat (1996, rating 15) - The brief life of Jean Michel Basquiat, a world-renowned New York Street artist struggling with fame, drugs and his identity
- Finding Vivian Maier (2013, rating 12) - documentary about the photographer
- Exit Through the Gift Shop (2010, rating 15) - documentary about the street artist Banksy

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Photography

COMPETE / DO



- Apps: Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Photoshop Sketch
- RSPCA Young Photographer Awards Photo Competition
- Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year - National Geographic Kids
- Rotary Young Wild Photographer
- Sign up to be a photographer for the school newspaper, The Granham Gazette

FIND ONLINE



- Canva
- The Photographers' Gallery
- Autograph

VISIT



- Victoria and Albert Museum, London
- The Photographers Gallery, London
- Martin Parr Foundation, Bristol
- The Fox Talbot Museum, Lacock

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Physics

READ



- The Elegant Universe: Brian Greene
- A Short History of Nearly Everything: Bill Bryson
- Why Does $E=mc^2$? (And Why Should We Care?): Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw
- QED: The Strange Theory of Light and Matter: Richard Feynman
- The Universe in a Nutshell: Stephen Hawking
- Bad Science – Ben Goldachre

LISTEN



- New Scientist Podcast: The World, the universe and us Youtube
- Physics World Weekly and Physics World Stories podcasts- Physics World Weekly Podcast
- Why this Universe podcast - Why This Universe? (buzzsprout.com)
- Ask a Spaceman podcast - Ask a Spaceman – Paul M. Sutter
- A Question of Science with Brian Cox

WATCH



- TED Talks – Ideas about Physics – Ideas about Physics (ted.com)
- Wonders of the Universe – BBC Two – Wonders of the Universe
- The Secrets of Quantum Physics – BBC Four – The Secrets of Quantum Physics – Episode guide

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Psychology

READ



- Classic case studies in Psychology by Geoff Rolls
- The Little Book of Psychology by Emily Ralls and Caroline Riggs
- The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil by Philip Zimbardo
- Elephants on Acid: And Other Bizarre Experiments by Alex Boese
- The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat - Oliver Sacks
- Phantoms in the Brain - V. S. Ramachandran
- The Frog Who Croaked Blue - Jamie Ward

FIND ONLINE



- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qxx9/episodes/player>
- <https://www.nature.com/nathumbehav/>
- <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now?subcat=psychology>
- Mr Nichols YouTube Channel (profpsych)
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5tthF5zbcQaXvh80PmOAZQ>

WATCH



- Rain Man
- The Stanford Prison Experiment
- Human Instinct - Deepest Desires (YouTube) - an amusing exploration of the parental investment theory, with Robert Winston
- Brain Story (YouTube) - BBC documentary about neurological disorders including synaesthesia and Capgras delusion
- The Brain: A Secret History (vimeo) - a channel 4 documentary similar to "Brain Story" but more recent, with Michael Moseley

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Psychology

LISTEN



- Radio 4 Mind Changers includes documentaries on Dora and Little Hans and a programme about systematic desensitisation
- Ramachandran Reith lectures - a series of lectures loosely based on his book "Phantoms in the Brain"

Podcasts:

- Approaches - Clinical Mental Health: Wolpe and Systematic Desensitization (Phobias and Classical Conditioning) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b01g5yy1>
- Approaches - CF Skinner and Superstition in the Pigeon (Operant Conditioning): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b0639gxq>
- Approaches - Anna Freud and Child Observation (Psychodynamic Approach) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b01s0s6m>
- Approaches - Abraham Maslow and Hierarchy of Needs (Humanistic approach) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b01rw8mw>
- Memory - Elizabeth Loftus and EWT <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b00yhv36>
- Social Influence - Julian Rotter and Locus of Control <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b01gf5sr>
- Approaches Dora: The girl who walked out on Freud. (Psychodynamic Approach) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b00tjf56>
- Memory RM - Case study: HM <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b00t6zqv>
- Attachment Harlow's Monkeys <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b00ly7lp>
- Approaches - RM - Case study: Little Hans (Psychodynamic Approach) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b00bg335>
- Approaches (Bio) - Aggression - Biopsychology - Case study: The man with a hole in his head <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b00bcccq>
- Approaches Carl Rogers (Humanistic Approach) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b063ztb0>
- Approaches (SLT) - Aggression The Bobo Doll <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b008fxv9>
- Social Influence - Aggression - RM - The Stanford Prison Experiment * Please note, this is not now named on the spec but can relate to areas named. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b008crhv>
- Approaches - Clinical Mental Health - Watson and Little Albert <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00f8n5n>
- Social Influence - Asch: Conformity - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00f8mzr>
- Memory - Approaches - Bartlett: War of the Ghosts - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00f8n47>

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Sociology

WATCH



- The school that tried to end racism – All4
- The Secret life of 5 year olds – iplayer
- Back in time for the weekend – iplayer
- Channel 4 Dispatches : topical current affairs [Channel 4 | Stream & Watch Live TV](#)
- ITVX : Documentaries on a variety of sociological topics : [Watch True Crime, Travel Documentaries & Factual Entertainment - ITVX](#)

LISTEN



- The Sociology Show [The Sociology Show](#)

COMPETE / DO



- Research - Windrush
- Research - Communist societies - where, what, why, how successful?
- Research - The gender pay gap
- Do - Sociology in a box - Get an old shoe box or match box if you're going miniature and create a study (or a theory - if you really want a challenge!) and recreate the procedure/method in a box (Zimbardo's car in Broken Windows theory).
- Do - Sociology Timeline - Create a historical timeline of all the sociological approaches

FIND ONLINE



- British Sociological Association [Home](#)

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Sociology

READ



- Althusser L. Ideology and ideological state apparatus (1972) Notes towards an investigation in Cosin B. R. (ed) Education, structure and society, Harmondsworth – Penguin
- Bauman, Zygmunt (2001) Thinking sociologically
- Becker, Chris (2017) America City.
- Bernstein B. Social class and linguistic development- a theory of social learning in Halsey, A. H. , Floud J. and Anderson C. A. (eds) Education, Economy and Society (1961)
- Bowles, S., & Gintis, H. (1976). Schooling in capitalist America: Educational reform and the contradictions of economic life.
- Browne K Sociology for AS AQA (3rd edition)
- Cashmore, Ellis and Troyna, Barry (1990) Introduction to Race Relations
- Collins, Patricia Hill (2000) Black feminist thought: Knowledge, consciousness and the politics of empowerment.
- Connell, R. W. (2009) Gender
- Durkheim, Emile The division of labour in society
- Eggers, Dave (2013) The Circle.
- Giddens, Anthony and Sutton, Phillip (2013). Sociology.
- Gilroy, Paul (1993) The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness
- Given, Florence Women don't owe you pretty
- Goldstone, Jack. ed. (1994) Revolutions: theoretical, comparative, and historical studies.
- Hall, Stuart (1992) The Question of Cultural Identity
- Harris, Judith 1998) The Nurture Assumption: Why Children Turn Out the Way They Do
- Hochschild, Arlie (2016) Strangers in their own Land.
- Jones, Owen Chavs
- Mac an Ghail Young, gifted and black – student teacher relations in the schooling of black youth (1992)
- Modood T, Berthoud R, Lakey J, et al. (1997) Ethnic Minorities in Britain: Diversity and Dis- advantage: The Fourth National Survey of Ethnic Minorities
- Mulvey, Laura (1975) Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema
- Parekh, B.C (2000) Rethinking Multiculturalism: Cultural Diversity and Political Theory
- Postman, Neil – Amusing ourselves to death
- Ritzer, George (1993) The McDonaldization of Society: An Investigation into the Changing Character of Contemporary Social Life
- Sewell (1997) Black Boys and Schooling: How Black Boys Survive Modern Schooling.
- Skelton and Francis (2003), Boys and Girls in the Primary Classroom
- Waddington, P.A.J. (1999) Police Canteen Sub-Culture: An Appreciation
- Wilkinson, Richard and Pickett, Kate (2010) The spirit level: Why equality is better for everyone.
- Willis P. Learning to Labour (1977) Farnborough – Saxon House

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Sports Studies

READ



- 'Diet in Sport' by W.Paish
- 'Fitness and Health' by Brian Sharkey
- 'Bounce' by Matthew Syed
- 'Mechanics and sport performance' by Peter Walder
- 'Applying psychology in sport' by Barbara Woods
- 'Keeping your head in the game' by Gary Bloom
- 'British sport; a social history' by Dennis Brailsford
- 'Making sense of sports' by Ellis Cashmore
- 'Sport psychology' by Richard Cox
- 'Talking Balls' by Andrew Delahunty
- 'The Secret race' by Tyler Hamilton
- 'Peak Performance' by John Hawley
- 'Marathon' by Hal Higdon
- 'Eat Sweat Play' by Anna Kessel

WATCH



- 'Free Solo' (2018) – A documentary on rock climbing which explores topics such as motivation, arousal, anxiety and personality
- 'The Last Dance' (2020) – A documentary detailing the rise of Michael Jordan, it explores topics such as motivation and leadership as well as ethical issues around gamesmanship
- 'Icarus' (2017) – An excellent documentary on drugs in sport examining doping, deviance and the pressure to succeed
- 'The Dawn Wall' (2017) – An excellent film on rock climbing, exploring topics such as goal setting theory, resilience and coping strategies in long-term performance
- 'Chariots of Fire' (1981) – Has links to sport history, amateurism Vs professionalism and motivation and values
- 'The Edge' – BBC documentary on England Cricket which links to sport psychology, team cohesion, leadership and motivation

Super-Curricular Suggestions for A-Level Sports Studies

LISTEN



- 'The sport psychology podcast' by Dan Abrahams
- 'Finding Mastery' by Dr. Michael Gervais – Interviews with elite performers about intrinsic motivation, growth mindset and psychological characteristics of excellence
- 'The Science of sport' podcast by Ross Tucker and Mike Finch – This is excellent for linking sports physiology to real world sport.
- 'The high performance podcast' by Jake Humphrey and Damian Hughes – Explored leadership styles, group roles and motivation through elite sport case studies

COMPETE / DO



- Take part in regular training in one team sport and one individual sport outside of school
- Volunteer as part of the 6th form volunteering programme to help in PE and Games lessons for younger year groups
- Take part in the STJ extra-curricular sport programme by attending clubs as a participant or as a coach to younger years

FIND ONLINE



- 'The PE Classroom' – www.Thepeclassroom.com
- TeachPE – www.teachpe.com
- Sport England – www.sportengland.org
- UK Anti-doping (UKAD) – www.UKAD.org.uk

VISIT



- Local sports clubs for team and individual sports
- Lydiard Park orienteering routes
- Stadium tours of your favourite or a local team