



Reading List for Entrants to PPE

The first year's work in PPE does not presuppose prior knowledge or experience with the academic study of philosophy, politics or economics. In particular, having done A Level or the equivalent in the subjects is neither an advantage nor a disadvantage. However, the pace of work is fast, and we expect you to have oriented yourself to the subjects before you arrive, by doing some systematic reading from the lists here.

It will also help you if you begin to think about current affairs in a serious way. We recommend that you explore a range of media sources. News outlets like The Economist, Al Jazeera and The New York Times offer both news coverage and analysis from a variety of perspectives. Similarly, The Financial Times is one of the best papers for news. Other sources that focus on more in-depth analysis include The London Review of Books, which is a mix of politics and culture, New Left Review, Foreign Affairs and Le Monde Diplomatique (English edition). For a look into the expanding world of data journalism, the website <https://fivethirtyeight.com> publishes articles using statistical analysis to report on contemporary politics and economic news.

Philosophy

You will be working in three areas of philosophy during the first year:

- logic,
- ethics, and
- what we call 'knowledge and reality', that is, questions about the nature of reality and how we can claim to know anything about it.

For logic, which you'll study in your first term, we will use Volker Halbach, *The Logic Manual*, Oxford University Press, 2010. It is not required but it may be useful to have read the first three chapters of the *Logic Manual* before you get here.

The set text for ethics is: John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, which you should certainly try to read.

For a good general introduction to the topics in philosophy we shall discuss in your first year, you might look at:

Thomas Nagel, *What Does It All Mean?*
John Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*

If you would like guidance on the more practical aspects of working productively as a philosophy student, you could look at:

Saunders, Mossley, MacDonald Ross, Lamb and Closs, *Doing Philosophy: A Practical Guide for Students* (2nd edition, 2013).

Politics

The first-year cour

We strongly recommend that those without A Level maths or equivalent put some time in to start moving their maths knowledge forward and to get used to doing maths again after what may have be