

Suggested resources for wider independent study



- *Books*
- *Websites*
- *Magazines*
- *Articles*
- *Documentaries*

Why?

Don't think that when we say 'independent research' you need to look up lots and lots about your subject, and know twice the amount in the spec.

We suggest that you carry out research around a topic to:

- Help you to fill in gaps in your understanding,
- Provide background information,
- Give an alternative viewpoint, or
- Offer up further examples beyond what is in your textbook/revision guide.

It is about helping yourself to understand and therefore do your best.

THE MORE THAT YOU READ,
THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW.
THE MORE THAT YOU LEARN,
THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO.
--Dr. Seuss

At university, it will be up to YOU to research the information that you need for your subject, and to think outside of the box to find sources and resources. The point of college is to let you learn from mistakes, but it is also to set you up with skills beyond those that allow you to pass an exam. By carrying out your own research independently, you are rehearsing the skills and getting used to doing what you need to when you are at university, as here you will have to use your own time to find out more about your subject and carry out wider reading. At A level, there isn't time in lessons to cover everything, so you will need to look things up and research further yourself. This is what Independent Study time is for. If you have done your homework, push yourself further and read around your topics. There is ALWAYS more to learn and more to be doing.

It may be that something you come across in your research helps you to understand an area you were unsure of.

Across the country, students at both state and private schools will be doing this – it isn't just us wanting to push you to do more work! These are the students and peers who you will be competing against for university places, and so these suggestions will provide you with evidence for your personal statement to show that you engage with your chosen subject beyond the lesson content, and compete with other students. All universities expect more than just classroom knowledge, which is where supercurricular activities come in; these are academic enrichment tasks that show you are interested in your studies beyond what is on the school syllabus.

The skills you use will also help you in your work life, as they require self-discipline and self-motivation.

General Resources

There are many resources that have already been recommended to you, which cover a wide range of subjects. Some of these include:



JSTOR and Google Scholar provide access to millions of journal articles and academic texts, free of charge. Staircase 12 is a website produced by University College, Oxford, with lots of recommendations for books, websites and podcasts, as recommended by Oxford students. The OUP Very Short Introductions and 'Introducing' books are brief but detailed introductions to a wide range of topics, both broad and very narrow. We have a number of these in our library. HE+ from the University of Cambridge has access to a variety of degree-level activities on a wide range of subjects, so is ideal way to familiarise yourself with the kind of work you can expect at university. Oxplore offers a variety of questions to get you thinking – not specific to your current subjects, but a perfect way to get yourself thinking! Why not use this as a way to promote debate and discussion with a group of your friends? OpenLearn and Future Learn are just two sites that provide MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) – accredited courses which look very impressive on a personal statement, as it shows a commitment to learning and willingness to carry out learning in your own time.

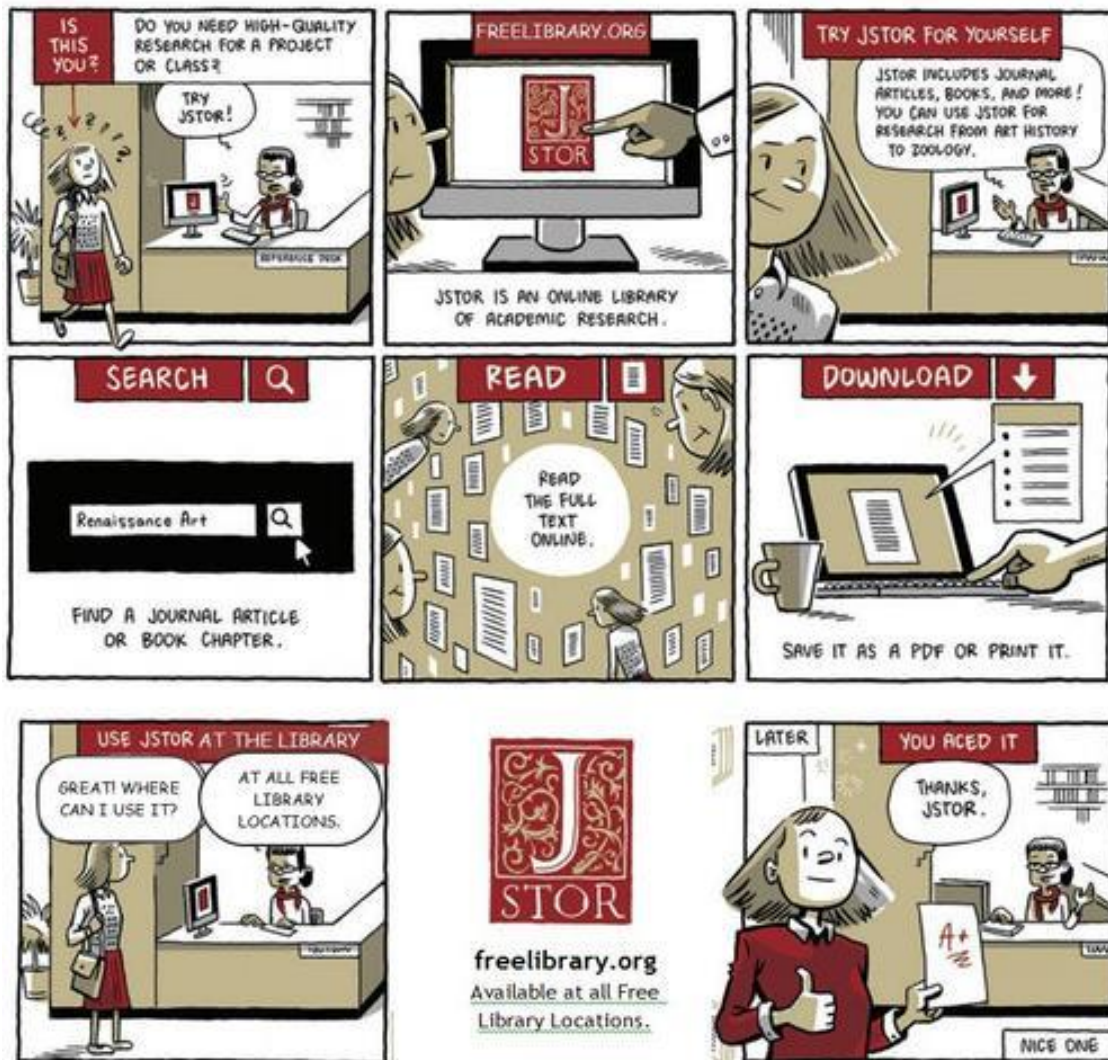
Other general sources include:

- iTunes U - Free podcasts, video lectures, reading recommendations. A whole range of resources from leading universities (Oxford, Yale)
- YouTube - Has its own educational channel, EDU
- Documentary Heaven - Online libraries with hundreds of documentaries, including Netflix and BBC programmes, covering all subjects – highly recommended to browse for case studies etc.

For many subjects, looking on news and media outlets is also highly recommended, especially for Sociology, but also for Geography, History, Health & Social, Sport etc., and for wider interest subjects such as Politics, Law and Economics. Use current events as case studies for the social sciences, alongside what you learn in lesson. This shows that you can link and apply your content knowledge to what is happening in the world, and are also aware of life beyond your subjects.

Reading is a great way to explore subjects which you find interesting – but there are many other ways to deepen your understanding: investigate your local museums, monuments, galleries and natural features, and think analytically about nature, machinery or the built environment. Our local universities run seminars, taster days or other Outreach activities which you could attend. You might also like to join a regional or national club or society related to your academic interests, or enter competitions such as essay prizes or maths Olympiads. The best thing about super-curricular activities is that there are no exams or deadlines to worry about – you are free to follow your own lines of enquiry into the areas that interest you the most, and should take time to explore things that you genuinely find interesting and see where your investigations lead you.

HOW TO USE JSTOR



Journal/ebook sites

Here's a range of journal/ebook sites you can use for wider reading. It's not an exhaustive list!

- <https://www.manchesteropenhive.com/>
- Directory of Open Access Journals – <https://doaj.org/>
- <https://www.elsevier.com/en-gb>
- <https://www.academia.edu/> - requires students to register.
- PubMed - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>
- OpenDOAR - <http://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/opensoar/> - access to global journals and data archives
- www.books.google.co.uk, <http://archive.org> and www.smashwords.com offer a wealth of free ebooks
- <http://completeissues.co.uk> offers a range of resources focusing on topics of relevance and interest to young people
- <http://credoreference.com> is an online reference collection, containing over 900 online encyclopaedias, subject dictionaries, biographical resources and reference tools
- <http://explore.bl.uk> contains the catalogue for the British Library, with many materials available for open access
- www.gutenberg.org - free access to over 50,000 ebooks
- [iTunes U](https://itunes.apple.com/uk/itunes-u) - download educational audio and video from unis, museums etc.
- www.questia.com is an online commercial digital library of books and academic articles, particularly about humanities.

The City College Wedgwood Library

Our well-stocked library includes everything you should need to be successful at A level and BTEC, as well as books that help you to explore your subjects in greater depth and beyond the curriculum. It also includes a range of books on **careers, university, life skills, study skills, and mental health and wellbeing**, ensuring that all needs and issues are catered for.

If you come across a title that you think we should have in our library but don't, then let us know!

We have also organised our library to be as user-friendly as possible. All of our books are colour-coded by subject, with many falling into different subjects – don't be afraid to go outside of your subject area to find what you need. So, for example, if you are studying Psychology, then you might also find information that can help you in Biology, Criminology and Sociology. If you are studying Sociology, then also look in Geography, Politics, History, Psychology, Criminology, or Health & Social Care!

Our system is as follows:

- Health & Social Care
- Sport
- Religion
- Philosophy
- History
- Classical Literature
- Geography
- Business Studies
- Computing
- Maths
- Media
- English
- Drama
- Medicine
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- General Science
- Politics
- Law
- Economics
- Education
- Sociology
- Criminology
- Psychology

- Art
- Fashion
- D & T

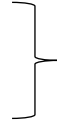


- Careers
- Uni

- Study Skills / EPQ
- Motivation
- Well-being / Mental Health



- Life Skills
- Cookery



Some books are also labelled up as follows:

- LGBTQ+



- ELS course-specific

We also have:

- A general reference section, including a collection of **Oxford Very Short Introductions**,
- past exam papers
- local history books

In our common room, there is a collection of fiction, including classics and a large number of crime thrillers.

Suggested resources for wider independent study

Art

- Ted Talks
- Google Arts & Culture - artsandculture.google.com/
- The National Gallery - www.nationalgallery.org.uk/
- The Royal Academy - www.royalacademy.org.uk/
- Craft Council - www.craftscouncil.org.uk
- Museum of Modern Art (New York) magazine - www.moma.org/magazine/
- *Apollo* magazine - www.apollo-magazine.com/
- *Vusiem* apps - allows you to tour the collections of a number of art galleries including the Louvre and National Gallery
- *The Northern Art Podcast*
- *The Art of the Nation* - BBC Sounds
- ArtStation - <https://www.artstation.com/> / ArtStation Magazine - <https://magazine.artstation.com/>

Documentaries

- The Royal Academy has put together some suggestions to watch - www.royalacademy.org.uk/article/10-artist-movies-and-documentaries-to-watch-on-netflix-amazon-iplayer
- Netflix:
 - *The Creative Brain*
- We have a range of art books in Wedgwood, and an extensive collection of art, design, photography and architecture books in Arthur Berry

Biology / Medicine / Veterinary Medicine

- Ted Talks
- *New Scientist*
- *National Geographic*
- Philip Allan Biological Sciences Review
- www.the-scientist.com
- Wellcome Trust - www.wellcome.ac.uk/
- Human Genome Project - genome.wellcome.ac.uk/
- <http://medicalmuseums.org/>
- Oxford Medical School Gazette - www.omsg-online.com/
- Institute of Biomedical Science - www.ibms.org/
- Physiological Society - www.physoc.org/
- British Veterinary Association - www.bva.co.uk/
- British Medical Association - <http://bma.org.uk/>
- Institute of Zoology - www.zsl.org/science
- Botanical Sciences at Kew - www.kew.org/
- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons - www.knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/library-and-information-services/our-resources/list-of-electronic-resources/open-access-and-free-access-resources/ - access to a wide range of open access journals and articles
- *The Infinite Monkey Cage* - BBC Sounds
- *Made of Stronger Stuff* - BBC Sounds
- *CrowdScience* - BBC Sounds

Documentaries

- BBC *Planet Earth / Blue Planet*
- Netflix:
 - *Babies*
 - *David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet*
 - *The Surgeon's Cut*
 - *Human Nature*
- We have a range of books in Wedgwood to cover Biology, medicine, anatomy etc., ranging from textbooks and popular science books, to degree-level texts.

Business Studies

- Ted Talks
- *The Economist*
- *Financial Times*
- National Institute of Economic and Social Research - www.niesr.ac.uk
- International Monetary Fund - www.imf.org/external/
- Philip Allan Business Review
- *Forbes Magazine*
- www.tutor2u.net
- *Freakonomics* Podcast
- www.businesscasestudies.co.uk
- www.bized.co.uk
- *Sneakernomics* – BBC Sounds

Documentaries / TV

- *Dragons' Den*
- Netflix:
 - *Inside Bill's Brain: Decoding Bill Gates*

- We also have a range of Business books in Wedgwood.

Chemistry

- Ted Talks
 - *New Scientist*
 - *National Geographic*
 - Philip Allan Chemistry Review
 - www.the-scientist.com
 - Royal Society of Chemistry - www.rsc.org.uk
 - Institution of Chemical Engineers - www.icheme.org
 - www.chemguide.co.uk
 - *CrowdScience* - BBC Sounds
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- We have a range of chemistry textbooks in Wedgwood.

Engineering

- Online library and Engineering web forum - www.engineering.com/
- Royal Academy of Engineering - www.raeng.org.uk/
- Institution of Civil Engineers - www.ice.org.uk/
- *The Greatest Structures in the World* - BBC Sounds

Documentaries

- Netflix:
 - *Dream Big: Engineering our World*

English

- Ted Talks
 - Read widely!
 - Classics - available as free ebooks on Kindle
 - University of Oxford Great Writers Inspire - <http://writersinspire.org/library> A broad range of essays, podcasts and videos from Oxford's English department
 - BBC Radio 4 *The Today Show*
 - BBC Radio 4 *In Our Time*
 - Poetry Society - www.poetrysociety.org.uk/
 - Literary Review - www.literaryreview.co.uk/
 - Times Literary Supplement - www.the-tls.co.uk/tls/
 - EMC Emagazine
 - Philip Allan English Review
 - Lancaster Uni Language and Linguistics site. They have a specific A Level site within this and loads of resources - www.ling.lancs.ac.uk/
 - www.englishandmedia.co.uk
 - Try to read material from the 'prizes' e.g. The Man Booker prize or the Orange prize
 - Try to get into reading a broadsheet newspaper weekly
 - Try to read a range of non-fiction writing such as travel writing, autobiography, biography etc.
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- We have a range of classic and contemporary novels in Wedgwood.

Geography

- *National Geographic*
- Geographical Association - <http://geography.org.uk/>
- Royal Geographical Society - <http://rgs.org/HomePage.htm>
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee - <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/>
- Geological Society - www.geolsoc.org.uk/index.html
- British Geological Survey - www.bgs.ac.uk/
- *How to Invent a Country* - BBC Sounds
- *39 Ways to Save the Planet* - BBC Sounds

Documentaries

- Netflix:
 - *Tales by Night*
 - *Down to Earth with Zac Efron*
 - *There's Something in the Water*
 - *A Plastic Ocean*
 - *Brave Blue World: Racing to Solve Our Water Crisis*
 - *Mission Blue*
 - *Mountain*
 - *Waterschool*

Health & Social Care

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Documentaries

- Documentary Mania:
 - *Childbirth: All or Nothing*

History

- Ted Talks
- *History Today* Magazine - www.historytoday.com/
- BBC History - www.bbc.co.uk/history/
- BBC Radio 4 *In Our Time*
- Historical Association - <http://history.org.uk/>
- Royal Historical Society - www.royalhistoricalsociety.org/
- Internet Modern Sourcebook – thousands of primary sources, secondary sources and texts on Historiography - www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.asp
- Philip Allan History Review
- Explore the British Museum via Google Street View - www.britishmuseum.org/closure
- *You're Dead to Me* - BBC Sounds
- *How to Invent a Country* - BBC Sounds

Specific periods

- David Starkey Tudors documentaries
- *Hitler: The Rise of Evil* doc
- Netflix:
 - *The Devil Next Door*
 - *Hitler's Circle of Evil*
 - *Auschwitz: The Nazis and 'The Final Solution'*
 - *Greatest Events of WWII in Colour*
- John le Carre novels
- *Cold War: Stories from the Big Freeze* - BBC Sounds
- Doctor Who episode '*Rosa*'
- *1619* podcast from the *New York Times*
- We have a broad range of history books in Wedgwood, from ancient world history to modern, as well as books covering all periods studied as part of the A level specification. Also, we have a range of politics books that are also of interest for some of our current modules and wider interest.

Information Technology / Computer Science

- Ted Talks
- National Cipher Challenge - www.cipher.maths.soton.ac.uk/
- Micromouse Competition - www.tic.ac.uk/micromouse/index.asp
- The National Museum of Computing - www.tnmoc.org/
- PC Pro - <http://pcpro.com>
- The Register - www.theregister.co.uk/
- *Wired* magazine

Documentaries

- Netflix:
 - *The Social Dilemma*
 - *The Great Hack*

Maths

- Ted Talks
 - Millennium Mathematics Project - <http://mmp.maths.org/>
 - Institute of Mathematics - www.ima.org.uk/
 - *Plus* Magazine - <http://plus.maths.org/content/>
 - *Significance* magazine - www.significancemagazine.com/
 - *More or Less* - BBC Sounds
 - *A Brief History of Mathematics* - BBC Sounds
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- We have a range of maths books in Wedgwood, including textbooks, popular maths books, and Open University degree-level materials.

Product Design / Textiles

- Ted Talks
- Dexitner online magazine - www.dexitner.com
- The Design Museum - <http://designmuseum.org/>
- *Design Week* magazine - www.designweek.co.uk/
- *ID* magazine - www.id-mag.com/GeneralMenu/
- Design Council - www.designcouncil.org.uk/
- *Core 77* online magazine - www.core77.com/
- www.blueprintmagazine.co.uk/
- www.technologystudent.com
- *99% Invisible* podcast series about architecture and design - <https://99percentinvisible.org/>
- *Dare to Repair* - BBC Sounds
- ArtStation - <https://www.artstation.com/> / ArtStation Magazine - <https://magazine.artstation.com/>

Documentaries

- Documentary Heaven:
 - *The Secret of Drawing*
 - *Helvetica*
- Netflix:
 - *Abstract: The Art of Design*
 - *Interior Design Masters*
 - *The Creative Brain*
- We have a range of product design, fashion and design books in Wedgwood, and an extensive collection of art, design, photography and architecture books in Arthur Berry.

Psychology

- Ted Talks
- Educational Psychology links - www.edpsycinteractive.org/materials/internet.html
- British Psychological Society - www.bps.org.uk/
- The Psychologist Journal - www.thepsychologist.org.uk/
- *The Psychologist* Magazine
- Simply Psychology - www.simplypsychology.org/
- Philip Allan Psychology Review
- Educational Psychology links - www.edpsycinteractive.org/materials/internet.html
- *My Favorite Murder* Podcast
- *I Feel for You* Podcast, about narcissism and empathy - BBC Sounds
- *How to Have a Better Brain* - BBC Sounds

Documentaries

- *What Makes a Murderer* (C4)
- Netflix:
 - *My Beautiful Broken Brain*
 - *Tell Me Who I Am*
 - *Making a Murderer*
 - *Evil Genius*
 - *Mindhunter*
 - *The Mind, Explained*
 - *The Creative Brain*

Drama

- Netflix:
 - *Ratched*
 - *Freud*

- We have a range of Psychology books in Wedgwood, including textbooks, popular science and academic texts.

Sociology

- Ted Talks
- *National Geographic*
- Read the news!
 - *The Guardian* – Tuesday ‘Education’ supplement, Wednesday ‘Society’ supplement
 - *The Independent*
 - *The Times*
 - *The Observer*
 - *The Telegraph*
 - *The Financial Times*
- BBC Radio 4 *The Today Show*
- British Sociological Association - www.britisoc.co.uk/
- British Journal of Sociology - www.lse.ac.uk/sociology/british-journal-of-sociology
- BBC *Thinking Allowed* - www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05
- www.sociology.org.uk/
- Discover Anthropology - www.discoveranthropology.org.uk/
- Royal Anthropological Institute - <http://therai.org.uk/>
- Association on Social Anthropologists - <http://theasa.org/>

Documentaries / TV

- Netflix:
 - *Wild Wild Country*
 - *The Social Dilemma*
 - *Trial by Media*
 - *Girls Incarcerated*
 - *Flint Town*
 - *Reggie Yates’ Extreme*
 - *Feminists: What were they Thinking?*
 - *Panorama* (BBC1)
 - Channel 4 News
 - *Cutting Edge* (C4)
 - *Have I Got News for You*
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- We have a range of Sociology books in Wedgwood, including textbooks and academic texts, and related books on education, politics, gender etc.

Sport

- Ted Talks
- *Journal of Sports Sciences*
- *Journal of Sport & Social Issues*
- All sports magazines will offer a view on performing, coaching, science, current issues or history of sport(s). They are therefore valuable wider reading material
- The sports pages of national newspapers.

Documentaries / TV

- Netflix:
 - *El Limite Infinito*
 - *Losers*

- We have a range of sport books in Wedgwood, including textbooks and coaching guides.

Other subjects

Law

- Department of Justice - www.justice.gov.uk/
- Judiciary of England and Wales - www.judiciary.gov.uk/
- Legislation database - www.legislation.gov.uk/
- *Counsel Magazine* - www.counsellmagazine.co.uk/
- *Guardian Law pages* - www.guardian.co.uk/law
- *Law in Action* - *BBC Sounds*

Politics / International Relations

- Oxford Politics microsite - <http://politicsinspires.org/>
- The Economist magazine - www.economist.com/
- Political Studies Association - www.psa.ac.uk/
- UK parliament - www.parliament.uk/
- United Nations - www.un.org/en/
- Chatham House on International Affairs - www.chathamhouse.org/
- Amnesty - <http://amnesty.org/>
- *Democracy on Trial* - *BBC Sounds*

Documentaries / TV

- *Newsnight* (BBC)
- *The Politics Show* (BBC)
- *The Andrew Marr Show* (BBC)
- *Dispatches* (C4)
- Netflix:
 - *13th*
- We have a range of politics and law books in Wedgwood.

Philosophy / Religion

- Philosophical Society - www.philosophicalsociety.com/
- Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion - www.ianramseycentre.info/
- We have a range of politics and law books in Wedgwood.

Music

- Royal Academy of Music - www.ram.ac.uk/
- www.soundonsound.com/

Economics

- Institute for Economic Affairs - www.iea.org.uk/
- *The Economist* magazine - www.economist.com/
- National Institute of Economic and Social Research - www.niesr.ac.uk/
- International Monetary Fund - www.imf.org/external/
- *The Story of Economics* - BBC Sounds
- *Capitalism on Trial* - BBC Sounds