



Most Able
Recommended Reading
List



An Introduction to Wider Reading

Friday 4th
November
2016

What is 'Wider Reading'?

Wider reading is not...

- Extra homework.
- Just about reading books.
- Collected in and marked.
- Formally set by your teachers.

So, What is 'Wider Reading'?

Referred to by Russell Group Universities as '*supra curricular*' activity, it is an academic exploration of the subjects you're studying in school, building your knowledge and understanding of them.

It is important to critically engage with your wider reading: think about the authors' arguments and use of evidence, and whether you agree.

It's about your passion for learning!

Does that mean I need to read loads?

No!

Reading *is* a great way to explore subjects which you find interesting – but there are other ways to deepen your understanding: *visit your local museums, monuments, galleries and natural features*, and think analytically about nature, machinery or the built environment. Keep an eye out for *seminars and taster days run by any local Universities* which you could attend. *Enter competitions* such as speech making, story writing or maths Olympiads.

What sort of things can I do?

- TED talks – this organisation aims to spread ideas. Each video clip will give you a short talk (less than 20 minutes) discussing and challenging ideas within the scope of technology, education and design. Go to the topics page and find something you're interested in.

– Visit www.ted.com/talks

- Podcasts – many universities now publish podcasts of events and seminars held all year round. Download them to share and discuss with your peers.

Does that mean I need to read loads?

No!

The best thing about supra-curricular activities is that there are no exams or deadlines to worry about – you are free to follow your own lines of enquiry into the areas that interest you the most! Rather than seeing this as an exercise purely to give you extra work, you should take time to *explore things that you genuinely find interesting*. Most importantly, you should enjoy your wider reading: don't feel pressured to read something just because it might look 'impressive' – use it as an opportunity to develop your own academic interests.

Why does it matter?

- Wider reading will not only deepen your knowledge and understanding of each subject you study, it will also enhance your enjoyment.
- Many of the new 9-1 GCSE's and A Levels look for evidence of wider reading. To achieve the top scores your examiners will be looking for you to apply independent thought to your answers – things that your teachers haven't taught you!
- It's an essential skill for further study at A Level or degree level and could be the deciding factor in a University interview.

How can we help you?



Most Able
Recommended Reading
List

- Recommended texts, websites and videos for all core subjects.
- Trips to universities and masterclasses.
- Wider reading workshops.