

Year 12 Academic Book List 2023/24

Subject	Book
Art & Design	Ways of Seeing by John Berger
John Berger's Ways of Seeing is one of the most stimulating and influential books on art in any language. First published in 1972, it was based on the BBC television series about which the Sunday Times critic commented: This is an eye-opener in more ways than one: by concentrating on how we look at paintings.	
Biology	I am, I am, I am by Maggie O'Farrell
An extraordinary memoir--told entirely in near-death experiences--from one of Britain's bestselling novelists, as she reminds us that we are never closer to life than when we brush up against the possibility of death.	
Business / Economics	The Art of Innovation by Tom Kelley
There isn't a business that doesn't want to be more creative in its thinking, products and processes. In The Art of Innovation, Tom Kelley, partner at the Silicon Valley-based firm IDEO, developer of hundreds of innovative products from the first commercial mouse to virtual reality headsets and the Palm hand-held, takes readers behind the scenes of this wildly imaginative company to reveal the strategies and secrets it uses to turn out hit after hit.	
Economics	The Almighty Dollar by Dharshini David
Have you ever wondered why we can afford to buy far more clothes than our grandparents ever could . . . but may be less likely to own a home in which to keep them all? Why your petrol bill can double in a matter of months, but it never falls as fast? Behind all of this lies economics.	
Chemistry	The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York by Deborah Blum
A beguiling concoction--equal parts true crime, twentieth-century history, and science thriller. A fascinating Jazz Age tale of chemistry and detection, poison and murder, The Poisoner's Handbook is a page-turning account of a forgotten era. In early twentieth-century New York, poisons offered an easy path to the perfect crime.	
Computer Science	Tomorrow & Tomorrow & Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin
Sam and Sadie meet in a hospital in 1987. Playing together brings joy, escape, fierce competition - and a special friendship. Then, all too soon, that time is over and they must return to their normal lives. When the pair spot each other eight years later in a crowded train station the spark is immediate, and together they get to work on what they love - creating virtual worlds to delight, challenge and immerse. Their collaborations make them global superstars but along with success, money and fame come betrayal and tragedy.	
English Language	How Language Works by David Crystal
In this fascinating survey of everything from how sounds become speech to how names work, David Crystal answers every question you might ever have had about the nuts and bolts of language in his usual highly illuminating way. Along the way we find out about eyebrow flashes, whistling languages, how parents teach their children to speak, how politeness travels across languages and how the way we talk show not just how old we are but where we're from and even who we want to be.	
English Literature	The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde
Enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, Dorian Gray exchanges his soul for eternal youth and beauty. Influenced by his friend Lord Henry Wotton, he is drawn into a corrupt double life; indulging his desires in secret while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only his portrait bears the traces of his decadence.	
Geography	Six Degrees by Mark Lynas
An eye-opening and vital account of the future of our earth, and our civilisation, if current rates of global warming persist.	
History	The Colour Purple by Alice Walker
A modern classic whose influence can still be felt in contemporary literature, Walker's searing exploration of both white racism and violent Black patriarchy in the first half of the twentieth century is a uniquely powerful reading experience.	
Mathematics	The Man Who Knew Infinity by Robert Kanigel
In 1913, a young unschooled Indian clerk wrote a letter to G H Hardy, begging the pre-eminent English mathematician's opinion on several ideas he had about numbers. Realising the letter was the work of a genius, Hardy arranged for Srinivasa Ramanujan to come to England. Thus began one of the most improbable and productive collaborations ever chronicled.	
Media Studies	Manufacturing Consent by Edward S. Herman & Noam Chomsky
A detailed and compelling political study of how elite forces shape mass media.	
Philosophy	The Lucifer Effect by Philip Zimbardo
Discover how the human mind has the capacity to be infinitely caring or selfish, kind or cruel, creative or destructive. He challenges our conceptions of who we think we are, what we believe we will never do - and how and why almost any of us could be initiated into the ranks of evil doers.	
Physical Education	Butterfly by Yusra Mardini
The inspirational story behind the film The Swimmers on Netflix, by Syrian refugee and Olympic swimmer, Yusra Mardini. It's important the world understands what many ordinary people must endure to find a safe place to live. If it will help others, I'll tell my story a million times.	
Physics	Fermat's Last Theorem by Simon Singh
In 'Fermat's Last Theorem' Simon Singh has crafted a remarkable tale of intellectual endeavour spanning three centuries, and a moving testament to the obsession, sacrifice and extraordinary determination of Andrew Wiles: one man against all the odds.	
Psychology	The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath
Plath's seminal novel about a young female writer's ambitions and experiences amidst the impermeable misogyny of 1950s society moves from razor sharp humour to stunning insights into depression and mental illness.	
Spanish	Requiem for a Spanish Peasant by Ramón J Sender
Requiem for a Spanish Peasant relates the thoughts and memories of Mosen Millan, the parish priest, as he sits in the vestry of the church in a nameless Aragonese village, preparing to conduct a Requiem Mass to celebrate the life of a young peasant, Paco el del Molino, killed by the Nationalist army a year earlier, at the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. As he waits, his thoughts are interrupted by the occasional comings and goings of an altar boy, who hums to himself an anonymous ballad. This ballad, along with Millan's thoughts and the voice of an omniscient narrator, creates three strands of narration for the reader to follow.	