

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 History

<h3>Things to watch</h3>  <p>TED talks are a great tool to enable you to dip into different periods of history and different cultures (e.g. Incas, Ottomans, Moguls).</p> <p>Here are some talks to get you started:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fascinating History will allow you to ‘be transported through the centuries with these talks for your inner (and outer) history buff.’• Unheard and Forgotten Stories: Five ‘fascinating, little-known stories about some of the biggest happenings in history.’• This playlist titled Little-known big history includes 15 talks from Rosa Parks to gay rights, space travel to whistle blowers.	<h3>Listen to</h3>  <p>In Our Time on BBC Sounds has lots of discussions of historical figures and events e.g:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lawrence of Arabia• Napoleon's retreat from Moscow• Otto von Bismarck <p>If you want to combine History with literature, Hilary Mantel’s last part of her history of Thomas Cromwell, The Mirror and the Light, is narrated in 10 episodes.</p> <p>The Stuff you missed in History class podcast is also a good place to look for lots of varied historical content, from the Anglo-Zanzibar War to the invention of SPAM, from Ned Kelly’s last stand to the discovery of helium.</p> <p>Dan Snow's History Hit podcasts also have a wide range of historical subjects and are well worth listening to.</p>
<h3>Read!</h3>  <p>We would recommend that you look at the university website as the History Faculty will often publish a suggested reading list for you relating to the modules you will be studying – these modules vary greatly from university to university. Please don’t think you have to read everything, just dip in and out of the chapters that interest you!</p> <p>If this is too overwhelming, then a good place to start is the Reviews in History website that covers books and digital resources across all fields of history.</p>	<h3>Online courses</h3>  <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">• Empire: the Controversies of British Imperialism (University of Exeter)• The Tudors (University of Roehampton)• A History of Public Health in Post-War Britain (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)