



## Reading list and activities for French

### Checklist of Actions for Oxbridge preparation – General

- Conduct research into Course and College Recommendations, using the Course and College Recommendation Booklet to help you.
- Respond and maintain email contact with your OMS Mentor and do not hesitate to ask questions which may help your Oxbridge preparation.
- Research entry requirements (e.g. admissions tests during interviews) concerning the course options for reading joint honours at Oxbridge.
- Establish email contact with your Advisor and do not hesitate to ask questions which may help your Oxbridge preparation.
- Read British broadsheets such as The Daily Telegraph, The Independent or The Guardian preferably every day (if not feasible, then at weekends) and think about the issues that are raised. What assumptions are being made? What information is being relied on to draw which conclusions? How would you frame a counter-argument?
- Make note of subject-related terminology to look up definitions with the aim of working them into future academic discussions concerning your chosen Oxbridge course.
- Keep a “Learning Log” where you can note down book titles and make notes on texts you read, including your thoughts and feelings on characters, prominent literary techniques used, narrative style, and anything on context (what was happening at the time the text was written that may have had an influence on it?) Also try to note what it is that you like/dislike about a text.
- As part of your Learning Log, also record your thoughts and observations from visiting historic or cultural heritage sites that relate to French culture/literature.
- Try to read some books in the foreign language or in English translation, and go and see films or plays by foreign authors.
- Think about what you have read or seen. Ask yourself, for example, what you liked or disliked about a book or film, and what you learned from them; why you prefer one book or author to another; whether the books you enjoy reading have anything in common

<b>Reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Year of undergraduate course (Oxford)</b>
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#### Familiarisation with 6 short texts:

Montaigne, ‘Des Coches’ from *Essais III*

Mme de Graffigny, *Lettres d’une Péruvienne*

Baudelaire, a selection of poems from the section ‘Spleen et Idéal’ of *Les Fleurs du Mal* [see below]

Aimé Césaire, *Cahier d’un retour au pays natal*

Racine, *Phèdre*

Beckett, *En attendant Godot*

#### French Narrative Fiction (Middle Ages to 20th Century)

*La Chastelaine de Vergy*

Laclos, *Les Liaisons dangereuses*

Balzac, *La Peau de chagrin*

Proust, *Combray*



### List of prescribed poems by Baudelaire

Au lecteur	40 Semper eadem	76 Spleen ('J'ai plus de souvenirs que si j'avais mille ans')
3 Elévation	44 Réversibilité	77 Spleen ('Je suis comme le roi d'un pays pluvieux')
7 La Muse malade	48 Le Flacon	78 Spleen ('Quand le ciel bas et lourd pèse comme un couvercle')
10 L'Ennemi	49 Le Poison	81 Alchimie de la douleur
19 La Géante	50 Ciel brouillé	83 L'Héautontimorouménos
21 Hymne à la beauté	53 L'Invitation au voyage	84 L'Irrémédiable
23 La Chevelure	62 Moesta et errabunda	85 L'Horloge
25 'Tu mettrais l'univers entier dans ta ruelle'	66 Les Chats	
28 Le Serpent qui danse	69 La Musique	
29 Une Charogne	74 La Cloche fêlée	
31 Le Vampire	75 Spleen ('Pluviôse, irrité contre la ville entière')	
36 Le Balcon		

### French Film Studies:

Jean Vigo, *L'Atalante*

Jacques Becker, *Casque d'or*

Jean-Luc Godard, *A bout de souffle*

Bertrand Blier, *Les Valseuses*

### French Literary Theory

Valéry, 'Questions de poésie' and 'Poésie et pensée abstraite', in *Théorie poétique et esthétique*, part of *Variété: OEuvres*, vol. I (Bibliothèque de la Pléiade) (Gallimard)

[both essays are available electronically on Webmail by students in Oxford]

Sartre, *Qu'est-ce que la littérature?* (Folio) [Sections I and II only]

Barthes, *Critique et vérité* (Seuil)

Todorov, 'La notion de littérature', 'L'origine des genres', 'Les deux principes du récit', 'Introduction au vraisemblable' in *La Notion de littérature et autres essais* (Seuil)

### French Thought

Descartes, *Discours de la méthode*, edited by Laurence Renault (Garnier-Flammarion)

Rousseau, *Discours sur l'inégalité* (Folio)

Bergson, *Essai sur les données immédiates de la conscience* (PUF) [Chapters I and II only].

Beauvoir, *Le Deuxième Sexe* (Folio), I, 'Introduction'; 'Mythes'; II, 'La femme mariée'; 'La mère'

## Reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Year of undergraduate course (Cambridge)

### Poems

- Renaud de Beaujeu, *Le Bel Inconnu* (Paris: Champion, 2003).
- Pierre Ronsard, *Les Amours (1552-1584)*, ed. Marc Bensimon and James L. Martin (Paris: GF Flammarion, 1981)(selection)

**N.B.: Ronsard's *Amours* were published in many different editions. The numbering referred to below is correct only for the editions specified.**

### **Set poems :**

- Les Amours*, 1552 (pp. 59–136)  
1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 16, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 39, 41, 42, 43, 46, 47, 49, 61, 64, 69, 72, 76, 81, 88, 98, 103, 124, 126, 139, 140, 144, 149, 153, 164, 181
- Les Amours*, 1553 and 1560 (pp. 137–156)  
2, 9, 11, 15, 22, 31, 37, 39; p. 156,
- Continuation des Amours* (pp. 157–185)  
7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 23, 33, 35, 41, 43, 45, 48, 49, 57, 65

- ❑ *Nouvelle continuation des Amours* (pp. 187–218)  
27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 42, 44
- ❑ *Pièces ajoutées en 1560* (pp. 219–232)
- ❑ p. 220, 'Le Voiage de Tours', 4
- ❑ *Sur la mort de Marie* (pp. 233–249)  
2, 3, 4, 5
- ❑ *Sonets pour Helene I* (pp. 261–287)  
1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 20, 25, 28, 32, 33, 34, 37, 46, 48, 49, p. 284 'Madrigal', 50, 51, 56
- ❑ *Sonets pour Helene II* (pp. 289–314)  
1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 26, 30, 32, 34, 36, 39, 43, 47, 53, 54  
pp. 315–16, 'Elégie'
- ❑ Racine, *Phèdre*, ed. Christian Delmas and Georges Forestier, Collection Folio Théâtre no. 23 (Paris: Gallimard, 1995).
- ❑ Laclos, *Les Liaisons dangereuses* (precise edition to be confirmed).
- ❑ Emile Zola, *Thérèse Raquin*, ed. Henri Mitterand (Garnier Flammarion, 2008).
- ❑ Agnès Varda (director), *Cléo de 5 à 7* (1962)

### Linguistics

There are no set texts for the linguistics section of this paper. As preparation for this section, students may find it helpful to have read an introductory work, such as A. Battye, M.A. Hintze and P. Rowlett, *The French Language Today* (Routledge) or H. Walter, *Le Français dans tous les sens* (Laffont). They may also find it helpful to have familiarised themselves with the International Phonetic Alphabet; see, for example, G. Price, *An Introduction to French Pronunciation* (Blackwell). Students may also find it helpful to consult the following:

### General works

- ❑ Z. Fagyal et al, *French: A Linguistic Introduction* (Cambridge, CUP, 2006)
- ❑ Battye, M-A. Hintze and P. Rowlett, *The French Language Today* (London, Routledge, 2000)
- ❑ Désirat & T. Hordé, *La Langue française au 20e siècle* (Paris, Bordas, 1976)
- ❑ Ager, *Sociolinguistics and Contemporary French* (Cambridge, CUP, 1990)
- ❑ B. Muller, *Le Français d'aujourd'hui* (Paris, Klincksieck, 1985)
- ❑ M. Offord, *Varieties of Contemporary French* (London, Macmillan, 1990)
- ❑ Sanders (ed), *French Today* (Cambridge University Press, 1993)
- ❑ R. A. Lodge, N. Armstrong, Y. M. Ellis & J. F. Shelton, *Exploring the French Language* (Arnold, 1997)
- ❑ H. Walter, *Le Français dans tous les sens* (Paris, Robert Laffont, 1988)

### Written and Spoken French

- ❑ G. Price, *An Introduction to French Pronunciation* (Oxford, Blackwell, 2005)
- ❑ C. Blanche-Benveniste, *Le français parlé: études grammaticales* (Paris, CNRS, 1990)
- ❑ C. Blanche-Benveniste, *Approches de la langue parlée en français* (Paris, Ophrys, 1997)
- ❑ F. Gadet, *Le Français populaire* (Paris, PUF (Que-sais-je) 1992)
- ❑ Rigault, *La Grammaire du français parlé* (Paris, Hachette, 1981)
- ❑ Sauvageot, *Français parlé - français écrit* (Larousse, 1962)

### Orthography

- ❑ N. Catach, 'The reform of the writing system' in C. Sanders (ed), *French Today* (Cambridge, CUP 1993)
- ❑ N. Catach, *L'Orthographe* (Paris, PUF, (Que sais-je?) 1978)
- ❑ C. Blanche-Benveniste & A. Cherval, *L'Orthographe* (Paris, Maspero, 1969; rééd. 1978)

### Vocabulary

- ❑ P. Gilbert, *Dictionnaire des mots nouveaux* (Paris, Tchou, 1980 & 1985)
- ❑ Goosse, *La Néologie française aujourd'hui: Observations et réflexions* (Paris, Conseil international de la langue française, 1975)
- ❑ H. Mitterand, *Les Mots français* (Paris, PUF, (Que sais-je?) (6th ed., 1981)



- ❑ Sauvageot, *Portrait du vocabulaire français* (Paris, Larousse, 1964)
- ❑ H. Walter, *L'avenir des mots français venus d'ailleurs* (Paris, R. Laffont, 1997)
- ❑ H. Wise, *The Vocabulary of Modern French* (London, Routledge, 1997)

### Literary Critical Works

The following works of criticism will give a useful introduction to the prescribed literary texts.

#### **Renaud de Beaujeu**

- ❑ Alice M. Colby-Hall, 'Frustration and Fulfilment: the double ending of the *Bel Inconnu*', *Yale French Studies* 67 (1984), pp. 120-134
- ❑ *Le Chevalier et la Merveille dans Le Bel Inconnu ou Le beau jeu de Renaut*, ed. Jean Dufournet (Paris: Champion, 1996)
- ❑ Simon Gaunt, *Gender and Genre in Medieval French Literature* (Cambridge: CUP, 1995), pp. 103-13

#### **Ronsard**

- ❑ Jean M. Fallon, *Voice and Vision in Ronsard's 'Les Sonnets pour Helene'* (New York, etc.: Peter Lang, 1993)
- ❑ Leonard Forster, *The Icy Fire: Five Studies in European Petrarchism* (Cambridge: CUP, 1969), ch. 1
- ❑ Gilbert Gadoffre, *Ronsard* (Paris: Seuil, 1994)
- ❑ Donald Stone, *Ronsard's Sonnet Cycles* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966)
- ❑ *Ronsard the Poet*, ed. Terence Cave (London: Methuen, 1973), chap. 2, Grahame Castor, 'Petrarchism and the quest for beauty', chap. 3, A.H.T. Levi, 'The role of neoplatonism'.
- ❑ *Ronsard in Cambridge*, ed. Philip Ford and Gillian Jondorf (Cambridge: Cambridge French Colloquia, 1986), chap. 6, Malcolm Quainton, chap. 9, Christine Scollen-Jimack, chap. 10, Elizabeth Guild, chap. 11, Gillian Jondorf, chap. 12, Dorothy Gabe Coleman

#### **Racine** [\* = introductory]

- ❑ BARTHES, Roland, *Sur Racine* (Paris: Seuil, 1960)
- ❑ \*FRANCE, Peter, *Racine's Rhetoric* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1965)
- ❑ HAWCROFT, Michael, *Word as Action: Racine, Rhetoric and Theatrical Language* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992)
- ❑ \*JAMES, Edward and JONDORF, Gillian, *Racine: 'Phèdre'*, Landmarks of World Literature (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994)
- ❑ KNIGHT, Roy (ed.), *Racine: Modern Judgements*, ed. by Roy Knight (London: Macmillan, 1969)
- ❑ \*MOURGUES, Odette de, *Racine, or the Triumph of Relevance* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967). (Also in French as *Autonomie de Racine*, Paris: Corti, 1967).
- ❑ PHILLIPS, Henry, *Racine: Language and Theatre* (Durham: Durham Modern Languages Series, 1994)
- ❑ PARISH, Richard, "'Un calme si funeste": some types of silence in Racine', *French Studies* 34 (1980), 385-400
- ❑ PARISH, Richard, *Racine: The Limits of Tragedy* (Paris, Seattle, Tübingen: PFSCL, 1993)

#### **Laclos**

- ❑ Peter Brooks, *The Novel of Wordliness* (Princeton, 1969)
- ❑ Joan Dejean, *Literary Fortifications* (Princeton, 1992)
- ❑ *Yale French Studies*, no. 94, Libertinage and Modernity (1999)
- ❑ Susan K. Jackson, 'In Search of a Female Voice', in *Writing the Female Voice: Essays on Epistolary Literature*, ed. Elizabeth Goldsmith (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1989)
- ❑ Ronald Rosbottom, 'Boredom and Meaning: A reading of Laclos' *Liaisons dangereuses*', *French Forum*, 16, 2 (Spring 1978), 11-18



- ❑ Philip Stewart, 'Aspects de texture verbale dans *Les Liaisons dangereuses*', *Revue de l'histoire littéraire de la France*, 82 (1982), 547-58
- ❑ T. Todorov, 'Choderlos de Laclos et la théorie du récit', *Tel Quel*, 27 (1966), 17-28

### Zola

- ❑ Susan Harrow, 'Thérèse Raquin: animal passion and the brutality of reading', in *The Cambridge Companion to Zola*, ed. by Brian Nelson (CUP, 2007), pp. 105-20.
- ❑ Russell Cousins, *Zola: Thérèse Raquin* (London: Grant & Cutler, 1992) Critical Guides to French Texts 95
- ❑ Colette Becker, chapter on *Thérèse Raquin* in *Les Apprentissages de Zola* (PUF, 1993), pp. 324-65
- ❑ Henri Mitterand, 'Une anthropologie mythique: le système des personnages dans *Thérèse Raquin* et *Germinal*', in *Le Discours du Roman* (PUF, 1980)
- ❑ Michelle E. Bloom, 'The Aesthetics of Guilt: Crime Scenes and Punitive Portraits in Zola's *Thérèse Raquin*', *Dalhousie French Studies* (vol. 58), Spring 2002, pp. 26-38
- ❑ François-Marie Mourad, '*Thérèse Raquin*, roman expérimental', *Cahiers Naturalistes* (vol. 84), 2010, pp. 157-164
- ❑ Nicholas White, 'Naturalism', *The Cambridge History of French Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2011), ed. B. Burgwinkle, N. Hammond, E. Wilson, pp. 522-30

### Varda

- ❑ Sandy Flitterman Lewis, *To Desire Differently: Feminism and the French Cinema* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1996 [expanded edition]). See pp. 215-320 on Varda.
- ❑ Jill Forbes, 'Gender and Space in *Cléo de 5 à 7*', *Studies in French Cinema*, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp.83-89
- ❑ Valerie Orpen, *Cléo de 5 à 7* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2007 [French Film Guides])
- ❑ Alison Smith, *Agnès Varda* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1998) [a useful study of the director, referring throughout to *Cléo de 5 à 7*]
- ❑ Agnès Varda, *Cléo de 5 à 7: scénario* (Paris: Gallimard, 1962) [screenplay]
- ❑ Agnès Varda, *Varda par Agnès* (Paris: Editions Cahiers du Cinéma, 1994) [the director's study of her own career, with many images]
- ❑ Sarah Cooper, *Selfless Cinema? Ethics and French Documentary* (London: Legenda, 2006). See pp. 77-90 on Varda as documentary filmmaker.