

High Achievers Summer Package: Super-Curricular Resources

In the first instance, students should be working over the summer to consolidate and revise their A-level studies to ensure that they are able to meet or exceed their MTG, and this includes getting on with any NEA and/or EPQ work.

Thereafter, some targeted further reading and listening can foster curiosity and challenge you to develop stronger skills in understanding and analyzing complex extended prose that will aid your intellectual development ahead of applying to university. Students are encouraged to proactively seek academic sources from WQE's LRC, the University library, Jstor, the BBC, *etc.* that align with their own interests. However, a few suggestions are provided below.

If you're preparing an Oxbridge application and/or university admissions, you should have received separate advice and guidance from David Manning.

We encourage students and their parents/carers to engage with the resources below to support success at Level 3, university and beyond.

BUSINESS, ECONOMICS & FINANCE

The Financial Times, for free!

The Financial Times Professional online is available for free, login whilst you are in College to access your account using the following link: [Secondary Education | Professional Subscriptions | FT Professional](#)

You can also sign up to create your own account through your college email address and receive up to date newsletters on your favourite topics through your emails.

Visit the LRC Hub at WQE Online to discover all the high quality digital journal and news sources available at your fingertips!

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Documentaries

- Investigate multi-disciplinary teamwork and the importance of good communication to build positive relationships by watching episodes of Ambulance available on BBC iPlayer
- What is it like to live and care with someone with a learning disability? Find out more by watching 'There she goes' on BBC iPlayer.

TedTalks

- [Keeley Gallagher: Health Equity & Social Influences in the Community | TED Talk](#)

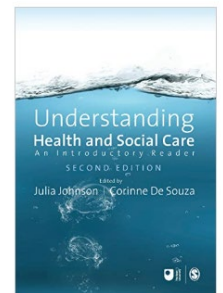
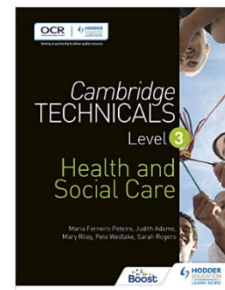
- [Maija Williams: Health care is a right — not a privilege | TED Talk](#)

Places to visit

- Thackery Medical Museum, Leeds
- The Royal London Hospital Museum
- Florence Nightingale Museum

Books to read

- Maria Ferreira Peteiro, *OCR Cambridge Technicals Level 3 Health and Social Care*
- Julia Johnson, *Understanding Health and Social Care*



HUMANITIES

Ancient History:

Most of these resources should be in the college library; other translations of the ancient sources are available online e.g. [The Perseus Digital Library](#)

Greek History: Ancient Sources

Reading more of the ancient sources in translation. Suggestions include:

- Herodotus, *The Persian War* translated by William Shepherd Cambridge University Press 1982
- Plutarch, *The Rise and Fall of Athens: Nine Greek Lives*, Penguin Classics 1960
- Xenophon's, *The Politeia of the Spartans* in *Aristotle and Xenophon on Democracy and Oligarchy* translated by J M Moore University of California Press 1975

Reading more of Thucydides would be beneficial too as would reading some commentaries on the ancient sources such as:

- Susan Sorek, *Ancient Historians A Student Handbook* Continuum 2012
- Timothy Duff, *The Greek and Roman Historians* Bristol Classical Press 2003

Modern Historians

There are a lot that you could usefully read but some of my highlights would be:

- David Stuttard, *A History of Ancient Greece in 50 Lives* Thames and Hudson 2021
- George Cawkwell, *The Greek Wars* Oxford University Press 2005

- Anton Powell, *Athens and Sparta* Routledge 2001
- GEM de Ste Croix, *The Origins of the Peloponnesian War*, Duckworth 1972
- Lawrence Tritle, *A New History of the Peloponnesian War* Wiley-Blackwell 2010
- Donald Kagan, *The Peloponnesian War* Harper Perennial 2005
- Paul Cartledge, *The Spartans an Epic History* Macmillan 2002

Roman History: Ancient Sources

As with Greek History reading more of the ancient sources in translation. For commentaries see above in the Greek section. Suggestion include:

- Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars* translated by Robert Graves, Penguin Classics 1957. N.B. There is a very good new translation by Tom Holland, Penguin Classics 2025 but I don't think we have that in the college library yet.
- *Empire and Emperors – Selections from Tacitus' Annals* translated by Graham Tingay, Cambridge University Press 1983
- Chris Burnand, *Tacitus and the Principate*, Cambridge University Press 2011

Modern Historians

- Mary Beard, *SPQR – A History of Ancient Rome* Profile Books 2015
- Mary Beard, *Emperor of Rome* Profile Books 2023
- Tom Holland, *Dynasty – The Rise and Fall of the House of Caesar* Little Brown 2015
- Tom Holland, *Pax – War and Peace in Rome's Golden Age*, Abacus Books 2023
- Werner Eck, *The Age of Augustus*, Blackwell 2007
- Anthony Barrett (Ed), *Lives of the Caesars*, Blackwell 2008

Podcasts and Massolit (For both Greek and Roman History)

- The Ancients Podcast – this has a huge variety of relevant episodes; too many to list individually but it's worth looking at their library of episodes
- Similarly, *The Rest is History* has a good selection of episodes on ancient history
- The BBC Radio 4 show *In Our Time* also has a lot of ancient history episodes available as podcasts; also too numerous to list but a good starting point is: [BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, History](#)
- Massolit has a number of lecture series which are useful. They have a playlist for students of the OCR Ancient History A Level here: [MASSOLIT - OCR A Level Ancient History \(H407\) - Classics & Ancient History](#)

Geography:

Podcasts

- "Ask the Geography" – Royal Geography Society
- "Geogpod" – The Geography Association's Podcast
- "Costing the Earth" – BBC Sounds

Magazines

- Geography Review
- Go Factsheets

History:

Podcasts

- “The Rest is History” – BBC Sounds
- “In Our Time” – BBC Sounds

Tudor History

- Tracy Borman, *Elizabeth's Women* (2010)
- Stephen Lee, *The Mid Tudors* (2016)
- Stephen Gunn, *Henry VII's New Men and the Making of Tudor England* (2016)
- Alec Ryrie, *The Age of Reformation* (2013)
- Lucy Wooding, *Tudor England* (2022)

Russian History

- Sarah Davies, *Popular Opinion in Stalin's Russia: Terror, Propaganda and Dissent, 1934–1941* (1997)
- Robert Conquest, *The Great Terror: A Reassessment* (1990)
- Orlando Figes, *Revolutionary Russia, 1891–1991* (2014)
- Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (1982)
- David Maples, *Lenin's Revolution: Russia 1917–21* (2000)
- Anna Krylova, *Soviet Women in Combat: A History of Violence on the Eastern Front* (2010)

USA History

- Taylor Branch, *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954–63* (1988)
- Robert Dallek, *An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy, 1917–1963* (2003)
- Mary L. Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy* (2000)
- James T. Patterson, *Grand Expectations: The United States, 1945–1974* (1996)
- Daniel Rodgers, *Age of Fracture* (2011)

Other Types of History: The possibilities are nearly endless, but here are a few suggestions...

- John Arnold, *What is Medieval History?* (2020)
- David Cannadine (ed.), *What is History Now?*
- E. H. Carr, *What is History Now?*
- Sebastian Conrad, *What Is Global History?* (2016)
- Peter Burke, *What is Cultural History?* (2013)
- Merry Wiesner-Hanks, *What is Early Modern History?* (2021)
- Suzannah Lipscomb and Helen Carr (ed.), *What is History, Now?* (2022)

Law:

Blog

- <https://thesecretbarrister.com/>

Books

- Anon., *The Secret Barrister: Stories of the Law and How It's Broken* (2018)
- Anon., *Fake Law: The Truth About Justice in an Age of Lies* (2020)

Politics:

Podcasts

- "The Rest is Politics USA"
- "Not Another One"
- "The rest is Politics"
- "News Agents"

Books

William Cooper, *How America Works... and Why It Doesn't: A Brief Guide to the US Political System* (2024).

LANGUAGES

Podcasts

- [Coffee Break French | Podcast on Spotify](#)
- [Coffee Break Spanish | Podcast on Spotify](#)

LIBRARIES

WQE LRC

Access your WQE LRC Hub through WQE Online; access via the link to 'Support Departments' from the toolbar. This is filled with high-quality online research resources, e-magazines and newspapers.

Local Libraries

Don't forget to join your local libraries and benefit from a range of useful online reference resources: [Our Digital Library | Leicestershire County Council](#)

Leicester City Libraries have a selection of [eBooks, eAudiobooks, eNewspapers and eMagazines](#)

You can also download the app here: [Leicester Libraries app](#)

University Library

WQE students are able to access the University of Leicester library. Sign up using their online form under College and Sixth Form students. You will need to collect the relevant form from the university and bring this to the LRC to be authorised by the LRC Manager, Martina Higgins.

British Library

Explore the British Library this Summer, online or in person! Did you know that you can visit their buildings in London or Yorkshire for free?

- British Library Tours [Treasures Tour | British Library](#)
The second largest atlas in the world, the historic library of King George III, Magna Carta. See and learn about these items and much more on a guided tour of some of the treasures in our collection.
- Already hooked on @TheRestHistory podcast? Don't miss exclusive bonus episode as Tom Holland explores the newest additions to their medieval manuscript collections, and unravels the religious intricacies hidden in these remarkable texts. bit.ly/BLRestIsHistPod. X/Twitter: @TheRestHistory @holland_tom @dcsandbrook
- Explore 100 of their best loved 'Discovering Literature' articles here: [Literature and KS4 learning resources for teachers - The British Library](#)

MATHEMATICS

Books

- Love Triangle by Matt Parker
- How Not to Be Wrong: The Hidden Maths of Everyday Life by Jordan Ellenberg
- Humble Pi – A Comedy of Maths Errors by Matt Parker

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Psychology:

Reading

- *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* - Oliver Sacks
- *Thinking, Fast and Slow* - Daniel Kahneman
- *The Selfish Gene* - Richard Dawkins
- [The Psychologist | BPS](#)
- [Research Digest | BPS](#)

Podcasts

- [Speaking of Psychology](#)
- [BBC Radio 4 - All in the Mind](#)
- [PsychCrunch | BPS](#)

Video

- [Watch The Mind, Explained | Netflix Official Site](#)
- [Watch The Brain with David Eagleman | Prime Video](#) – also on Google Play and iTunes

Online course

- [Introduction to Psychology Course \(Yale\) | Coursera](#)

Visits

- [Who Am I? | Science Museum](#)
- [Freud Museum London - The Home of Sigmund Freud](#)

Volunteering

- [Volunteering at Mind - Mind](#)

Research and Writing

- Conduct a psychology-related EPQ
- Conduct a replication study of a famous psychology experiment
- Conduct some original research and write a report

Sociology:

Reading

- "Gang Leader for a Day" by Sudhir Venkatesh
- Everyday Sexism- Laura Bates
- Watching the English, Kate Fox
- "Sociology: A Very Short Introduction" by Steve Bruce

Podcasts

- The Sociology of Everything podcast (Spotify)
- Uncommon Sense podcast (Spotify)
- [BBC Radio 4 - Thinking Allowed](#)

Visits

- Marx Grave, Highbury, London
- National Justice Museum, Nottingham
- International Slavery Museum, Liverpool
- [Migration Museum Homepage - Migration Museum](#)
- [People's History Museum: The national museum of democracy](#)
- [Museum of Childhood](#), Ashbourne

Criminology:

Documentaries

- [Forensics: The Real CSI - BBC iPlayer](#)
- [Parole - BBC iPlayer](#)

Books

- The Devil You Know; Encounters in Forensic Psychiatry by Dr Gwen Adshed and Eileen Horne
- Forensics; The Anatomy of Crime by Val McDermaid

Podcasts/ Radio

- [BBC Radio 4 - The Reith Lectures, Gwen Adshead - Four Questions about Violence, Is Violence Normal?](#)
- [RedHanded](#)
- [UK True Crime](#)

Religious Studies/Philosophy:

Reading

- [Think | Cambridge Core](#)
- [Religious Studies | Cambridge Core](#)
- "The Problems of Philosophy" by Bertrand Russell
- "The Puzzle of God" by Peter Vardy
- [Buddhism - a variety of blogs](#)
- [Philosophy A Level information - revision notes](#)

Courses

- [Introduction to Philosophy | Coursera](#)
- [Philosophy, Science and Religion: Philosophy and Religion | Coursera](#)

Podcasts

- [Philosophy bites](#)
- [BBC Radio 4 - Beyond Belief](#)
- [The Panpsycast Podcast](#)
- [History of Ideas Podcast](#)

Video

- [Homepage - Closer To Truth](#)

Essay competition

- [Global Essay Prize | John Locke Institute](#)

WRITING COMPETITIONS

Entering writing competitions can be an excellent way of stretching yourself, developing skills and finding out more about a topic or subject area that you may wish to study at HE.

You can demonstrate your research skills and citation skills. You could also potentially win a prize!

Throughout the year the LRC publicises writing competitions from publishers. Two regular ones to watch out for are:

- An essay writing competition from Issues online, (see link for the previous one [Writing Competition – Independence Educational Publishers](#))
- [Massolit](#) video lecture competition
- Royal Geographical Society in association with The Financial Times has a competition running now. The deadline for submission is Friday 31 October 2025 at 17:00 GMT. *‘What are the implications for different countries of international trade policies in the contemporary world?’* Follow the link for more details. [School Essay Competition - RGS](#)
- There are a variety of essay writing competitions also available from Oxbridge and Cambridge universities, please see details ‘Minds Underground’ for details: [Oxford and Cambridge Essay Competitions — Minds Underground](#)

The LRC can assist you to locate online academic articles and advise on bibliography and citation skills. Contact Martina Higgins the LRC Manager for further support.

Notable upcoming competitions:

- [Stories of the Future creative challenge - Earth4All](#) 'What Could our Future Look Like?' Deadline 20th July 2025
- [Stephen Spender Prize – Stephen Spender Trust](#) Translate poetry from another language! Deadline 31st July 2025
- [The Betty Haigh Shakespeare Prize | The English Association](#) Deadline 30th Sept 2025
- [The Young Walter Scott Prize -The Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction](#) Prose, poetry, drama, fictional letters or reportage. Deadline 31st Oct 2025
- [Literary Prize – Benjamin Franklin House](#) (students 18-25) Deadline Nov 2025
- [Film of the Month - Into Film](#) Ongoing
- [Emerging Voices Awards | The Guardian Foundation](#) Submit a political opinion piece. Opens early 2026.
- [The Harvard Crimson Global Essay Competition](#) Pre-registration now open!
- See all available competitions here: [Best children's writing competitions | The School Reading List](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Books

- Atomic Habits by James Clear

Podcasts

- [The Mel Robbins Podcast](#)
- [TED Talks Daily | Podcast on Spotify](#)
- [The Plodcast | Podcast on Spotify](#)
- [Sensemaker | Podcast on Spotify](#)
- [The Slow Newscast | Podcast on Spotify](#)

Free Courses

Harvard University's catalogue of free courses. Examples of free courses available are Introduction to Programming, Introduction to Cybersecurity, Nuclear Dangers around the World, Human Anatomy, Humanitarian Response to Conflict and Disaster, Health effects of Climate Change – 150 courses in total!

<https://pll.harvard.edu/catalog/free>

- [Couch to 5K: Your Journey from Couch Potato to 5K Runner with the NHS App](#)
- Practical advice and resources on how to prepare for a high quality personal statement: [What can Year 1/Year 12 students do over the summer to prepare for writing their personal statements? / Advancing Access](#)