



Year 11 Academic Book List 2025/26



CORE	
Subject	Book
English	The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie
As news spreads of a murder in London, a group of seven strangers find themselves snowed in at a remote countryside guesthouse. When a police sergeant arrives, the guests discover – to their horror – that a killer is in their midst! One by one, the suspicious characters reveal their sordid pasts.	
Science	Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute take a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with - of all things - her mind. True chemistry results. But like science, life is unpredictable.	
Maths	The Joy of X: A Guided Tour of Mathematics, from One to Infinity by Steven Strogatz
Maths is everywhere, often where we do not even realise. Award-winning professor Steven Strogatz acts as our guide as he takes us on a tour of numbers that - unbeknownst to the uninitiated - connect pop culture, literature, art, philosophy, current affairs, business, and even everyday life. We chose this book as its more of an academic read which will prepare you for engaging in academic texts for further education. In addition, this book allows you to understand the importance of Maths and where it can be surprisingly found.	
OPTIONS	
Art & Design	Playing to the Gallery: Helping Contemporary Art in its Struggle to Be Understood by Grayson Perry
With this book, Grayson Perry wants to show that anyone, regardless of their background, can appreciate art. This funny, personal journey through the art world answers the basic questions that might occur to us in an art gallery but that we are too embarrassed to ask. Questions such as: What is “good” or “bad” art—and does it even matter? Is art still capable of shocking us or have we seen it all before?	
Business	The Upstarts: How Uber, Airbnb, and the Killer Companies of the New Silicon Valley Are Changing the World by Brad Stone
The Upstarts is the definitive story of two new titans of business and a dawning age of tenacity, conflict, and wealth. In Brad Stone's riveting account of the most radical companies of the new Silicon Valley, we discover how it all happened and what it took to change the world.	
Computing	Ready Player One by Ernest Cline
Ernest Cline's science fiction novel looks at a world where living in a virtual reality game, the OASIS, is better than real life. The protagonist, Wade Watts, is a teenager with no parents, prospects, or future. The thrilling story focuses on the battle for the late James Halliday's Easter egg, which is hidden within the OASIS and can only be found by solving several clues. Ready Player One gives us a tantalizing glimpse of what our VR future may look like!	
Drama	The Ocean at the End of the Lane (The Play) by Neil Gaiman adapted for stage by Joel Horwood
This is what he remembers, as he sits by the ocean at the end of the lane: A dead man on the back seat of the car, and warm milk at the farmhouse. An ancient little girl, and an old woman who saw the moon being made. A beautiful housekeeper with a monstrous smile. And dark forces woken that were best left undisturbed. They are memories hard to believe, waiting at the edges of things. The recollections of a man who thought he was lost but is now, perhaps, remembering a time when he was saved . . .	
Spanish / French	The Fountains of Silence by Ruta Sepetys / Chocolat by Joanne Harris
A gut-wrenching, startling historical thriller about communist Romania and the citizen spy network that devastated a nation. A gripping, extraordinary portrait of love, silence, and secrets under a Spanish dictatorship. This epic WWII novel shines a light on one of the war's most devastating—yet unknown—tragedies. / A witch, who goes by the name of Vianne Rocher, arrives in the fictional village of Lansquenet-sous- Tannes to open a chocolate boutique with her six-year-old daughter. This is a perfect read for those studying French, as the country and culture lies right at the heart of this novel - with vivid scenery, colours, smells - even the taste of the chocolates that Vianne makes!	
Geography	Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall
A must read for GCSE Geographers as they explore the central themes of geopolitics, inequality, development, and globalisation.	
History	Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi
<i>Homegoing</i> follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed--and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.	
Music	You Should See Me in a Crown by Leah Johnson
Liz Lighty has always believed she's too black, too poor, too awkward to shine in her small, rich, prom-obsessed midwestern town. But it's okay -- Liz has a plan that will get her out of Campbell, Indiana, forever: attend the uber-elite Pennington College, play in their world-famous orchestra, and become a doctor. But when the financial aid she was counting on unexpectedly falls through, Liz's plans come crashing down . .	
Media	No Logo by Naomi Klein
In a world dominated by huge corporations, brands, influence and money, Canadian journalist Naomi Klein shows us ways to see through the 'hype', find the truth and fight the negative effects of consumerism. With real-life examples and a highly readable style, this book is recommended to students interested in advertising, marketing, media and business.	
P.E	A New Formation: how black footballers shaped the modern game edited by Callum Jacobs?
An original exploration of the ways in which leading Black British footballers have shaped the modern game. Tackling the big questions of representation and identity while acknowledging the influence a collective black identity has had on a very British sport. Through a series of essays by a collection of culture writers, including Musa Okwonga, Aniefiok Ekpoudom and Jeanette Kwakye, A New Formation will examine and celebrate the variance found in Blackness.	
Beliefs & Values	Good Omens by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett
This fantasy series sees fussy angel Aziraphale and loose-living demon Crowley team up to form an unlikely duo. The two have become overly fond of life on Earth, and they are forced into forming an alliance to stop the approaching Armageddon.	
Religious Studies	A little history of Philosophy by Nigel Warburton
A lucid guide to humankind's greatest thinkers, from Aristotle to Peter Singer. Philosophy begins with the nature of reality and how we should live. These were the concerns of Socrates, who spent his days in the ancient Athenian marketplace asking awkward questions, disconcerting the people he met by showing them just how little they genuinely understood.	
Health and Social Care	This is Going to Hurt by Adam Kay
This is Going to Hurt is mostly composed of diary entries Adam Kay wrote during his medical training under the National Health Service. It was recommended to Kay to write this diary as a "reflective practice" in which he could log any interesting clinical experiences he experienced throughout his training.	
Design & Technology	The Genius Behind Apple's Greatest Products by Jony Ive
With the death of Steve Jobs in 2011, JONY IVE has become the most important person at Apple. Some would argue he always was. Steve Jobs discovered I've in 1997, when he found the scruffy British designer toiling away in a studio surrounded by hundreds of sketches and prototypes. Jobs instantly realised he had found a talent who could reverse Apple's decline and become his 'spiritual partner'.	
Engineering	The Martian by Andy Weir
The Martian tells the story of Mark Watney, an astronaut on the Ares 3 mission to Mars. After a terrible storm almost destroys the ship and the base, the crew of his ship believe he is dead. 1) _____. Alone on the red planet, he must survive until the next mission to Mars arrives.	
Hospitality & Catering	Scoff by Pen Vogler
In this fascinating social history of food in Britain, Pen Vogler examines the origins of our eating habits and reveals how they are loaded with centuries of class prejudice. Covering such topics as fish and chips, roast beef, avocados, tripe, fish knives and the surprising origins of breakfast, Scoff reveals how in Britain we have become experts at using eating habits to make judgements about social background.	