



**THE CAMDEN  
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS  
SIXTH FORM**

Summer Assignments 2020



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# Biology

Welcome to A-Level Biology. To ensure you make a good start, it's vital your understanding of the following areas of the GCSE is as strong as possible:

- Cells
- Biological molecules (carbohydrates, proteins and fats)
- Enzymes

To help you with this, the Kindle edition of CGP's [Head Start to A-Level Biology](#) is currently free and can be read on most devices!

We would also like you to undertake the following task, to ensure you are confident with GCSE maths skills that are required in A-Level Biology.

Please complete the [Maths in Biology](#) workbook which can be found in the Biology section of the course descriptions on the sixth form website. You will need to bring the completed booklet to your first biology lesson.

We also recommend that you keep up to date with current developments in Biology. This could be done by reading science pages of one or more daily newspapers (e.g. *The Independent* or *The Guardian*).

Finally, to further stoke your interest, we recommend the following books:

- [The Epigenetics Revolution](#) and [Hacking the Code of Life](#) by Nessa Carey
- [I Think You'll Find It's a Bit More Complicated Than That](#) by Ben Goldacre
- [The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks](#) by Rebecca Skloot
- [Here Comes the Sun](#) and [Y: The Descent of Men](#) by Steve Jones
- [Elephants on Acid](#) by Alex Bose
- [The Gene](#) by Siddhartha Mukherjee
- [Why We Sleep](#) by Matthew Walker

If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms Totten: ktotten@csg.school.

# Chemistry

To ensure you make a good start to A-Level Chemistry, it's vital your understanding of the following areas of the GCSE is as strong as possible:

- Formulae
- Balancing equations
- Quantitative chemistry
- Structure and bonding

There will be a test on these topics early in the new term. To help you prepare, the Kindle edition of CGP's [Head Start to A-Level Chemistry](#) is currently free and can be read on most devices and you can download a [Transition from GCSE to A-Level](#) workbook from OUP. If you wish to explore some of the content before September, Swansea University is running an [online course](#) that is designed to provide coverage of A-Level material.

Good, relevant popular science books to read are:

- [Periodic Tales: The Curious Lives of the Elements](#) by Hugh Aldersey-Williams
- [The Disappearing Spoon...and other true tales from the Periodic Table](#) by Sam Kean
- [Caesar's Last Breath: The Epic Story of The Air Around Us](#) by Sam Kean
- [Mauve: How One Man Invented a Colour that Changed the World](#) by Simon Garfield
- [Napoleon's Buttons: How 17 Molecules Changed History](#) by Penny Le Couteur and Jay Burreson

Accessible titles in OUP's *Very Short Introductions* series are:

- [Molecules](#) by Philip Ball
- [Reactions](#) by Peter Atkins
- [The Elements](#) by Philip Ball

We look forward to meeting you in September!

If you have any questions, feel free to email Mr Flynn: [sflynn@csg.school](mailto:sflynn@csg.school).

# Classical Civilisation

Welcome to Classical Civilisation A-Level and congratulations on choosing an excellent subject to study! A-Level Classical Civilisation offers something for everyone, including history, politics, philosophy, literature and art history. You'll also sharpen up plenty of transferable skills, such as textual and visual analysis, using evidence, structuring and writing an extended argument, and debating articulately.

You will be studying these three topics:

- The World of the Hero: Greek Epic: Homer's *Odyssey*
- Culture and the Arts: Greek Theatre
- Beliefs and Ideas: Love and Relationships

To prepare to begin the course, you should do the following:

1. Buy and read the following books. They are all available from good bookshops and online.

## **The World of the Hero: Greek Epic: Homer's *Odyssey***

- [The Odyssey](#) by Homer (Penguin, translated by E.V. Rieu, edited by D.C.H. Rieu) - this will be the set text that we read in class. Buy it, read the introduction and make notes. Then begin reading the text and get as far as you can!
- [The Odyssey](#) - translated by Emily Wilson - a new translation - a good starting point for discovering the feel of the text, with an **excellent** introduction. If you have time, read this version too and compare how the two translators have expressed the story differently.

## **Culture and the Arts: Greek Theatre**

- [The Three Theban Plays](#) by Sophocles (Penguin, translated by Robert Fagles)
- [Euripides: Bacchae](#) (Cambridge Translations from Greek Drama)
- [Aristophanes: Frogs](#) (Cambridge Translations from Greek Drama)

Read the introductions and read the set plays: *Bacchae*, *Frogs* and *King Oedipus*.

2. Dip in to this mini-reading list of modern responses to your Year 12 texts, to consider how these ancient stories continue to be relevant today:
  - The *Odyssey*:
    - i. *Circe* - Madeleine Miller: a whistlestop tour of Greek mythology from Circe's perspective - moving, chilling, powerful.
    - ii. *The Penelopiad* - Margaret Atwood: Penelope's scathing take on Odysseus' story.
    - iii. *An Odyssey* - Daniel Mendelsohn: the memoir of a Classics professor, exploring his relationship with his father as they embark on the study of the *Odyssey* together. Clever and powerful.
  - Greek Tragedy:
    - i. *Home Fire* - Kamila Shamsie: a modern retelling of *Antigone*, shifted to a modern British context - completely mind-blowing; one of the best Classical adaptations we've read in a few years (read *Antigone* along with it).
    - ii. *The Children of Jocasta* - Natalie Haynes: a fresh perspective on an ancient story, reimagining how the *Oedipus* and *Antigone* stories would look if the female characters took centre stage.

3. Write us a mini-essay about your choice to study Classics. It should be about a page long. It should tell us about what led you to choose the subject for A Level, and what you are looking forward to about the course. Bring it to the first lesson for us to read.

4. To fuel your wider knowledge about and interest in the Classical World:

- Subscribe to [Natalie Haynes Stands Up For The Classics](#) - or purchase the last seasons on Audible - excellent podcasts about the most interesting historical and literary characters in Classics.
- Subscribe to the BBC Radio 4 In Our Time podcast and listen to a few of the Classical episodes which catch your eye:
  - i. [Greek episodes](#)
  - ii. [Roman episodes](#)

Enjoy! If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms Maguire: [hmaguire@csg.school](mailto:hmaguire@csg.school).

# Drama and Theatre Studies

The Drama and Theatre Studies A-Level course involves a very exciting blend of written and practical units. Some practical units will involve you devising your own work in groups, others will involve preparing scripted work. Across the two years of study you will explore a range of theatre practitioners and use their methodologies to shape your practical work, alongside learning that you take from frequent trips to the theatre. You will study two plays for the final exam. Texts studied for exams will be explored practically in class.

Here is how you can prepare for Drama and Theatre Studies:

- Make a virtual visit to the theatre. The National Theatre is releasing brilliant productions online, as is the Hampstead Theatre, among others. Write a one paragraph review of the production/s you see, focusing on what elements engaged you. Try to think beyond performers. What about the set / costume / lighting / sound design?

The course requires you to develop a sense of theatre across the ages so please read as many as you can of the following plays:

- [\*Oedipus the King\*](#) by Sophocles
- [\*A Doll's House\*](#) by H. Ibsen
- [\*The Caucasian Chalk Circle\*](#) by B. Brecht
- [\*Three Sisters\*](#) by A. Chekhov
- [\*Amadeus\*](#) by P. Shaffer
- [\*Posh\*](#) by L. Wade

Produce an A4 page of notes on any of the following practitioners:

- Katie Mitchell
- Max Stafford-Clark
- Antonin Artaud
- Bertolt Brecht

If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms Cohen: [jcohen@csg.school](mailto:jcohen@csg.school).

# Economics

Write a brief essay of two pages on ONLY ONE of the following three topics, providing arguments in favour and against your chosen topic:

- Evaluate the impact of the measures put in place by the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer to counter the adverse impacts of the coronavirus on the UK economy.
- Examine the key economic factors that affect the price of oil in the global market. Provide evidence using examples from the last few years.
- Evaluate the implications of the prolonged and historically low interest rate level on the UK economy.

A book I very much enjoyed reading and I would recommend is [\*Economics: The User's Guide\*](#) by Ha Joon Chang.

Enjoy the read and your research and we look forward to seeing you in September.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Mr Firouzbakhsh, [hfirouzbakhsh@csg.school](mailto:hfirouzbakhsh@csg.school), and/or Mr Hill, [ohill@csg.school](mailto:ohill@csg.school).

# English Literature

Good English students have a passion for reading and they think about what they read. They are also prepared to persevere with more challenging texts and to experiment with authors and genres. To prepare for a unit on narrative as well as to gain experience of some important classic and contemporary novelists, please ensure you read the following novels:

- [\*The Great Gatsby\*](#) by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- [\*Nineteen Eighty Four\*](#) by G. Orwell
- [\*The Bloody Chamber\*](#) by A. Carter
- [\*The Bell Jar\*](#) by S. Plath

While reading, think about how the story is told in terms of narrative voice, structure and viewpoint.

Besides these texts, read and experience as much literature as you can.

- Find out about contemporary poets and read them.
- Extend your GCSE reading: try more Dickens, more Austen.
- Experience some theatre: even though you can't go to the theatre, there is such great theatre available online: NT Live, Almeida, Globe, Hampstead Theatre are all making their productions available via [YouTube](#) or [Marquee TV](#).

We look forward to hearing about what you have been reading when we meet you in September.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms Fearnside: [afearnside@csg.school](mailto:afearnside@csg.school).

# French

In French, we are currently following the Edexcel exam board.

What we cover (film/book subject to change):

- Four themes (see below)
- A film in Year 12 ([Les 400 coups](#) 1959 by François Truffaut)
- A novel in Year 13 ([Un sac de billes](#) by Joseph Joffo)

What to do to prepare for A-Level French:

- Go over your GCSE grammar especially tenses and verb endings: present, perfect, imperfect, near future, simple future, conditional regular and irregular verbs. You will be given a grammar test at the start of the course so that we can assess your grammatical understanding.
- Read in French - magazines (*Elle*, *Grazia*, *Phosphore*, *Le Point*), newspapers (*Le Monde*, *Libération*, *20 minutes*), websites (try [yahoo.fr](#))
- Watch French movies (French new wave, [Intouchables](#) (2011), [La haine](#) (1995))
- Listen to French/francophone music (check French charts, Spotify, music festivals) and Podcasts ([Learn French by Podcast](#) is a good current affairs one)
- Keep up to date with French current affairs

## Thème 1: **Les changements dans la société française**

*Set in the context of France only. This theme covers social issues and trends.*

- Changes in family structures
- Education
- World of work

## Thème 2: **La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones**

*Set in the context of francophone countries and communities. This theme covers political and artistic culture.*

- Music
- Media
- Festivals and traditions

## Thème 3: **L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française**

*Set in the context of France only. This theme covers social issues and trends.*

- Positive impact of immigration
- Challenges of immigration and integration
- The far-right

## Thème 4: **L'Occupation et la Résistance**

*Set in the context of France only. This theme covers political culture.*

- Occupied France
- The Vichy regime
- The Resistance

If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms Benzina: [hbenzina@csg.school](mailto:hbenzina@csg.school).

# Geography

There are three examinations in Geography plus a 3000 word piece of coursework:

## Paper 1: **Physical Geography**

- Tectonic Processes & Hazards
- Landscape Systems, Process & Change
- The Water Cycle & Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle & Energy Security
- Climate Change Futures

## Paper 2: **Human Geography**

- Globalisation
- Shaping Places
- Superpowers
- Global Development & Connections

## Paper 3: **Synoptic Investigation**

The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue about a named case location rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas from papers 1 or 2.

## **Fieldwork**

Fieldwork is a compulsory component of the geography course. It has a number of functions but, in particular, supports the Independent Investigation. We have a residential field trip to East Sussex (cost approximately £90) and additional fieldwork in the Borough of Camden.

## **Summer task**

We'd like you to do three things:

1. Make sure you can confidently find the following places on a world map:

USA	Nigeria	Nepal	Greece	Israel
Canada	Mali	China	Greenland	India
Mexico	Egypt	Japan	Bulgaria	Bangladesh
Brazil	Burkina-Faso	Philippines	Ukraine	Kiribati
Bolivia	Rwanda	Singapore	South Africa	Antarctica
UK	Kenya	South Korea	Kuwait	Atlantic Ocean
Germany	Mozambique	North Korea	Syria	Pacific Ocean
France	Saudi Arabia	Indonesia	New Zealand	Indian Ocean
Spain	Tropic of Cancer	Australia	Italy	Iraq
Russia	Tropic of Capricorn	Iran	Sri Lanka	Maldives

2. Get hold of a copy of a book called *Prisoners of Geography*, by Tim Marshall. Read the chapters on Russia, The Middle East, Africa, and The Arctic.
3. Using the free [Seneca website](#), we would like you to revise the **Tectonics** and **Coastal** topics of the GCSE AQA course and look for the *standardised assessments* on: Natural hazards, Tectonic hazards and UK coastal landscapes. You need to be able to score at least 90% on these tests.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Mr Evans: [mevans@csg.school](mailto:mevans@csg.school).

# Government and Politics

- Being a successful student means being up to date with current affairs. You should get into the habit of finding your way round a newspaper – preferably a broadsheet (e.g. *The Times*, *The Independent*, *The Guardian* and current affairs magazines such as *Prospect*, *The Economist*, *New Statesman*, *The Spectator*).
- You should identify and read: editorials/comment, news – domestic and international, letters and cartoons.
- Watch political programmes on television (e.g. Channel 4, *Newsnight* and *Question Time*).
- Listen to political podcasts (e.g. [Guardian Politics Weekly](#) and [New Statesman](#) are available on Spotify).

If you have any questions, feel free to email Mr Gunn: [dgunn@csg.school](mailto:dgunn@csg.school).

# Greek (Classical)

Welcome to Greek AS Level and congratulations on choosing an excellent subject to study! The subject will develop your understanding of the world of the Greeks through developing your understanding of the language and providing you with direct access to some of the most powerful literature in history.

We'd like you to make sure you complete the following tasks before September:

1. Over the summer, keep up your GCSE Greek vocabulary using Memrise or Quizlet, and if there are any elements of grammar that you are stuck on from GCSE, have a go at reading the relevant part of John Taylor.
2. We will be using John Taylor's [Greek Beyond GCSE](#) as our language reference text. Buy a copy of the 2017 edition of the text - there are new and secondhand versions available online.
3. Use either the GCSE or the Beyond GCSE John Taylor textbook to revise the following linguistic features which you have met at GCSE: you will be tested on them during the first week of lessons:
  - Nouns: all standard types of all 5 declensions
  - Verbs:
    - present, future, imperfect and aorist tenses (all persons, singular and plural), in the active, middle and passive voices
    - second person imperatives, present and aorist (singular and plural)
    - present, future and aorist participles (all genders and cases, singular and plural)
    - infinitives, in the active, middle and passive voices
  - Nouns
    - The article
    - all cases, singular and plural, of the nouns of the following types: χώρα, θάλασσα, φωνή, πολίτης, νεανίας, ἵππος, ἔργον, φύλαξ, βασιλεύς, πόλις, σῶμα, τεῖχος
4. Translate the first AS Level practice passage on p. 125 of Taylor's Greek Beyond GCSE and bring it to the first lesson.
5. In September your set texts will be:
  - Verse: [Homer's Odyssey](#), Book 1 (free version online [here](#))
  - Prose: Plato's [Symposium](#) (free version online [here](#))

These authors are both fundamentally significant to the western literary and historical worlds, often being set texts (in translation) on English and Ancient History courses, as well as being central texts within Classics. They provide an insightful view into Greek life and customs from the Archaic period and 5th century Athens.

- Research each of these authors and their works using the internet or the introductions to the books linked above.

To fuel your wider knowledge about and interest in the Classical World:

- Subscribe to [Natalie Haynes Stands Up For The Classics](#) - or purchase the last seasons on Audible - excellent podcasts about the most interesting historical and literary characters in Classics.

- Subscribe to the BBC Radio 4 In Our Time podcast and listen to a few of the Classical episodes which catch your eye:
  - [Greek episodes](#)
  - [Roman episodes](#)

If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms Maguire, [hmaguire@csg.school](mailto:hmaguire@csg.school), or Mr Beecroft, [rbeecroft@csg.school](mailto:rbeecroft@csg.school).

# History

In September you will be studying Edexcel's paper 'Revolutions in early modern and modern Europe'.

- Paper 1 - Britain, 1625-1701: conflict, revolution and settlement
- Paper 2 - France in Revolution 1774-99

## **Britain, 1625-1701: conflict, revolution and settlement**

In this breadth study we learn about the failure of monarchical government and republican rule in Britain in the 17th century, set within the context of broader social, economic and religious change.

During the summer period carry out some initial reading on this topic, as it may initially seem very complex.

- [Stuart Britain: A Very Short Introduction](#) by John Morrill is a very concise and readable place to start.
- A good overview book is M. Kishlansky's [The Penguin History of Britain: A Monarchy Transformed, Britain 1630-1714](#), which is good for building up your contextual knowledge of the period.
- You can also listen to the [Revolutions](#) podcast series on this period.

## **The French Revolution**

There are masses written about the French Revolution;

- [The French Revolution: A Very Short Introduction](#) by Cowie and Doyle - is a good start.
- The best straightforward narrative history is [The French Revolution](#) by C. Hibbert.
- Mark Steel, the comedian, has written an amusing but thought provoking book called [Vive La Revolution](#).
- A more complicated but famous book is [Citizens: A Chronicle of The French Revolution](#) by S. Schama.

All these books are available in paperback.

## **History Trip to Paris**

*In Search of the French Revolution: £230\**

This is to invite you to participate in a trip to Paris in the Spring Term. The trip has been a success for many years. A lot of students have felt that it helped them towards a deeper understanding of the revolution.

A trip to Paris to search for remains of the Revolution is a distinctly moving experience. The French don't trumpet the revolution. Although they may talk grandly of "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite", when it comes to the events themselves, they are perhaps a little embarrassed. Not all the revolutionary paintings at Versailles are permanently open to the public. The sad grave of the Dauphin, who died while in prison in the Temple Prison, when a little boy of 8 or 9 years, can only be visited with advance permission of the local priest. The violent events of 1789-1794 are not plain to see: the remains of the Bastille can only be seen on one of the Metro platforms there.

Of course, Versailles is there in all its glory - gardens, and sub-palaces: the Trianon, and Petit Trianon, as well as Marie Antoinette's peasant village, restored after some neglect after the Revolution. Most of the grandeur of the French royal family emanates from the wealth of Louis XIV. The new buildings of Louis XV and XVI are relatively minor. Even Napoleon's grand tomb is an adaptation of one of Louis XIV's churches. But buildings and paintings have an incredible story to tell.

\*The cost, which includes all items below, may vary according to the fluctuation of Sterling and the Euro:

- Transport by Eurostar to and from Paris
- Accommodation in a hostel in central Paris for two nights
- Return Rail trip to Versailles and all internal public transport
- Lunch on Friday
- Insurance
- Entrance to all museums

You will need to pay for

- Three meals in Paris, plus food on the journey
- Your own spending money

Summary:

- Travel: Eurostar from St. Pancras, leaving Thursday afternoon, returning Saturday evening.
- Accommodation: Two nights at a hostel in central Paris including breakfast.
- The itinerary, although not confirmed, would be along these lines:
- Thursday evening: Travel to Paris.
- Friday all day: Visit to the gardens of Tuileries, Place de la Concorde then on to the Palace of Versailles and the Trianon. Guided tour and time to take your own look round the extensive grounds of Versailles.
- Saturday all day: Treasure hunt: groups take a 'round Paris' tour to discover clues about the revolution.
- Saturday evening: Return to London.

If you wish to reserve a place, please give a deposit by half term on ParentPay. The trip is usually oversubscribed: 45 places are available.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Mr Gunn: [dgunn@csg.school](mailto:dgunn@csg.school).

# History of Art

This course develops students' understanding of relationships in art and architecture between: society and art; art historical terms, concepts and issues; cultural, social and political factors; developments in materials, techniques and processes. The subject content is divided into three areas:

- **Visual analysis:** Painting, sculpture and architecture
- **Themes:** Nature in art and architecture; Identities in art and architecture
- **Periods:** Invention and illusion: the Renaissance in Italy (1420–1520); Pop life: British and American Contemporary art and architecture (1960–2015)

## Research Tasks

- Visit at least one major art exhibition and one public collection in person or through a virtual tour. Make a rough sketch of the work's main elements, describe how it makes you feel and why. If possible, print an image of the work to hand in with your text in the first week of term.
- Watch an episode of either [Civilisations](#) (2018), [Great Artists](#) (2001), [Shock of the New](#) (1980), [Ways of Seeing](#) (1972), [Civilisation](#) (1969). Write a response/summary of the episode of 200 words minimum.

Read to familiarise yourself with the broad sweep of art history, any of the following:

- [The Story of Art](#) by E.H. Gombrich
- [Art Theory for Beginners](#) by R. Osborne
- [Art History: The Basics](#) by D. Newall
- [An Introduction to Art](#) by C. Harrison
- [A World History of Art](#) by H. Honour & J. Fleming
- [An Outline of European Architecture](#) by N. Pevsner
- [The Shock of the New](#) by R. Hughes

If you have any questions, feel free to email Mr Aronsohn: [daronsohn@csg.school](mailto:daronsohn@csg.school).

# Latin

Welcome to Latin A-Level and congratulations on choosing an excellent subject to study! Latin introduces you to the world of the Romans through developing your understanding of the language and providing you with access to some of the most powerful literature in history. From rhetorical legal speeches which change the course of history, to historical writing itself; from tongue-in-cheek love poems to the grandest epic verse, there's something here for everyone.

## Literature

Next year your set texts will be:

- Verse Literature: [Virgil's Aeneid](#) (Book 12)
  - Full English text of the Aeneid [here](#); OR use the free online version available [here](#)
- Prose Literature: [Cicero \(pro Cluentio\)](#) and Tacitus (Annals IV)
- Verse Unseen author: Ovid
- Prose Unseen author: Livy

These authors cover a wide range of genre and style in Latin literature, and provide a brilliant and varied insight into Roman life in the 1st Centuries BC and AD.

1. Purchase the linked books above (for Virgil and Cicero) and read the introductions. Make notes, or create a mind map for each text which covers the key information about the author, the context and the story.
2. Research each of these authors and their works further online. If you would like to get ahead and read more in translation, Ovid is an excellent place to start: translations are available online. The Amores are great for [witty love poems](#), and the [Metamorphoses](#) if you prefer mythology.

## Language

1. Purchase the following books - secondhand as well as new copies are available online:
  - John Taylor's [Latin Beyond GCSE](#): you will use this as a reference book to work on your language throughout the course.
  - [Prose Unseens for A-Level Latin](#) by Mathew Owen
  - [Ovid Unseens](#) by Mathew Owen
2. Over the summer, keep up your GCSE Latin vocabulary using Memrise or Quizlet, and if there are any elements of grammar that you are stuck on from GCSE, have a go at reading the relevant part of John Taylor.
3. Use either the John Taylor textbook or your Latin exercise books and worksheets from GCSE to revise the following linguistic features: you will be tested on them during the first week of lessons:
  - Nouns: all standard types of all 5 declensions
  - Verbs:
    - present, future, imperfect, perfect and pluperfect active
    - present, imperfect and perfect passive (3rd person singular and plural)
    - imperfect and pluperfect subjunctive active
  - Participles: present and perfect

4. Translate the first passage from Mathew Owen's Prose Unseens book and bring it to the first lesson.
5. To fuel your wider knowledge about and interest in the Classical World:
  - Subscribe to [Natalie Haynes Stands Up For The Classics](#) - or purchase the last seasons on Audible - excellent podcasts about the most interesting historical and literary characters in Classics.
  - Subscribe to the BBC Radio 4 In Our Time podcast and listen to a few of the Classical episodes which catch your eye:
    - i. [Greek episodes](#)
    - ii. [Roman episodes](#)

If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with Ms Maguire: [hmaguire@csg.school](mailto:hmaguire@csg.school).

We're looking forward to seeing you in September!

# Mathematics and Further Maths

A-Level Mathematics assumes a familiarity with techniques learnt at GCSE. To progress through this course, it is vital to ensure that you are fully confident in the following techniques:

- manipulation & arithmetic of fractions
- laws of indices
- elementary algebra including multiplying out brackets
- factorising & rearranging formulae, including quadratics
- solving simultaneous & equations
- the equation of a straight line
- Pythagoras' theorem & trigonometry

Any GCSE Higher Tier textbook would provide examples and practice questions or obtain a copy of [New Head Start to A-Level Maths](#) from CGP, the Kindle version is currently free and can be read on most devices.

There will be a test on these techniques early in the course.

Those students considering Mathematics or a related discipline at university should begin to read around the subject. There are a number of interesting and accessible books such as [Fermat's Last Theorem](#) by S. Singh and [The Man Who Loved Only Numbers](#) by P. Hoffman. Something more challenging is Marcus du Sautoy's [The Music of the Primes](#) but it does offer a picture of the world of professional mathematics.

## **Information for Year 12 Maths students from the Maths Department**

In the second week of term you will take an Induction Test on topics you will have covered in Maths GCSE. It will be a NON CALCULATOR test.

The topics to be tested are:

- Fractions – addition, subtraction, multiplication & division
- Rules of indices
- Surds – simplifying & rationalising the denominator
- Simultaneous equations – 2 linear & 1 linear/1 quadratic
- Factorising quadratics
- Solving quadratic equations by factorising, formula or completing the square.
- Transforming graphs – graph sketching

As you probably have not done any Maths since taking your GCSE in June you will need to prepare for this test over the summer holidays.

It is important that you have a good grasp of these topics before starting the AS Maths course in September.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Mr Howard: [showard@csg.school](mailto:showard@csg.school).

# Music

The best preparation for your A-Level Music course is to listen to as much music as you can: live, on the radio, television and internet, downloaded or on CD, LP etc... Try in particular to listen to some pieces, styles, composers, bands, etc. that are new to you.

You will also, of course, be developing as a performer. In order that we get a sense of the wonderful array of talent that will be joining us we will be holding an informal concert within the first few weeks of term. **Please ensure that you have a piece prepared for the instrument/voice that you will perform on for your A-Level performance exam.** It would be preferable if you chose a piece that you are very comfortable performing rather than worrying about what level or grade it should be. We just want to hear you perform! You should be prepared to tell us what the piece is (and provide an accompaniment if applicable) in your first music lesson.

You will be continuing to develop your understanding of musical language through coursework and examined components. In order to prepare for this element of the course we recommend purchasing the ABRSM Grade 5 theory workbook [Music Theory in Practice](#) to ensure you get an idea of the level required. There are also useful exercises to practise your skills at [musictheory.net/exercises](http://musictheory.net/exercises). Those of you who have not already completed Grade 5 theory may find this aspect of the A-Level challenging and will need to attend supplementary sessions in the first term.

You will be studying four areas of music over the two year course. These include: **the Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart & Beethoven** and **Popular Song (Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band)**. You will also study **Religious Music of the Baroque** and **Innovations in Music of the 20th century to the present**.

The set works for the first two areas of study are:

- Haydn: *Symphony No. 48 in C major, 'Maria Theresia'*, first and second movements
- Barbra Streisand: *Color Me Barbra* (1966): (i) 'Yesterdays', (ii) 'Where Or When', (iii) 'Where Am I Going?', (iv) 'Starting Here, Starting Now'

Make sure that you obtain recordings of these pieces and also explore others by the same composers and their contemporaries.

After you have heard the music, make sure you find out more about these artists, their lives and their contribution to the development of music. The internet is a good source of information and we are not too snobby to ask you to simply read the relevant Wikipedia entries on Haydn and Barbra Streisand. Very useful books for all the Areas of Study include:

- Paul Griffiths - [A Concise History of Western Music](#)
- Fiona Maddocks - [Twentieth Century Classical Music](#)
- Berendt and Huesmann - [The Jazz Book](#)

Visit the BBC's [Discovering Music](#) site. Each episode analyses a particular piece of classical music and there are hundreds of past programmes archived. Well worth listening to!

Finally – do use free podcasts to supplement your listening. In particular, BBC Radio 3's [Composer of the Week](#) and [Jazz Library](#) series will be of relevance and are available free from any podcast provider. Stick them on your phone and get listening! If you have any questions, feel free to email Mr Byers: [wbyers@csg.school](mailto:wbyers@csg.school).

# Philosophy

For those of you who have never studied or even encountered philosophy before, a good way of getting an overview of the history of ideas would be to read [Sophie's World](#) by J. Gaardner. Although the book is aimed at younger students, it gives a very quick overview of some of the key thinkers in the history of philosophy. Other, similar, books would include:

- [Think](#) by S. Blackburn
- [Philosophy for Beginners](#) by R. Osbourne
- [The Philosophy Gym](#) by S. Law
- [The Elegance of a Hedgehog](#) by M. Barbery

You should also be aware that we live in a time when the key questions of philosophy - what do we know to be true? What is the most just way of organising society? How should we try to be good? - remain as pressing as ever. Many contemporary philosophers and thinkers have a presence on YouTube and on social media. You can even access their lectures and public appearances. Look up and watch some videos by the following people: Slavoj Zizek, Jordan Peterson, Noam Chomsky and Richard Swinburne. You are free to agree or disagree with their ideas!

[The School of Life](#) YouTube channel has a syllabus of videos on the great philosophers. Each video is about ten minutes long. Try to complete this syllabus before September.

To prepare yourself for A2 level philosophy it would be good to read:

- [Philosophy of Mind: A Beginner's Guide](#) by I. Ravenscroft
- [Meditations](#) by R. Descartes
- [The Republic](#) by Plato (Penguin version)
- [The Stranger](#) by A. Camus
- [Being Good: A short introduction to Ethics](#) by S. Blackburn
- [The Nicomachean Ethics](#) by Aristotle

If you have any questions, feel free to email Mr Cottrell-Boyce: [acottrell@csg.school](mailto:acottrell@csg.school).

# Photography

To commence A-Level studies I expect you to read at least **one** of the books on the essential reading list as a foundation to the subject.

All students of Photography will have to purchase their own materials and this also includes contribution to ink costs when using the digital suite (ink costs are per term and are currently set at £10). It will be necessary to have a 35mm SLR camera (second hand is ideal and can be bought for a minimum of £25).

An overseas trip also takes place in collaboration with the Art Department, the destination has yet to be agreed. In the past we have visited Barcelona, Berlin, New York and Amsterdam. I look forward to meeting you in September.

Essential Reading:

- [\*The Photograph as Contemporary Art\*](#) by Charlotte Cotton
- [\*The Ongoing Moment\*](#) by Geoff Dyer
- [\*Understanding a Photograph\*](#) by John Berger

Look at the following websites:

- [Magnum Photos](#)
- [AINT-BAD](#)
- [LensCulture](#)
- [British Journal of Photography](#)

If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms Miller: [dmiller@csg.school](mailto:dmiller@csg.school).

# Physics

To ensure you make a good start to A-Level Chemistry, it's vital your understanding of the following areas of the GCSE is as strong as possible:

- Forces
- Waves
- Electricity

There will be a test on these topics early in the new term. To help you prepare, the Kindle edition of CGP's [Head Start to A-Level Physics](#) is currently free and can be read on most devices and you download a [Transition from GCSE to A-Level](#) workbook from OUP.

To prepare yourself for A-Level Physics, you need to practise your maths skills. Your assignment is to complete the [Introductory Maths Unit for Year 12 Physics](#) which can be found in the Physics section of the course descriptions on the sixth form website.

You may find some of the last parts difficult but you must have a go at all of them. You must show your working out. You must bring the completed booklet to your first physics lesson where help will be provided for the "trickier" sections.

We also recommend you read a couple of the following books. You will be asked to write a review about one of these over the first half term.

- [Philosophy of Science: Very Short Introduction](#) by S. Okasha
- [The Fabric of Reality: Towards a Theory of Everything](#) by D. Deutsch
- [Science: A History](#) by J. Gribbin
- [Quantum Theory Cannot Hurt You](#) or [We Need to Talk About Kelvin](#) by M. Chown
- [Fear Of Physics: A Guide For The Perplexed](#) by L. M. Krauss
- [Six Easy Pieces](#) by R. Feynman
- [In Search of Schrödinger's Cat](#) by J. Gribbin

If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms Charlesworth: [lcharlesworth@csg.school](mailto:lcharlesworth@csg.school).

# Sociology

Welcome to Sociology. You can start thinking about the many social issues we will be discussing over the year by keeping up with current affairs. Read a serious newspaper regularly online: *The Guardian* gives the best coverage of social issues, (especially on Thursdays), but you should be aware that it is centre-left and tends to support Liberal-Democrat/Labour policies. *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* support the Conservative approach to social, political and economic policies.

The Sociology course is OCR. The first concept we will study is: identity. Many see identity as being constructed using the media for ideas and relying on our background: family, education etc. An individual's identity is made up of key aspects about them which will have a crucial effect on how they see themselves.

We study inequality - so read something about any aspect of inequality (gender, class, ethnicity, age, etc) online - a good place to start is [here](#) (*The Guardian*, *Inequality* section).

Finally, you could read [Natives](#) by Akala or [Chavs](#) by Owen Jones, which discuss issues we will be covering in the A-Level.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Mr Gunn: [dgunn@csg.school](mailto:dgunn@csg.school).

# Spanish

In Spanish, we are currently following the Edexcel exam board.

Four themes (see below):

- A film in Year 12 ([Todo sobre mi madre](#) (1999) by Pedro Almodóvar)
- A novel in Year 13 ([Bodas de Sangre](#) by Federico Garcia Lorca)

What to do to prepare for A-Level Spanish:

- Go over your GCSE grammar especially tenses and verb endings. You will be given a grammar test at the start of the course so that we can assess your grammatical understanding.
- Read in Spanish - magazines & newspapers *El Mundo*, *Mia*, *Glamour*, *Marie Claire*
- Websites (try [yahoo.es](#))
- Watch Spanish movies (check *Time Out* as many films are available on DVD e.g. [Volver](#) (2006), [Pan's Labyrinth](#) (2006), [La Zona](#) (2007), [Sin nombre](#) (2009), [The Secret in Their Eyes](#) (2009), etc.)
- Listen to Spanish music (check Spanish charts, Spotify, music festivals) and podcasts
- Keep up to date with Spanish current affairs

## Tema 1: **La evolución de la sociedad española**

*This theme covers social issues and trends.*

- Changes in family structures
- Education
- World of work

## Tema 2: **La cultura en el mundo de habla española**

*This theme covers political and artistic culture.*

- Music
- Media
- Festivals and traditions

## Tema 3: **La inmigración y la sociedad multicultural española**

*This theme covers social issues and trends.*

- Positive impact of immigration
- Challenges of immigration and integration
- Social and public reaction to immigration

## Tema 4: **La dictadura franquista y la transición a la democracia**

*This theme covers political culture.*

- Civil war
- Francisco Franco
- From dictatorship to democracy

If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms Benzina: [hbenzina@csg.school](mailto:hbenzina@csg.school).

# Theology and Philosophy of RE

Your Theology and Religious Studies A-Level will be divided into three strands: Religious Practice, Ethics and Philosophy of Religion. Each of these different strands requires a different way of thinking. At very least, in preparation for the start of your A-Level, you should be familiar with:

- An overview of the history of philosophy, starting with the pre-Socratics, through the era of Socratic philosophy, patristics, the Scholastic era, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, Idealism, and existentialism.
- An understanding of what the purpose of philosophy is.
- An understanding of ethics as the science of making good moral decisions. You should be starting to think theoretically about how human beings decide what is right and what is wrong.
- A basic overview of the structure of the Hebrew Bible, its divisions (Law, History and Prophetic literature), and a rudimentary overview of the history of its composition.

You should also begin engaging in the way in which religion and ethics shape the world around you. In order to develop your awareness of this, you should begin reading a broadsheet newspaper. For the first lesson back in September, cut out and bring in an article you find that is particularly interesting and that seems to represent ethics, and be prepared to present it to the class.

Also for the first lesson back, you will need to prepare a short description to be read to the class of the life and thought of one of the following philosophers:

- Plato
- Aristotle
- Augustine of Hippo
- Thomas Aquinas
- Rene Descartes
- Immanuel Kant
- John Stuart Mill
- Kierkegaard
- John Paul Sartre
- Peter Singer
- Richard Dawkins

[The School of Life](#) YouTube channel has a syllabus of videos on the great philosophers. Each video is about ten minutes long. Try to complete this syllabus before September.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Mr Cottrell-Boyce: [acottrell@csg.school](mailto:acottrell@csg.school).