

Now that the A levels appear to have been abandoned, you are free to do some entirely self-indulgent reading and research around a subject you enjoy. (Hopefully you'll enjoy it, as you have chosen to study it at university!)

This document will provide you with some tips for getting started and for making the most out of the time you have now before the start of the year. This first page has some general tips and advice, and then you will find more subject-specific content later on.

Some general tips

- Use this time to read, research, listen to and watch lots of different things relating to your subject – you have an unprecedented opportunity to explore the areas of your subject that interest you most.
- Take a look online at what the first year of your proposed course covers and put together a basic database as background.
- All of this should give you a bit of a head start on your studies and probably also give you some ideas of which modules or subject areas you may want to specialise in at a later date.
- You will get out of practice at writing quickly, so – particularly if you are undertaking an essay-based subject – make sure you keep writing. Even short pieces of writing responding to your research will help keep you ticking over until Autumn.
- We recommend that you focus on taking effective notes whenever you are reading or accessing content online – play around with different styles of notetaking and find out what works best for you. There are some templates you may want to use available with this pack.

There are two very good MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) that are well worth you looking at to help you prepare for university. Click on the links below to access them.

- [Critical thinking at University](#)
- [Preparing to learn online at University](#)

A quick note on university numbers

It has been announced (in late March) that university numbers may be capped and this may cause concern.

The number, however, will be capped at the **same** level as the past year, so this means there should be sufficient capacity for all who will qualify.

It is also very likely that there may be **spare** capacity as many overseas students may now not apply or withdraw applications. Do not be panicked into accepting an offer that is not one of your top choices just so that you get a place somewhere. If you get such an offer, contact any of your preferred choices to see if they'll match it.

You can find suggested content for the following subjects overleaf:

- Engineering
- English
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- Medical Sciences (including medicine, dentistry, veterinary and biomedical)
- Law
- Politics, Philosophy & Economics
- Sciences

For Geography

<p>Things to watch</p>  <p>As well as TED talks, we encourage you to watch lectures specifically designed for A level students.</p> <p>Gresham College has provided free lectures within the City of London for over 400 years.</p> <p>Lectures currently on offer: Volcanoes Antibiotic Resistance Nano-Materials Childhood Malnutrition Pollution and Inequality Sustainable Development Goals Environmental Controversies Climate Change</p>	<p>Listen to</p>  <p>This episode of Business Daily looks at Geography and Poverty and explores why most of the world's poverty is now concentrated in middle-income countries like China – and why that will change soon.</p> <p>One of the earliest systematic works of geography is explored in this Radio 4 broadcast: Strabo's Geographica.</p> <p>Isn't That Spatial is a podcast dedicated to casual geography and the spatial component of whatever. Topics cover urban planning, the geography of dive bars, urban oddities, and other good stuff.</p> <p>You may also want to explore A Very Spatial Podcast: Geography and Geospatial Technologies.</p>
<p>Read and Research</p>  <p>Mongabay has free material on environmental geography.</p> <p>Free-books.net allows you to borrow up to five free books per month.</p> <p>Two suggested books to get you started are: This Dynamic Earth: the story of plate tectonics and Dimensions of Biodiversity.</p> <p>The Royal Geographical Society charges for junior membership but has a big library of resources.</p>	<p>Online courses</p>  <p>Completing short courses is a great way to stay engaged with your subject at this time. Browse through websites such as MOOC.org and Futurelearn to find something that interests you.</p> <p>Some ideas to get you started are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come rain or shine: understanding the weather – University of Reading and the Royal Meteorological Society • The challenge of global water security – Cardiff University • Climate Change: Solutions – University of Exeter