

Checklist of Actions for Oxbridge preparation

- 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.
- 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 a daily newspaper. 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?
- Learn to express your own views by referring to what you have read or heard from a reputable source. When researching, use reliable sources and make sure you can explain what makes a source reliable.
- 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.
- Visit the Royal Society website, which contains all the important science news. It also lists all forthcoming science programmes and public lectures.
- Start/continue reading science journals i.e. New Scientist or Scientific American. Physics, Biology, Chemistry
- Look at a wide range of science books to familiarise yourself with ideas, problems and terminology. Try to pick two to three books from each list below. The choice should be based on your own interests, but make sure not all are on the same topic.

PSYCHOLOGY

- *Science: A History 1534-2001* by John Gribbin
- *Cognitive psychology : a student's handbook*, Eysenck, M.W, Keane, M.T. (Psychology Press, 2010)
- *Essentials of social psychology*, Hogg, M, Vaughan, G. (Prentice Hall, 2010)
- *Introduction to psychology* Nolen-Hoeksema, S, Wagenaar, W, Fredrickson. B, Loftus, G.R. Atkinson and Hilgard's (Cengage Learning, 2009)
- *Key concepts in developmental psychology* Schaffer, H.R. (SAGE, 2006)
- *Psychology and Life*, Gerrig, R.J, Zimbardo, P, Svartdal, F, Brennen, T. (Allyn & Bacon, 2012)
- Zimbardo's Prison Experiment <http://www.prisonexp.org/>

BIOLOGY

- *Science: A History 1534-2001* by John Gribbin
- *Biology* by N.A. Campbell
- *The language of the genes* by Steve Jones
- *The selfish gene* by R. Dawkins
- *Genome* by Matt Ridley
- *The blind watchmaker* by R. Dawkins
- *The Darwin wars* by Andrew Brown
- *A monk and two peas: the story of Gregor Mendel* by R.M. Henig
- *Microbes and man* by J. Postgate
- *The diversity of life* by E.O. Wilson
- *The making of memory: from molecules to mind* by Steven Rose
- *The human brain: a guided tour* by Susan Greenfield

OTHER BOOKS

- *Genesis Machines: The New Science of Biocomputation* by Martyn Amos
- *50 Physics Ideas You Really Should Know* by J. Baker
- *How Long Is a Piece of String?* By Rob Eastaway and Jeremy Wyndham
- *Black Bodies and Quantum Cats: Tales from the Annals of Physics* by Alan Chodos and Jennifer Ouellette
- *Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea* by Charles Seife
- *Fermat's Last Theorem: The story of a riddle that confounded the world's greatest minds for 358 years* by Simon Singh

- Keep your maths skills fresh and teach yourself enough statistics to construct and interpret basic medical charts. You can find interesting maths problems and help with solving them on two Cambridge websites:

- NRIC - <http://nrich.maths.org/public/index.php>
- Plus online magazine - <http://pass.maths.org.uk/>