



Reading and activities list for Art History & Classics

Checklist of Actions for Oxbridge preparation

- Complete the course and college research booklet which covers entry requirements for your course (e.g. admissions tests during interviews). Use it to help you make informed choices.
- Respond and maintain email contact with your OMS Mentor 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). Think critically about what you have read; what issues 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 on your chosen Oxbridge course.
- Keep a "Learning Log". Note down (i) book titles/ articles (ii) author (iii) your thoughts, feelings and observations (iv) context and relevance of the book/article (v) whether you agree with what you have read.
- When reading books and articles, try to be very critical in your analysis at all times. Develop counter-arguments and attempt to justify these with logic and evidence.
- As part of your learning process throughout Oxbridge preparation, create a cumulative list of definitions and key concepts to expand your academic vernacular and knowledge for use in academic conversation.

History of Art

- Suggested reading (but students should feel free to pursue their own interests):
 - Baxandall, Michael 'Painting and experience in fifteenth century Italy: a primer in the social history of pictorial style' (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988)
 - Clark, T. J. 'The painting of modern life: Paris in the art of Manet and his followers' (London: Thames and Hudson, 1995).
 - Clunas, Craig 'Art in China' (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).
 - Crow, Thomas 'Modern art in the common culture' (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1998).
 - Kemp, Martin 'Behind the picture: art and evidence in the Italian Renaissance' (New Haven; London: Yale University Press, 1997).
 - Nochlin, Linda 'Women, art, and power: and other essays' (London: Thames and Hudson, 1989).

Classics (Notes from Cambridge Course)

- Those who study Latin and/or Greek at school characteristically study a small number of texts primarily for the purpose of construing the language. Close analysis of texts is an essential part of Classics – but it is not the only part, and some of the features of particular passages only become clear in the context of the whole of a text, or indeed of other texts. So if you are doing Latin and/or Greek at school it makes sense for you to read in translation the rest of the work you are studying.

- ❑ If you are studying Classical Civilisation then you are likely to be reading a number of whole texts, but often in a limited number of literary genres. If that is the case then you will find it useful to sample a range of other genres, and in particular a range of prose texts. If you have not read them already, look at:
 - Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War (especially books 1–2) – Thucydides' reflections on the problems of discovering what happened and working out why it happened have been immensely influential.
 - ❑ Plato Republic – an extraordinary work which makes clear the links between political actions, moral judgements and what it is to know something.
 - Tacitus Annals (especially books 1–4): a gripping analysis of the problems for an absolute ruler in securing elite and popular support to run an empire.

- ❑ Classics at Cambridge involves the study of philosophy, history, art and archaeology, and philology as well as of the classical languages and literature. To get an impression of what the advantages are of such integrated study, take a look at M. Beard and J. Henderson Classics: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford, 1995).

- ❑ One of the best ways of discovering about Classics is to read Omnibus, the journal produced twice a year by the Joint Association of Classical Teachers specially for sixth-formers. Every issue contains a dozen or so short articles on aspects of Classics, written by those who teach in universities. It costs £3 and both the current number and back-numbers are available from <http://www.jact.org/publications/omnibus.htm>