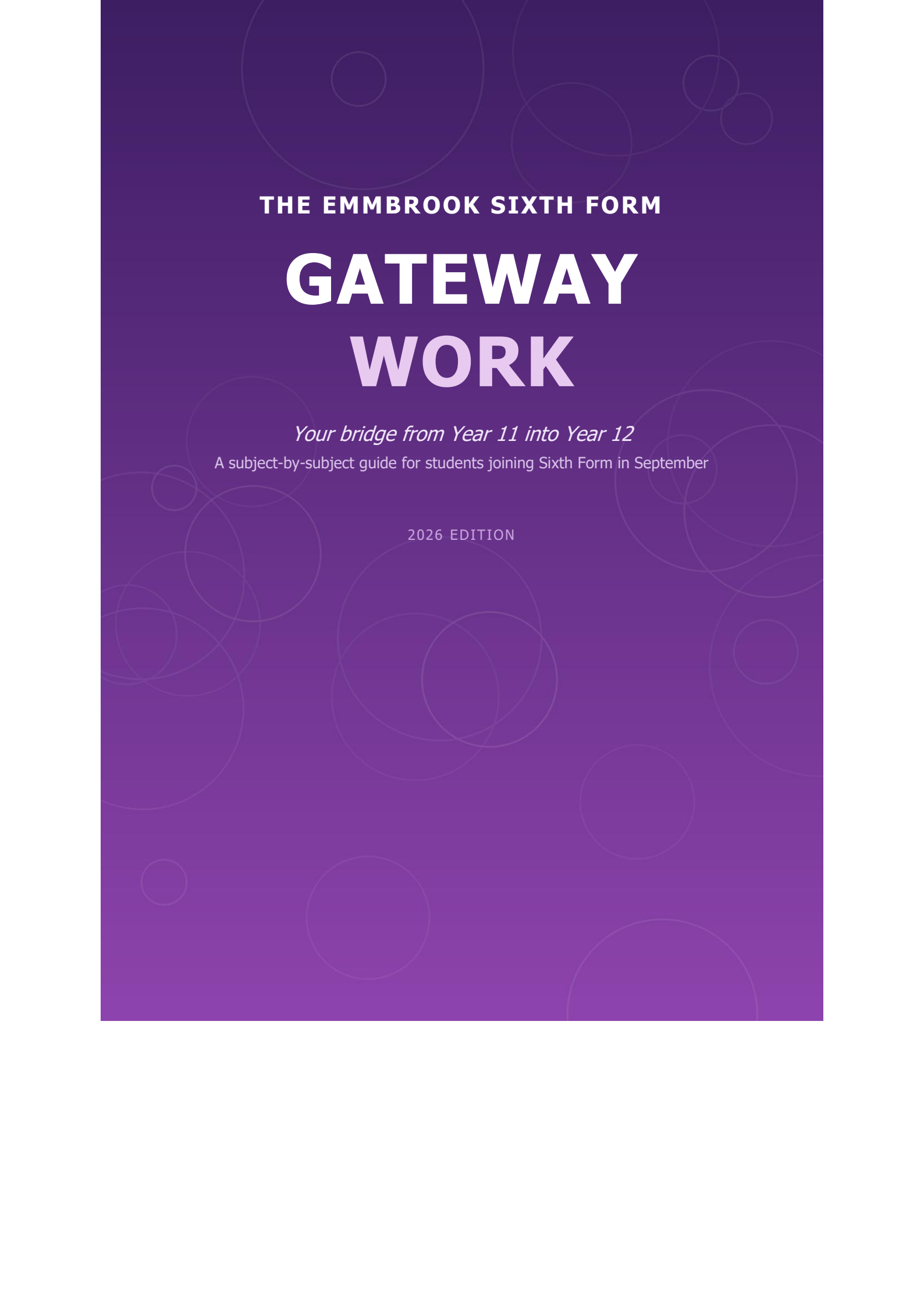




THE EMMBROOK SIXTH FORM

GATEWAY WORK

Your bridge from Year 11 into Year 12

A subject-by-subject guide for students joining Sixth Form in September

2026 EDITION

What is Gateway Work?

Congratulations on securing your place in The Emmbrook Sixth Form. Gateway Work — sometimes called summer transition or bridging work — is a set of tasks designed by each subject department to help you make a confident, well-prepared start to your A level studies in September.

Moving from GCSE to A level is a significant step up: you'll be studying in greater depth, working more independently, and thinking more critically. Gateway Work gives you a head start by introducing you to the ideas, texts, skills and habits of mind that your new subjects will build on from your very first lesson.

Every subject section in this book follows a similar structure, so you always know what to expect:



Video Clips

Short videos that introduce a key idea or theme from the course.



TV, Film & Documentaries

Longer viewing to help you think more deeply about the subject.



Radio & Podcasts

Listening recommendations for the summer — great for journeys or downtime.



Books

Introductory reading, with space to jot a short review of what you read.



Questions to Discuss

Talking points to explore with family and friends over the summer.



Tasks & Preparation Work

Subject-specific activities, practice questions or projects to complete.



Independent Learning Log

A table to record what you've done — bring it to your first lesson.

How to use this book

The expectation across every subject is that you complete at least one task from each category (unless a task is marked compulsory) and arrive at your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Keep a note of everything you complete in your Independent Learning Log at the end of each subject section — you'll need to bring this, along with any completed work, to your first lesson.

There's no need to complete every single resource listed — these are menus of options, not checklists. Choose what interests you, follow your curiosity, and don't be afraid to explore beyond the suggestions given.

Need help?

If you have any questions about your Gateway Work over the summer, contact details for curriculum leads are included within individual subject sections where relevant. Otherwise, save your questions for your first lesson back — your teachers will be glad to hear what you discovered.

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History



Maths & Further Maths



Philosophy, Ethics & Theology



Physics



Psychology



Biology

Exam board: OCR

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

- Amoeba Sisters – Cell structure: youtube.com/watch?v=8IlzKri08kk
- Biomolecules: youtube.com/watch?v=VCOH7FLI90I



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- The Secret Life of the Cell – dailymotion.com/video/x4fjy56
- The Gene: An Intimate History – youtube.com/watch?v=3OsWLNqoWLA
- Your Inner Fish – youtube.com/watch?v=E8ttoKGxEKc
- The Second Genome – BBC Sounds: bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b09zgykv
- The Hunt for Covid's Origin – BBC Sounds: bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/m001mdfw
- Don't forget any episode of Planet Earth



RADIO & PODCASTS

- BBC – bbc.co.uk/programmes/b036f7w2/episodes/player
- Nature Podcast – nature.com/nature/articles?type=nature-podcast



BOOKS

- The Botanist's Daughter – Kayte Nunn
- Gorillas in the Mist – Dian Fossey
- My Sister's Keeper – Jodi Picoult
- Silent Spring – Rachel Carson



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Do you agree with cloning?
- Should manufacturers be allowed to use genetically modified foods?
- Would removing all microorganisms make the world a better place?
- Should humans reduce meat consumption?



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

Use the table below to keep a record of your preparation work. Bring this to your first lesson back in September.

Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced



Business

Exam board: Edexcel

Thank you for choosing A level Business and welcome to the Business and Economics department. Below you will find some basic information and support in preparation for the course start. It is also expected that you will complete the transition work included and bring it with you to your first lesson. If you have any queries, please email KEdwards@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk — Miss Edwards, Curriculum Lead Business and Economics.



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- The Founder (2016) – Amazon Prime
- Joy (2015) – Disney+
- Moneyball (2011) – Amazon Prime
- Margin Call (2011) – Amazon Prime



RADIO & PODCASTS

- How I Built This (NPR) – Theme 1: Ben & Jerry's, Spanx (Sara Blakely)
- Business Wars (Wondery) – Theme 2: Nike vs Adidas, Netflix vs Blockbuster



BOOKS

- BBC News: "How market research reveals what you really think" – 18 June 2021
- BBC News: "Theranos scandal: Who is Elizabeth Holmes and why was she on trial?" – 19 November 2022
- BBC News: "Bank of England warns of AI bubble risk" – 2 December 2025
- Shoe Dog: A Memoir by the Creator of Nike – Phil Knight
- The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine – Michael Lewis



MULTIPLE CHOICE KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS

1. A non-physical market has:
 - A No consumer protection legislation
 - B No determinants of demand
 - C No face-to-face contact between buyers and sellers
 - D No market structure
2. When making strategic decisions any potential for bias should be:
 - A Considered

- B** Encouraged
 - C** Ignored
 - D** Maximised
- 3.** The Competition and Markets Authority:
- A** Encourages trade liberalisation
 - B** Investigates dominant firms
 - C** Regulates against unfair advertising
 - D** Restricts foreign currency transactions
- 4.** Peter's Puppets — from an extract of its income statement for its first year of trading — had expenses of:
- A** £800
 - B** £8,500
 - C** £12,350
 - D** £20,050
- 5.** Which is the correct order for the three stages in Lewin's Change Management model?
- A** Freeze – Change – Unfreeze
 - B** Freeze – Unfreeze – Change
 - C** Unfreeze – Change – Freeze
 - D** Unfreeze – Freeze – Change
- 6.** Octavon Ltd makes laptop computers with fixed costs of £120,000 p.a. and variable cost of £110 per laptop, sold at £350 each, hoping to sell 750 laptops. Its margin of safety is:
- A** £250
 - B** £500
 - C** 250 laptops
 - D** 500 laptops
- 7.** A high street store sells baby clothes. Who are the most likely consumers?
- A** Babies
 - B** Manufacturers
 - C** Parents
 - D** Toy shops
- 8.** Which is a social factor which may affect a car dealership?
- A** Reduction in the age a person can take the driving test
 - B** An increase in tax on petrol and diesel
 - C** Increased use of car sharing schemes
 - D** The development of driverless cars
- 9.** It is important to regularly review the strategy of a business in order to:
- A** Avoid the need for contingency planning
 - B** Challenge competitors to do better
 - C** Improve the efficiency of day-to-day tasks
 - D** Maximise competitive advantage
- 10.** Four businesses make dog kennels — using total output and average number of employees, which has the highest productivity?
- A** Business A
 - B** Business B
 - C** Business C
 - D** Business D
- 11.** Which of the following is not protected by data protection legislation?
- A** A company's financial data

- B** An employee's disciplinary record
 - C** Customer data kept on paper
 - D** Supplier data stored on a computer network
- 12.** Which is not a potential benefit of introducing technology to the production process?
- A** A reduction in wastage
 - B** Diseconomies of scale
 - C** Greater capacity
 - D** Lower unit costs
- 13.** Westland Unite is a retail co-operative selling fruit and vegetables. Which would be classified as internal stakeholders?
- A** Bankers
 - B** Competitors
 - C** Customers
 - D** Suppliers
- 14.** A business nearing the end of its product life cycle introduces a new version of the product to maintain sales. This is an example of:
- A** An extension strategy
 - B** Product positioning
 - C** The working capital cycle
 - D** Value analysis
- 15.** A company has issued 250,000 £1 ordinary shares at a share price of 150p, with a net profit of £50,000, all distributed as dividends. Its price/earnings ratio is:
- A** 0.13
 - B** 5
 - C** 7.5
 - D** 20



APPLYING CASE STUDY CONTEXT: NEW LOOK

An important part of A Level Business is being able to apply your subject knowledge to different businesses in different situations. Read the case study "New Look slashes prices amid sharp fall in annual sales" (BBC News, 12 June 2018) and answer the questions below.

Summary: New Look continued cutting prices in 2018, aiming for 80% of its clothes to sell for under £20, after like-for-like sales fell 11.7% and website sales fell 19%. It agreed a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) to manage debts and broadened its target age range to 18–45. This contrasted with online-only rival Boohoo (and its PrettyLittleThing and Nasty Gal brands), whose sales rose 53%, targeting a narrower 18–28 age group with cheaper, trend-led fashion. Analysts said New Look's broad targeting left its brand identity unclear, with product ranges seen as less exciting than Boohoo's. New Look's turnaround plan involved cutting 1,000 jobs, closing 60 stores and cutting rents by 15–55% across its remaining 393 stores.

Questions to consider: 1. Summarise the key information from the case study in less than 30 words. 2. What are the key reasons why New Look was struggling in the clothing market? 3. Do you think New Look made the right decision reducing prices to compete with Boohoo and PLT? Explain your answer. 4. What else could New Look do to compete with these other businesses? (Try to think of 2–3 ways.)

Evaluation: Of the suggestions you made in question 4, which do you think would be most effective? Justify your answer, considering any external factors that may affect your recommendation.



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- "Customers don't really know what they want." To what extent do you agree? Should businesses trust data more than what customers say?
- "Big data has made traditional market research obsolete." Is there still a role for surveys and focus groups? Which method is more reliable — and why?
- "Businesses that fail to use AI in marketing will fall behind." Is investing in AI always worth the cost? Would this apply to small businesses as well?



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

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Chemistry

Exam board: OCR A

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

- Two clips on the History of Chemistry – know the foundations of the subject!
- youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAhRiX8pHhMKHf7v6G3pNcKhch9_9BFu0
- youtube.com/watch?v=GihQfwxjMYw



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- "Chemistry: A Volatile History" by Jim Al-Khalili (YouTube/BBC)



BOOKS

- "Elegant Solutions" and "Stories of the Invisible" – Philip Ball
- "The Secrets of the Periodic Table" – Ben Still
- "The Oxford Book of Modern Science Writing", ed. R Dawkins
- "Science: A History in 100 Experiments" – John & Mary Gribbin
- "The Ascent of Man" – Jacob Bronowski (also on YouTube)
- "Believing Bullshit" – Stephen Law
- "A Short History of Nearly Everything" – Bill Bryson



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

Use the table below to keep a record of your preparation work. Bring this to your first lesson back in September.

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Classical Civilisation

Exam board: OCR

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

- Watch the episodes on Ancient Greece:
- The Ancient Greeks: Crucible of Civilization – Episode 1: Revolution (History Documentary)
- The Ancient Greeks: Crucible of Civilization – Episode 2: Golden Age (History Documentary)
- In the first episode, there is a discussion about the impact Homer had on Greek culture.



BOOKS

- You may wish to buy your copies of the texts we will study (Unit One – The World of the Hero):
- The Odyssey – Ed. E.V. Rieu, Penguin
- Medea – Ed. John Harrison, Cambridge
- The Persians in Prometheus Bound and other plays – Penguin



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- What are the qualities of an epic hero?
- What does it mean to call someone a Barbarian?
- What united the Greek city states and what divided them?



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

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Computer Science

Exam board: OCR

Welcome to A-level Computer Science. Your teachers will be Mrs Panesar and Mr Kalatzis. We have both been teaching computer science at The Emmbrook for a long time (too many years to remember!). We are both ex-programmers who came into teaching after working in industry and we are passionate about computer science. We have taught many students who have gone on to study Computer Science, Maths, Science, Stats, Finance, Engineering or Economics degrees which all need computer science elements. Our students achieve well – A-B: 80% – and if you work hard you will too. Our emails are lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk and ekalatzis@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk. If you have any questions either speak to Mrs Panesar on results day or email us. We look forward to seeing you in September!*

Before you start, if you don't have Python downloaded at home already, download the latest version from python.org/downloads. You need a working understanding of: Variables and constants · Selection · Iteration (for and while loops) · Subprograms · Text files (reading and writing) · 1D and 2D arrays · Random and Math libraries. If you need practice, try the YouTube tutorial (youtube.com/watch?v=rfscVS0vtbw) or Codecademy (codecademy.com/catalog/language/python).



PREPARATION TASKS

Two's Complement

Basic Understanding

1. What is the range of numbers that can be represented using an 8-bit two's complement system?
2. Convert the 8-bit binary number 01101001 to its decimal equivalent.
3. Convert the decimal number -42 to an 8-bit two's complement binary number.
4. What is the 8-bit two's complement representation of the decimal number 127?
5. What is the 8-bit two's complement representation of the decimal number -128?

Conversion Practice

1. Convert the 8-bit binary number 11111111 to its decimal equivalent.
2. Convert the decimal number -85 to an 8-bit two's complement binary number.
3. Convert the 8-bit binary number 10000000 to its decimal equivalent.
4. Convert the decimal number 50 to an 8-bit two's complement binary number.
5. Convert the 8-bit binary number 10011010 to its decimal equivalent.

Addition and Subtraction

1. Add the 8-bit two's complement numbers 01100110 and 00011001. Result in binary and decimal?
2. Add the 8-bit two's complement numbers 10011010 and 01101001. Result in binary and decimal?
3. Subtract 00110101 from 01101100 (8-bit two's complement). Result in binary and decimal?

4. Subtract 11001100 from 10101010 (8-bit two's complement). Result in binary and decimal?
5. Explain how overflow is detected in 8-bit two's complement addition.

Multiplication and Division

1. Multiply the 8-bit two's complement numbers 00001101 (13) and 00000110 (6). Result in binary and decimal?
2. Divide the 8-bit two's complement number 01100100 (100) by 00000100 (4). Result in binary and decimal?
3. What happens when you multiply two 8-bit two's complement numbers and the result exceeds the 8-bit range? Explain with an example.

Special Cases

1. What is the result of adding 01111111 (127) and 00000001 (1)? What does this indicate?
2. Why is -128 (10000000) special in 8-bit two's complement representation? Explain its significance and limitations.

Structure and Function of the Processor

1. What is the function of the Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU) within a processor?
2. Explain the role of the Control Unit (CU) in a CPU.
3. Describe the purpose of registers in a CPU. Name at least three specific types.
4. What is the function of the Program Counter (PC)?
5. Define the role of the Memory Address Register (MAR) and Memory Data Register (MDR).
6. Explain what the Current Instruction Register (CIR) is used for.
7. What is the purpose of the Accumulator (ACC) in a processor?
8. Describe the function of the System Clock in the context of processor operation.
9. What is a bus in computer architecture, and what are the three main types?
10. Explain the difference between the Address Bus, Data Bus, and Control Bus.

Function of the Processor

1. What are the basic steps involved in the Fetch-Decode-Execute cycle?
2. Explain the purpose of the Fetch phase.
3. What happens during the Decode phase?
4. Describe what occurs during the Execute phase.
5. Explain the concept of pipelining in CPU architecture.
6. What is clock speed, and how does it affect processor performance?
7. Describe the purpose and function of cache memory in a processor.
8. Explain the concept of multi-core processors and their advantages.



SUMMER TRANSITION TASK: MASTERMIND

Once you have mastered the concepts above, complete the task below and bring evidence of it in September.

Make an on-screen version of the board game 'Mastermind'. The computer automatically generates four colours from a list of possible colours (it may repeat a colour, e.g. red, blue, red, green) — this sequence is hidden from the user. The user then enters their own choice of four colours from the same list.

After the user's guess, the program should display how many colours are correct and in the correct position, and how many are correct but in the wrong position. For example, if the answer is red/blue/red/green and the user guesses pink/blue/yellow/red, it should display 'correct colour in the correct position: 1' and 'correct colour but in the wrong place: 1'.

The user keeps guessing until they get all four correct, then the program displays a suitable message along with how many guesses it took.

Things to think about: the hardest part is the logic for checking how many are correct and how many are in the wrong place. Decide on an easy way for the user to enter their selection (e.g. a single letter code, being careful to avoid ambiguous first letters like blue/black/brown). Make your instructions clear, decide whether to allow upper and lower case, and build in validation checks with suitable messages for invalid input.

Handing in for September: email screenshots of your code and your program running, in a Word document, to lpanesar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk.



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

Use the table below to keep a record of your preparation work. Bring this to your first lesson back in September.

Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced



Criminology

Exam board: WJEC

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

- What is Criminology? youtube.com/watch?v=tdaqqIFQdTE



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- When They See Us (Netflix)
- Black Mirror series (Netflix)
- Any documentaries, including Panorama, Louis Theroux, Stacey Dooley, Mind of a Murderer etc



RADIO & PODCASTS

- Criminology podcast: player.fm/series/series-2409410



BOOKS

- 1984 – George Orwell
- Folk Devils and Moral Panics – Stanley Cohen
- A Glasgow Gang Observed – Patrick James



COMPULSORY WRITTEN TASK

What makes something a crime, and who decides?

Your response (250–350 words) should: give one example of a crime (e.g. theft, drug use, hacking); explain why it is considered a crime; consider whether this could be viewed differently in another country or time; and briefly explain who you think decides what is criminal (e.g. government, society).



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Does prison work?
- Is there a criminal 'gene'?
- Why are certain crimes not reported?



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

Use the table below to keep a record of your preparation work. Bring this to your first lesson back in September.

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Economics

Exam board: Edexcel Pearson

Thank you for choosing A level Economics and welcome to the Business and Economics department. Below you will find some basic information and support in preparation for the course start. It is also expected that you will complete the transition work included and bring it with you to your first lesson. If you have any queries, please email KEdwards@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk — Miss Edwards, Curriculum Lead Business and Economics.



VIDEO CLIPS

- What is Economics?
- The World According to Marx
- 60 Second Adventures in Economics



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- Inside Job (2010) – YouTube
- The Big Short (2015) – Amazon Prime



RADIO & PODCASTS

- Freakonomics Radio – Theme 1: "The Power of Incentives", "Why Airline Prices Change"
- The Economics Show – Theme 2: "Will AI help the Fed conquer inflation?", "Thinking about the global economy with Martin Wolf", "Brexit at 10: What comes next?", "How to win a trade war"



BOOKS

- BBC News: "Fortnite-maker Epic Games is seeking to expose the monopoly power of Apple and Google" – 21 January 2021
- BBC News: "Paying for plastic bags has dramatically reduced usage in the UK" – 1 September 2020
- BBC News: "Global financial crisis: five key stages 2007-2011" – 7 August 2011
- The Undercover Economist – Tim Harford
- Freakonomics – Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner



MULTIPLE CHOICE KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS

1. Which statement does not relate to the role of the economist?

- A** Measuring general changes in the price level
 - B** Identifying ways to make society fairer
 - C** Forecasting the effects of a change in government policy
 - D** Attempting to explain the causes of economic phenomena
- 2.** The need for exchange exists because:
- A** Consumers have both wants and needs
 - B** Free goods have no opportunity cost
 - C** Specialisation and the division of labour exist
 - D** Unemployment will fall as a result of exchange
- 3.** Adam Smith was:
- A** An English poet
 - B** An American political philosopher
 - C** A Scottish economist
 - D** A Welsh geologist
- 4.** Which statement best describes the 'economic problem'?
- A** The fact that economies often go into recession
 - B** Having high levels of unemployment
 - C** The problem that high exchange rates deter exports
 - D** Matching endless wants with limited resources
- 5.** Adam Smith, the founding father of economics, likened the price mechanism to:
- A** A herd of animals
 - B** A machine
 - C** An invisible hand
 - D** A computer
- 6.** Opportunity cost is best defined as:
- A** The cost of a decision expressed in monetary terms
 - B** The financial costs associated with the production of goods and services
 - C** The cost of a decision expressed in terms of the next best alternative
 - D** How an economy suffers when in a recession
- 7.** A 'mixed' economy is an economy in which:
- A** There are periods of growth and recession
 - B** Resources are allocated through the price mechanism and government
 - C** All resources are allocated through the price mechanism
 - D** The government commands how all resources are used
- 8.** A positive statement is one which:
- A** Can be tested and verified
 - B** Cannot be tested or verified
 - C** Is based on opinion
 - D** Is based on a value judgement
- 9.** Which of the following is not a positive statement?
- A** Rising prices can encourage production
 - B** Falling prices can encourage consumer spending
 - C** Falling prices are good for consumers
 - D** An increase in the price of houses will affect real incomes
- 10.** Which statement is a positive one?
- A** The role of the economist is of increasing importance
 - B** Students should be given greater financial support when they go to university
 - C** The rate of growth in 2007 was greater than in 2019

D Some scarce resources are better left unused

11. Which of the following statements is normative?

A Poverty is something society should reduce

B Some of the earth's scarce resources are non-renewable

C An increase in house prices is likely to lead to a reduction in demand

D Not all resources experience price rises

12. The 'rationing' function of the price mechanism can be explained in which of the following ways?

A Governments limiting the supply of scarce resources during a time of war

B As resources are increasingly used, prices are driven up which slows down the rate of usage

C When prices are falling suppliers are likely to supply more goods

D Prices reflect the wants and needs of consumers



ECONOMIC TERMS & RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Economic Terms Activity: Match the economics terms and phrases with the statements.

Research Activity: Using the internet and books, find two different articles relating to economics — one referring to a microeconomic issue and the other to a macroeconomic issue. Be prepared to report back to the class discussing the basis of the article, and be able to discuss economic terms and identify economic concepts within it.



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- "Central banks can no longer control inflation effectively." Should interest rates always be the main tool used to control inflation? Could AI and productivity growth solve inflation problems in the long run? What are the limitations of monetary policy?
- "Economic growth should be the main goal of governments." Why do some countries grow faster than others? Is productivity the most important determinant of living standards? Can governments successfully increase long-run growth?
- "Globalisation has gone too far." Who really wins in a trade war: producers, consumers, or governments? Should countries prioritise self-sufficiency over free trade? Is protectionism ever justified?



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

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Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced



English Literature

Exam board: AQA Specification A (7712B)

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

- "Inventing The Great Gatsby: 1922-1925" – The British Library, on SoundCloud
- abilit.co – Miles Grier on Inkface, Blackface, Othello and Fraternities of White Men



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- The Great Gatsby (Apple TV, Prime and Netflix)
- The Great Gatsby: BBC 'Sincerely F. Scott Fitzgerald' – [youtube.com/watch?v=cCfUsaX5F10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCfUsaX5F10)
- Othello (2007 production, Prime), with Ian McKellen or Laurence Olivier on YouTube



RADIO & PODCASTS

- On the Road with Penguin Classics (Apple, Acast, Spotify, UK Podcasts)
- The Great Books podcast (Apple or Stitcher)
- Selected Shorts (Apple, Acast, NPR, Stitcher)
- Anything But Silent (Apple, Spotify, Google)
- Books and Authors (Apple or Acast)



BOOKS

- Reading list handed out separately



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Why does poetry matter?
- Is racism still a problem today? What about classism?
- To what extent has our perception of gender roles changed in the past five centuries?
- Should reaching the American Dream be everyone's end goal?
- How are love and passion different? Which one is more desirable, and why?



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

Use the table below to keep a record of your preparation work. Bring this to your first lesson back in September.

Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced



Fine Art

Exam board: AQA

Specification: [aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/a-level/art-and-design-7202/specification](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/a-level/art-and-design-7202/specification). The expectation is you will complete the tasks from each category and come to your first lesson in September with this work.



BOOKS

- francis-bacon.com
- francis-bacon.com/paintings
- [youtube.com/watch?v=qsr1pR8DJc0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsr1pR8DJc0)
- [tate.org.uk](https://www.tate.org.uk) – 'Who is Francis Bacon?'
- [royalacademy.org.uk](https://www.royalacademy.org.uk) – 'Francis Bacon: things to know'
- americansuburbx.com – Francis Bacon's last interview on violence, meat and photography



TASKS

Studies

Create 2 different Artist studies (copies) of work by the British Artist Francis Bacon, using either acrylic, watercolour, colour pencil or another material of your choice such as a digital drawing. A5 size or bigger, on paper.

Research

Collect research information about the Artist Francis Bacon — this could be notes, printed information you have highlighted, etc. You will be using this to make a research page in school.

Photography

Take a range of 20 or more good quality photos of meat and fish (supermarket, butchers, fishmongers, cooked, raw, aquarium etc).



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

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Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced



Geography

Exam board: OCR

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

- Coasts – How Do Ocean Currents Work:
ted.com/talks/jennifer_verduin_how_do_ocean_currents_work
- Hazardous Earth – Earthquake Prediction:
ted.com/talks/jean_baptiste_p_koehl_why_are_earthquakes_so_hard_to_predict
- The End of Globalization:
ted.com/talks/mike_o_sullivan_the_end_of_globalization_and_the_beginning_of_something_new
- Get Serious About Human Rights:
ted.com/talks/michael_o_flaherty_how_can_we_place_human_rights_at_the_heart_of_our_actions



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- Coasts: Beyond Borders – The UK's Disappearing Coastline:
youtube.com/watch?v=XNXGqCCajhQ
- Hazardous Earth: Volcanoes – Earth's Fiery Wonders: youtube.com/watch?v=tqIC_JGPSIk



RADIO & PODCASTS

- GeogPod – The Meaning of Place: podbean.com/ep/pb-xj8fe-13e866f



BOOKS

- The Future of Geography – Tim Marshall
- Factfulness – Hans Rosling
- Reading up-to-date news stories is vital for 'topicality' at A-level: BBC News on Coasts, Migration, Volcanoes & Earthquakes, and Human Rights — don't limit yourself to one source.



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Why do so many people live near volcanoes and earthquake zones? Should we support them?
- Are sea defences cost effective?
- What is the most important thing you'd want to know about a place before you moved there?

- Is it the government's job to reduce inequality?
- What are the most important human rights and whose job is it to enforce them?
- Whose job is it to keep you healthy?



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

Use the table below to keep a record of your preparation work. Bring this to your first lesson back in September.

Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced



Health and Social Care

Exam board: Pearson BTEC National (AAQ)

Students study human development across the lifespan, the interaction of biological and social factors on health, and how healthcare professionals provide effective care. You will also explore the structure and function of the human body, the impact of common disorders, and the principles that underpin care and support in health and social care services. This qualification is assessed using external assessments (exams) and internal assessments (coursework), split 50/50, and you are permitted to resit the exams. Across Year 12 you will study Human Lifespan and Development (exam unit) and Health and Social Care Practice (coursework unit); in Year 13 you will study Human Biology and Health (exam unit) and Promoting Health Education (coursework unit).



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

Films ⚠ *please check trigger warnings before watching*

Title	Where to watch / warnings	Themes
Five Feet Apart (2019)	Netflix / Amazon — chronic illness, death, grief, hospitalisation	Living with long-term illness and infection control (cystic fibrosis); impact on relationships and emotional wellbeing
The Theory of Everything (2014)	Netflix / BBC iPlayer / Amazon — degenerative illness, disability, distressing medical scenes	Physical disability (motor neurone disease), impact on relationships, role of informal carers
Brain on Fire (2016)	Netflix / Amazon — seizures, mental health symptoms, misdiagnosis	Misdiagnosis, overlap between mental and physical health, importance of accurate diagnosis
Still Alice (2014)	Amazon / Apple TV — dementia, cognitive decline, emotional distress	Alzheimer's disease, identity loss, impact on individuals and families
Wonder (2017)	Netflix / Amazon — bullying, social isolation, medical procedures	Disability, inclusion, social and emotional development in young people
My Sister's Keeper (2009)	Disney+ / Amazon — cancer, death, ethical dilemmas, family conflict	Medical ethics, consent, family decision-making in care
The Reason I Jump (2020)	Netflix / Amazon — communication challenges, emotional distress	Autism, communication needs, and understanding neurodiversity
The Whale (2022)	Amazon / Apple TV — obesity, isolation, eating disorders	Mental health, stigma, and barriers to accessing healthcare

Title	Where to watch / warnings	Themes
I Swear (2020)	Netflix — abuse, trauma, sexual assault	Trauma, resilience, safeguarding, long-term impact of adverse childhood experiences
Girl, Interrupted (1999)	Amazon / Netflix — self-harm, suicide, mental illness	Mental health, diagnosis, and life within a psychiatric hospital

Documentaries ⚠ *please check trigger warnings before watching*

Title	Where to watch / warnings	Themes
What the Health	Netflix — graphic food industry scenes, strong viewpoints	Diet and health, public health, influence of organisations on health advice
Louis Theroux: Dementia / Extreme Love	Netflix, BBC iPlayer — real-life distress, dementia, vulnerability	Care settings, person-centred care, ethical issues in real practice
Katie Price: Harvey and Me	BBC iPlayer / Amazon — learning disability, autism, hospitalisation	Learning disabilities and complex needs, transition to adult services, family caregiving
David Harewood: Psychosis and Me	BBC iPlayer — psychosis, sectioning, mental health crisis	Mental illness (psychosis), stigma, access to care, emergency mental health services
Inside Our Minds	BBC iPlayer — mental health challenges, neurodivergence struggles	Neurodiversity, communication needs, inclusion
Change Your Mind, Change Your Life	BBC iPlayer — anxiety, trauma, grief	Therapy, mental health support, coping strategies, recovery
Matt Willis: Fighting Addiction	BBC iPlayer — drug and alcohol addiction, relapse	Addiction, impact on families, recovery, treatment and support systems

TV Shows ⚠ *please check trigger warnings before watching*

Title	Where to watch / warnings	Themes
24 Hours in A&E	All4 — medical procedures, trauma, distress	NHS services, emergency care, multidisciplinary teamwork
Ambulance	BBC iPlayer — trauma, medical emergencies	Emergency care, NHS pressures, decision-making under pressure
999: On the Front Line	BBC iPlayer — serious injuries, distress	Emergency response, triage, teamwork in high-pressure settings
Call the Midwife	BBC iPlayer / Netflix — childbirth complications, abuse, poverty	Midwifery, women's health, social inequality, early NHS care
Natalie Cassidy: Caring Together	BBC iPlayer — end-of-life care, illness, dementia	Roles of carers, skills needed in care, realities of working in health and social care
Surgeons: At the Edge of Life	BBC iPlayer — graphic surgery, life-threatening conditions	Advanced NHS care, risk vs benefit decisions, surgical teamwork

Title	Where to watch / warnings	Themes
The Pharmacist	Netflix — drug misuse, addiction, death	Addiction, public health crisis, role of professionals in safeguarding
Born This Way	Amazon / Disney+ — learning disabilities, social challenges	Learning disabilities, independence, social inclusion
The Good Doctor	Now TV / Amazon — surgery, discrimination, medical trauma	Autism in the workplace, communication, inclusion in healthcare
Explained	Netflix — varies by episode	Documentary episodes explaining mental health, the brain, pandemics, and healthcare systems



SOCIAL MEDIA & PODCASTS

Account / Podcast	Information
NHS (@nhsuk)	Official NHS account sharing health advice, public health campaigns, and reliable information
Dr Ranj (@dranj)	NHS doctor and TV presenter sharing advice on child health and wellbeing
Beautiful Nursing (@beautifulnursing)	Nursing-focused account sharing study tips and insights into patient care
Sophie Morgan (@sophmorgan)	Wheelchair user and disability advocate raising awareness of access and representation
Institute of Human Anatomy (@theanatomylab)	Educational account explaining anatomy using real-life examples
Allied Health Professionals (@alliedhealthcareers)	Shows healthcare careers beyond doctors and nurses
The Happy Place Podcast (Fearne Cotton)	Conversations about mental health, wellbeing and coping strategies
BBC Radio 4: All in the Mind	Explores mental health, psychology, and how conditions affect individuals and society
Bedside Manners (Dr Oscar Duke & Dr Ella Hubber)	Doctors interviewing guests about health, illness and personal experiences of care
What's Up Docs?	Doctors answer real health questions and explain conditions



BOOKS

Title and Author	Information
Everything That Makes Us Human – Jay Jayanmohan	A neurosurgeon shares real patient stories exploring how the brain shapes identity and behaviour.

Title and Author	Information
Alive: An Alternative Anatomy – Gabriel Weston	A surgeon reimagines human anatomy through real clinical cases.
The Body – Bill Bryson	An accessible exploration of how the human body works.
Ten Things I Hate About Me – Joe Tracini	A candid account of living with borderline personality disorder.
To Exist As I Am – Grace Spence Green	A young woman reflects on living with cystic fibrosis.
The Language of Kindness – Christie Watson	A nurse shares real experiences from hospital wards, on compassion and person-centred care.
Me Before You – Jojo Moyes	A story about a young carer and a man with a severe physical disability.
Pig Heart Boy – Malorie Blackman	A young boy undergoes an experimental heart transplant, raising questions of medical ethics.
With the End in Mind – Kathryn Mannix	A doctor shares stories about death and dying, helping readers understand palliative care.



COMPULSORY TASK: MEDIA & HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

It is important to develop a broad understanding of health issues, social determinants, and the role of professionals working within the NHS and wider care sector. This links directly to key areas of your course, including human development, health inequalities, and health and social care practice.

Choose a film, documentary, TV series, podcast or social media channel from the suggestions in this section (or one of your own) and write a report discussing the themes raised and its impact on health and social care provision.

What to include in your report:

1. Health & Social Care Themes – What themes / issues are raised?
2. How Issues Are Presented – Are the issues shown realistically? Are they positive or negative representations? Is there any bias or exaggeration?
3. Role of Health & Social Care Professionals – What professionals are shown? What do they do well or poorly? Is care person-centred or not?
4. Relevance to Your Learning – Why is this topic important for students studying health and social care? Can you link it to health inequalities, communication, duty of care, or social determinants of health?
5. Evaluation (Your Opinion) – Do you think the media source is helpful, realistic and informative? Explain your answer clearly.

Bring your work to our first lesson in September ready to discuss with the class.



CAREERS, PROGRESSION & CHECKLIST

Careers & Progression

Studying Health and Social Care at Level 3 can lead to a wide range of careers and university courses. University routes include Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedic Science, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Radiography, Social Work, Youth Work, Biomedical Science and Public Health. Career pathways include roles as a nurse, doctor (with further study), healthcare assistant, midwife, paramedic, physiotherapist, social worker, care/support worker, youth worker, occupational therapist, counsellor and public health officer. Other routes after Sixth Form include apprenticeships (e.g. nursing associate, healthcare assistant), further college courses, and employment in care settings such as care homes or community care.

Checklist – what you need for September

Required: summer learning task, pens, highlighters, lined paper, lever arch folder, dividers, plastic wallets. Optional but very helpful: flashcards or flashcard paper, a revision guide / textbook, and access to a device for research (laptop, tablet or phone).



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

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History

Exam board: Edexcel

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

- Watch Lucy Worsley's programme on Imperial Russia. The third episode deals with the fall of the Tsarist regime and the Revolution: bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b06wrgzw



RADIO & PODCASTS

- On Lenin – bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546pv
- On Stalin – Stalin's Library: Inside the Mind of a Dictator (Apple Podcasts)
- The Collapse of the USSR – bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p04kxdch
- On Mao – The Cultural Revolution (Apple Podcasts)
- On the Cultural Revolution – bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000q9b6



BOOKS

- Textbook (recommended purchase): S Phillips, B Gregory, N Bushnell, R Owen – Communist States in the 20th Century, Pearson, 2015
- G Freeze – Russia: A History, OUP, 2009
- M McCauley – The Soviet Union 1917–1991, Routledge, 2014
- M Lynch – Access to History: Reaction and Revolution, Russia 1894–1924, Hodder, 2015
- R Service – Lenin: A Biography, Pan, 2010
- M Lynch – Access to History: Stalin's Russia 1924–1953, Hodder, 2015
- R Service – Stalin: A Biography, Pan, 2010
- A Applebaum – Gulag: A History, Penguin, 2004



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Could Communism ever work?
- Is Putin's regime in Russia a new version of Stalin's regime of the 1930s?
- Why does Communism continue to exist in China?



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Law

Exam board: AQA

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

- Introduction to A Level Law: youtube.com/watch?v=mUNs3ygEN0U
- The Difference Between Criminal and Civil Law: youtube.com/watch?v=syLXWR0zc54



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- 'Killer Hiding in Plain Sight' – The Trial of Lucy Letby: Inside Story
- Lady Hale, President of the UK Supreme Court – BBC HARDtalk
- Dinner with a Criminal Defence Lawyer | Kathleen Heath | TEDxFulbrightPerth
- The Briefs, Part One (Criminal Law Documentary) | Real Stories
- You Be the Judge: Crime & Punishment – Channel 5
- Select one or more to watch — they're all interesting, with plenty on BBC, Channel 4 & Channel 5.



RADIO & PODCASTS

- The Law Show – your guide to the law and legal decisions affecting everyone in the UK (BBC)
- Law Pod UK – developments across civil and public law
- Serial – stories of true crime
- The University of Law podcast – interviews and discussions with lecturers, students & guests



BOOKS

- Select one book as a summer read (introductory legal reading).



TASKS

Task 1: How does the UK criminal justice system work?

Watch the linked video (youtube.com/watch?v=XVO-ftFKH8M) and make notes about the process in the UK criminal justice system.

Task 2: Answer the following questions

Questions to be issued alongside the booklet — bring your written answers to your first lesson.

Task 3: You Be the Judge

Visit youbethejudge.org.uk. There are six scenarios based on real-life examples — choose only two. Listen to the facts of each case, weigh up the aggravating and mitigating factors, then decide what you think the sentence should be. At the end you'll see how your sentence compares with the judge's or magistrates'. How did your decisions compare? Do you think sentencing in England is too lenient?

Task 4: Legal Cases

Visit news.met.police.uk/news/tag/convictions-and-sentencings and choose one legal case. Identify the conviction (what offence was the defendant found guilty of?), summarise the case facts (key events/circumstances leading to conviction), and describe the sentencing outcome (you may need to research further; if unavailable, that's okay).



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Maths & Further Maths

Exam board: AQA

Maths Course – Compulsory. The summer work for maths is a fully online course provided by Integral. It features videos explaining each topic you'll need before beginning the A level maths course, and interactive questions to complete. This requires regular, sustained commitment of time and cannot be completed immediately before the course starts in September — nor would that be advisable. Maths education requires this kind of commitment: constantly working on problems, taking time to think and figure things out. It may mean you can't do everything at the first attempt; sometimes leaving a question and returning to it works, and sometimes you'll need to dig deeper. The starting points of all topics will assume this work has been completed. Website: my.integralmaths.org/login — your username and password will be emailed to you. There are seven topic areas to work through and you should complete all of them. The 'going deeper' sections are not required unless you are also studying Further Maths, in which case they are compulsory too.



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

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Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced



Media Studies

Exam board: Eduqas

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

- [youtube.com/@TheMediaInsider/videos](https://www.youtube.com/@TheMediaInsider/videos)
- [youtube.com/@mrsfisher8961](https://www.youtube.com/@mrsfisher8961)
- [youtube.com/@StudioBinder](https://www.youtube.com/@StudioBinder)



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- Mark Kermode's Secrets of Cinema series (YouTube)
- Black Mirror (Netflix)
- Into the Manosphere (Netflix)



RADIO & PODCASTS

- The Rest Is Entertainment
- The News Agents
- The Media Show (BBC)



BOOKS

- Media Theory for A Level: The Essential Revision Guide – Mark Dixon
- Media Studies: A Complete Introduction (Teach Yourself) – Joanne Hollows



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- What role do the media have in your life?
- Which media form could you live without (e.g. social, television, games...)?
- Do the media reflect or construct reality?
- Who owns the media?
- How has the media changed over the last 20 years?



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

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Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced



Philosophy, Ethics & Theology

Exam board: OCR

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

- Ethics – Michael Sandel covers Bentham and Kant (free Vimeo sign-up needed): vimeo.com/54655028
- Christian Philosophy with Eddie (DCT) – 15–20 minute videos covering the OCR spec, great for consolidation and revision
- Ethical Philosophy with Eddie (Religious Ethics) – 15–20 minute videos covering the OCR spec
- Philosophy with Eddie – 15–20 minute videos covering the OCR spec



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- The Matrix (1999) – a great way to understand Plato!
- Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace (2000) – the story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Two Popes (2019, Netflix) – a fictional meeting between Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, great background for the DCT module
- Snowden – useful for Business Ethics
- The Good Place (Netflix) – useful for Ethics



RADIO & PODCASTS

- The Panpsycast Philosophy (& Ethics) Podcasts – hosted by RS teachers, covering the OCR spec plus interviews with philosophers: thepanpsycast.com/home
- The Panpsycast Development in Christian Thought Podcasts – great for consolidation, with booklets to help with notes for every episode: thepanpsycast.com/completeaudiobook



BOOKS

- Recommended Revision Guide: Oxford A Level Religious Studies for OCR – Libby Ahluwalia (includes example essay plans)
- The Puzzle of God – Peter Vardy
- The Puzzle of Ethics – Peter Vardy
- The God Delusion – Richard Dawkins
- Christianity: A Very Short Introduction – Linda Woodhead



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

Use the table below to keep a record of your preparation work. Bring this to your first lesson back in September.

Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced



Physical Education

Exam board: AQA

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

Channel	Best for	Example video titles
The EverLearner	Full AQA PE curriculum	"The Cardiovascular System", "Information Processing Model"
Craig n Dave PE	Skill acquisition, psychology, tactics	"Types of Practice", "Social Facilitation"
Seneca Learning – PE	Quick revision videos	"Muscular Contractions", "Planes and Axes"
The PE Tutor	Biomechanics and exam tips	"Levers in Sport", "Newton's Laws and Sport"



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

Films (discussion, motivation, socio-cultural understanding)

Title	Themes	Why it's relevant
Coach Carter	Leadership, motivation, discipline	Sports psychology, coaching styles
Race (2016)	Racial issues, Olympics	Socio-cultural factors in sport (Jesse Owens' story)
Invictus	Sport as political tool, leadership	Rugby, team cohesion, socio-political issues
I, Tonya	Ethics, media, pressure	Controversy in sport, sportsmanship, psychology
The Blind Side	Opportunity, socio-economic factors	Socio-cultural influences on performance
Creed / Rocky series	Training, resilience	Motivation, goal setting, fitness training
Bend It Like Beckham	Gender & cultural expectations	Inclusion, barriers to participation

TV Programmes / Series

Title	Platform	Themes
Match of the Day (BBC)	BBC iPlayer	Performance analysis, tactics
A Question of Sport	BBC iPlayer	General sports knowledge

Title	Platform	Themes
The Last Dance (Michael Jordan docu-series)	Netflix	Leadership, motivation, media pressure
All or Nothing (Arsenal, Man City, England Rugby)	Amazon Prime	Coaching, team cohesion, training methods
Drive to Survive (F1 series)	Netflix	Stress, pressure, elite performance
The Edge (England Cricket)	Amazon Prime	Sports psychology, team dynamics

Documentaries

Title	Platform	Topics covered
Icarus	Netflix	Doping in sport, ethics
Breaking 2	Disney+/YouTube	Physiology, biomechanics, elite performance
Athlete A	Netflix	Ethics, safeguarding, media
Rising Phoenix	Netflix	Paralympics, resilience, inclusion
The Playbook	Netflix	Coaching philosophies of top coaches
Game Changers	Netflix	Nutrition in sport
Being Serena (Serena Williams)	Amazon Prime	Media, motherhood, elite athlete pressures



RADIO & PODCASTS

Podcast	Available on	Best for
Don't Tell Me The Score (BBC Radio 4)	BBC Sounds, Spotify	Psychology, leadership, interviews with athletes
The High Performance Podcast	Spotify, Apple	Motivation, resilience, leadership — sports psychology
Science of Sport Podcast	Spotify, Apple	Training, biomechanics, current controversies
The PE Umbrella	Spotify, Apple	Pedagogical focus, useful for student coaches / future PE teachers
The Real Science of Sport	Spotify, Apple	Ethical issues, doping, sports tech
TED Talks: Sports (series)	Spotify, TED.com	Variety of short, insightful sports science topics
The Mind Set Game	Spotify	Performance, mindset, psychology
Physical Education with Mr D	Spotify, Apple	PE curriculum discussion — useful for revision strategies



BOOKS

Book	Author	Themes
Bounce: The Myth of Talent and the Power of Practice	Matthew Syed	Practice, talent vs. effort, skill acquisition
The Sports Gene	David Epstein	Nature vs. nurture, physiology, genetics
Legacy	James Kerr	Leadership, team culture (All Blacks)
Born to Run	Christopher McDougall	Endurance, biomechanics, training
Mindset: The New Psychology of Success	Carol Dweck	Growth mindset, motivation
Open	Andre Agassi (autobiography)	Sports psychology, pressure, elite sport
Why We Sleep	Matthew Walker	Recovery, performance, physiology
The Chimp Paradox	Prof. Steve Peters	Sports psychology, emotional control (used by Team GB)
Soccer Science	NSCA	Tactics, fitness, training methods
Peak: Secrets from the New Science of Expertise	Anders Ericsson	Deliberate practice, motor learning



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

Use the table below to keep a record of your preparation work. Bring this to your first lesson back in September.

Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced



Physics

Exam board: OCR A

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

- Minute Physics – a variety of physics questions explained simply (in felt tip) in a couple of minutes. Addictive viewing — a particular favourite is "Why is the Sky Dark at Night?": youtube.com/user/minutephysics



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- Wonders of the Universe / Wonders of the Solar System (BBC iPlayer) – Brian Cox explains the cosmos using excellent analogies and wonderful imagery
- Shock and Awe: The Story of Electricity – a 3-part BBC documentary on how our lives have been transformed by the ideas of a few great scientists (or any Horizon documentary on Netflix/iPlayer): youtube.com/watch?v=Gtp51eZkwoI
- NASA TV – online coverage of launches, missions, testing and the ISS: nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv



BOOKS

- Surely You're Joking, Mr Feynman: Adventures of a Curious Character (ISBN 009917331X) — Richard Feynman was a Nobel Prize-winning physicist who epitomises what a physicist is; insight into the creation of the first atomic bomb, his bongo playing, and his work in particle physics. Also available as an audiobook.
- Moondust: In Search of the Men Who Fell to Earth (ISBN 1408802384) — using the personal accounts of the remaining Apollo astronauts, this looks at the whole space-race era as a new era of space flight begins.
- Quantum Theory Cannot Hurt You (ISBN 057131502X) — Marcus Chown's excellent insight into the more exotic areas of physics, requiring no prior knowledge; you'll meet the quantum world for the first time in Year 12.
- A Short History of Nearly Everything (ISBN 0552997048) — a modern classic; Bill Bryson's quest to explain everything from the Big Bang to the rise of civilisation.



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

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Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced



Politics

Exam board: Edexcel Pearson

There is a compulsory written task this year — see the Questions to Discuss section for details.



VIDEO CLIPS

- Big Ideas that Shaped the World – Democracy, Tony Benn (YouTube) — this video, which we started in Induction, covers a key theme relevant to the whole course.



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- 13th (Netflix) — content warning: death, racism, racial slurs, violence
- Reversing Roe (Netflix)
- State of Chaos (YouTube, episode 1 linked — feel free to watch all three)
- Knock Down the House (YouTube, also on Netflix)
- Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland (BBC iPlayer) — content warning: death and violence; the final episode is particularly relevant
- Thatcher: A Very British Revolution (BBC iPlayer) — the first episode is particularly useful
- The Miners' Strike (BBC iPlayer)
- The Miners' Strike: Battle for Britain (Channel 4)



RADIO & PODCASTS

- The A Level Politics Show podcast (Spotify)
- The News Agents (Spotify)
- News Agents USA



BOOKS

- The Road to Somewhere: The New Tribes Shaping British Politics – David Goodhart, 2017
- If Only They Didn't Speak English: Notes from Trump's America – Jon Sopel, 2018
- Feminism Is for Everybody: Passionate Politics – bell hooks, 2000
- Politics Online (excellent site); bbc.co.uk/news/politics; BBC US Politics



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- What is 'healthy' about the UK's democracy? PLEASE COMPLETE IN WRITING — COMPULSORY.
- What problems exist (structurally or otherwise) in the UK's system? PLEASE COMPLETE IN WRITING — COMPULSORY.
- Find and note down 3 ways UK democracy is 'healthy' and 3 ways it is not — with explanation and examples for each.
- Is healthcare a right or a privilege (and what would conservatives, liberals and socialists say about this)?
- Is there true 'racial' equality in the USA? Or in the UK?
- Is our voting system for MPs in the House of Commons (First Past the Post) still fit for purpose?



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

Use the table below to keep a record of your preparation work. Bring this to your first lesson back in September.

Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced



Psychology

Exam board: AQA

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

- What is Psychology? youtu.be/f69yXoKvntY



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- Select one or more BBC TV clips to watch: bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01xkr8n



RADIO & PODCASTS

- soundcloud.com/psychologyin10minutes
- Hidden Brain (NPR): npr.org/series/423302056/hidden-brain
- Speaking of Psychology (Apple Podcasts)



COMPULSORY TASK: WHY DO WE BEHAVE THE WAY WE DO?

Research the following types of psychology and find out what they are and how they explain human behaviour. This website will be useful: all-about-psychology.com/types-of-psychology.html (don't forget to use other sources too!). Make notes on each of the following, covering how they explain human behaviour and the reasons for it:

1. Cognitive Psychology 2. Developmental Psychology 3. Social Psychology 4. Biological Psychology 5. Individual Differences / Abnormal Psychology 6. Approaches in Psychology — explore and briefly jot down the assumptions on human behaviour (why do we behave and think the way we do?) made by: Behaviourism, Psychodynamic, Cognitive, Biological, Social Learning Theory, and Humanistic approaches. See youtube.com/watch?v=T_teqVYQEY8 for an overview.



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Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced



Sociology

Exam board: OCR

Complete at least one task from each category below and come to your first lesson in September ready to discuss your work. Bring your Independent Learning Log and any completed tasks with you.



VIDEO CLIPS

- How We're Priming Some Kids for College and Others for Prison (TED Talk)
- How Economic Inequality Harms Societies (TED Talk)



TV, FILM & DOCUMENTARIES

- Louis Theroux — choose what interests you most (BBC iPlayer)
- When They See Us (Netflix)
- Three Girls (Netflix and iPlayer)
- The 13th (Netflix)



RADIO & PODCASTS

- Reasons to Be Cheerful — progressive ideas to change the world, with Ed Miliband and Geoff Lloyd. Best sociological episodes cover constructions of masculinity and 'the fat cat pay gap': play.acast.com/s/reasonstobecheerful



BOOKS

- The Establishment – Owen Jones
- Chavs – Owen Jones
- The Spirit Level – Kate Pickett
- Why I Am No Longer Talking to White People About Race – Reni Eddo-Lodge



COMPULSORY WRITTEN TASK

How does society influence people's life chances? Write a response of 300–400 words that: defines what you think society and life chances mean; explains two factors (e.g. family, class, gender, education) and how they affect opportunities; gives at least one example (real life or from a video/reading); and briefly addresses — is society fair?



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Is institutional racism still a problem in the UK?

- To what extent does gender shape our life chances?
- Are schools failing boys?
- Is religion still relevant to contemporary life?
- To what extent is the individual shaped by society?



INDEPENDENT LEARNING LOG

Use the table below to keep a record of your preparation work. Bring this to your first lesson back in September.

Date completed	Title	Type of task	Resources / notes produced