

Challenge your thinking

In this competitive world it is no longer enough to understand the knowledge covered in class, how will you demonstrate your enthusiasm for the subject you wish to study further? Stretch and challenge yourself with the resources found below.

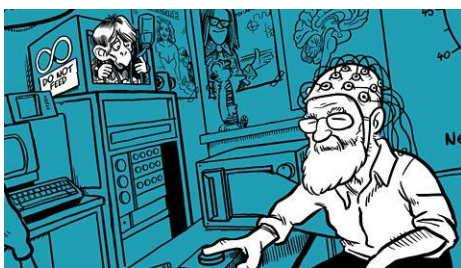
Subject Genius



A new section of the Times Educational Supplement (TES) website has been launched, called 'Subject Genius'. Subject Genius pulls together some of the best subject specialist writers around. It explores challenging topics and enjoyable ways to approach difficult parts of specialist subjects. Please follow the link below to view the material presented so far.

<https://www.tes.co.uk/news/subject-genius>

'A History of Ideas'



BBC Radio 4 and The Open University have collaborated to produce a wonderful resource called 'A History of Ideas'. This major 60-part series offers listeners a fresh take on some of the big questions that have preoccupied thinkers down the ages. A programme of animated films voiced by actress Gillian Anderson, TV personality Stephen Fry and *The Simpsons* star Harry Shearer complement the series. The links below will take you to the relevant websites. This is a rich resource for students to

learn beyond the classroom. Some of the questions tackled include: What is justice? Has technology changed us? What makes me human? How did everything begin? What does it mean to be free?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04bwydw>

<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/whats-on/radio/ou-on-the-bbc-history-ideas>

BBC iWonder



BBC iWonder is a factual and educational brand designed to feed the UK's curiosity. BBC iWonder provides answers to the questions sparked in your everyday life – questions inspired by television programmes, what is in the news, important anniversaries, or what is trending on social media. BBC iWonder Interactive Guides provide thought-provoking explorations across subject areas, including History, Literature and Science.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iwonder>

Future Learn



A host of UK and international universities have collaborated to provide a variety of free online academic courses for young people. The courses can last from 2-8 weeks and cover a wide range of topics across the Arts, Humanities and Science. These courses are primarily aimed at Sixth Form students. For example, there is a course entitled 'Developing Your Research Project', which is offered by the University of Southampton. It is suitable as preparation for a variety of research tasks, including the EPQ.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/>

TED

TED is a nonprofit community devoted to “ideas worth spreading”. It was founded as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: Technology, Entertainment, Design. Since then its scope has become ever broader. TED “believes passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and ultimately, the world.” The TED website offers free knowledge and inspiration from the world’s most inspired thinkers, and also a community of curious souls to engage with ideas and each other.

<http://www.ted.com/>

QI

If you have heard of QI (Quite Interesting), the chances are that you have heard of the [BBC2 comedy panel quiz](#) of the same name, hosted by Stephen Fry. At its core, QI enshrines the original view of Lord Reith that the BBC should ‘educate, inform and entertain’, all three of which duties are carried out to the great enjoyment of panel and audience alike. The activities of ‘The QI Universe’ website are organised around a [central concept](#) or set of attitudes – those of curiosity, discovery and humour.

<http://www.qi.com/>

Moral Maze

BBC Radio 4s Moral Maze provides combative, provocative and engaging live debate examining the moral issues behind one of the week’s news stories.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qk11>

3 Minute Thinking!



King's College London has launched '3 Minute Thinking!', which is a series of bite-size videos on a host of exciting and curious topics with King's academics every Thursday. Topics addressed include, 'Was Shakespeare German?' and 'Can pigs and seaweed cure diabetes?'

www.kcl.ac.uk/3MinT

'The Floor is Yours...'

The University of Leicester offers a new way to engage with key issues that shape our society. Students can join debates on a host of topics, including 'should we go to Mars?' Join some of Britain's leading academics and high-profile opinion formers in these challenging 'the floor is yours' debates.

<http://leicesterexchanges.com/about/>

'Staircase 12'

To get into a top uni, it's not enough just to do well at school: universities want students who are passionate about their subject, who think for themselves and who are independent learners. That means that if you're thinking about university, finding out what you're really interested in and developing that interest is a top priority. This is a website run by Oxford University that contains a 'Reading Bank', a wealth of material in one place that will enable you to read beyond your specifications. Also a resources bank guiding you to other websites and relevant information.

Oxford University Press

The Oxford University Press (OUP) series of books *Very Short Introductions* give an excellent background to the major academic subjects. These are £5 or less online.

Cambridge University HE+ website

Each topic is produced by Cambridge postgraduate students and academics at the cutting edge of research in their field. The topics provide guided activities, questions to think about and suggestions for further reading.

<http://www.myheplus.com/>

Subscribe to Philip Allan A Level Magazines



<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/magazines/Print-Magazines>

Use Relevant Podcasts

Warwick University have lots of links on their website

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/podcasts/media>

iTunes U App



iTunes U is a learning resource offering free educational content that users can download from the iTunes Store straight to their computer or mobile devices.

iTunes U has new research and lectures by academics from all the top universities in the UK and abroad

It also features specially commissioned topical pieces in which academic experts contextualise events, for example, the re-launch of the Large Hadron Collider and the 40th anniversary of the Internet.

It has a more limited website which can be accessed on PCs and Android devices