

**ESSENTIAL PREPARATORY READING FOR UNDERGRADUATES PRIOR TO COMING UP TO READ
EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (EP) or PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY, LINGUISTICS (PPL)**

Whether you are reading EP or PPL you will have to offer **three** subjects for your Preliminary examination (taken at the end of the second term of the first year) and you will study these three subjects throughout your first two terms. If you are an EP student then these three subjects will be 'Introduction to Psychology', 'Neurophysiology', and 'Statistics'. If you are a PPL student then you may replace one with 'Introduction to Philosophy' and/or one with 'Introduction to Linguistics'. Depending on which three papers you will take you should prepare for coming up to Oxford by reading the following in advance:

PSYCHOLOGY

If you have not done Psychology A level you should acquire and read a general introduction intended for A level Psychology students. There are many of these, covering much the same material. A good one is:

Psychology (Hewstone, Fincham & Foster), 2005. BPS Blackwell.

You should also read

Cognitive Neuroscience: The Biology of the Mind (Gazzaniga, Ivry & Mangun), 3rd Ed. 2008. W.W. Norton and co.
Steven Pinker's *How the mind works* (Penguin Press 1998).

STATISTICS

If you have not done A-level Statistics then you should prepare by reading some elementary book about the use of statistics in the analysis of behavioural data; a good example is:

Statistics without tears Derek Rowntree, published in 1981 by Penguin.

PHILOSOPHY:

It is essential to have started to read and think about logic before coming up. Please read at least one (and preferably both) of the following:

R.M. Sainsbury: *Logical Forms*, especially chs. 1 & 2
V. Halbach: *The Logic Manual*, OUP, 2010

It is also advisable to have read one or two other books (more, if possible) from the following list:

A.J. Ayer: *The Problem of Knowledge*
P.F. Strawson: *Analysis and Metaphysics*
T. Nagel: *The View from Nowhere*
A. Kenny: *A New History of Western Philosophy*, especially vol.3
B. Williams: *Morality: An Introduction to Ethics*
J.S. Mill: *Utilitarianism*, ed. Crisp, R. (OUP 1998)

NEUROPHYSIOLOGY

Two useful texts that you can begin to read in preparation for this course are:

Essential Neuroscience (Siegel and Sapru) 2nd Ed. 2010. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins
Essentials of Neuroscience and Behaviour (Kandel et al.) 1995. Appleton and Lange

LINGUISTICS

Two introductory readings you should read are:

Rickerson, E.M. & Barry Hilton (2012). *The 5 Minute Linguist*. Equinox, London.
McWhorter, John (2011). *What Language Is (And What It Isn't, And What It Could Be)*. Gotham, NY.

More advanced reading

Fromkin, V, Rodman R, Hyams N (2010). *An Introduction to Language (International edition)*. Wadsworth. [Any edition since 2008 will do. The 2002 edition is available online in .pdf format from the Internet Archive].

GENERAL

If you have not taken Physics A-level you should obtain a suitable A-level text and read this, paying particular attention to sections on electricity. If you are not taking Mathematics A-level try to ensure you know the basic ideas behind differentiation and integration (although it is not necessary to become proficient in the techniques). If you have not taken Biology A-level you should obtain a suitable A-level text and read this, concentrating on the human/mammalian biology, cellular and physiology sections. Teachers in these subjects at your school should be able to give you advice as to the best book(s) to read.