

A Level Bonus Reading List

Below is a reading/listening list which should help your brains get in gear for the A Level. I've divided them into categories – namely Comfortable, Challenging, Difficult. The Difficult level is what you might be expected to read to prepare to University level Philosophy, so be warned – they will be interesting, and provide lots of insight but they will contain difficult vocab and difficult ideas that you may not feel ready for quite yet.

All the books will be available second hand from online book shops like Abe Books, World of Books, Hive and others.

Comfortable

In Our Time Podcasts – (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01f0vzr>)

I love these – they're presented by 3 experts and a host who helps takes you through the ideas. There are a variety of different topics, and perfect for listening to whilst walking/doing chores/on the bus.

Philosophy Bites – (<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/philosophy-bites/id257042117>)

Little 15-20 snippets on different topics, again quite good for the bus or a walk.

Video on free will and consciousness for 6th formers by Richard Holton (from the Philosophy Faculty) at Cambridge Uni

<https://sms.csx.cam.ac.uk/media/2233520>

Andrew Kenny's "**A New History of Western Philosophy**" is a great book to read – takes you through the history of philosophy, and how different kinds of ideas have developed over time.

Edward Craig, *Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press)

Challenging

Helen Beebe, *Free Will: an introduction* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013)

Thomas Nagel, *What Does it All Mean?* (Oxford University Press, 1987).

Earl Conee and Theodore Sider, *Riddles of Existence* (OUP)

Great one by Daniel Dennett who's a big name in philosophy of mind:

https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_dennett_the_illusion_of_consciousness?language=en

David Chalmers on Cosmic Consciousness and the "explanatory gap":

https://www.ted.com/talks/david_chalmers_how_do_you_explain_consciousness

Difficult

Oxford University podcasts - <https://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/podcasts#collapse392551>
(If you want to go in hard. Particularly – Philosophy for Beginners and General Philosophy)

Plato - *Meno* and *Euthyphro*

Descartes – *Meditations*

J S Mill, *Utilitarianism and On Liberty*

Amy Kind, *Persons and Personal Identity* (Polity Press, 2015)