

## WADDESDON CE SCHOOL SIXTH FORM: YEAR 12 SUPER-CURRICULAR MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)

A MOOC is a *brilliant* way to make your Personal Statement stand out, whether you are applying for a university degree course, degree apprenticeship or employment after Sixth Form. Click here for a reminder of what goes into your Personal Statement: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement>

MOOCs are free, online university short courses, through which you engage with academics and professionals, watch short lectures/clips, read articles, and virtually debate the answers to key questions with fellow students. You can search for MOOCs which might interest you via: [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com) or have a look at the list below. The Open University is also excellent: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

It takes 2 minutes to sign up for a MOOC and you then commit to a few hours of study each week, for a fixed number of weeks e.g. 2 hours per week for 4 weeks. You do not need to pay for the certificate at the end; the key is to be able to write about what you learned from it on your Personal Statement and/or talk about it at interview.

Completion of a MOOC has many benefits: enhances your understanding of a subject you may be studying at A level; challenges you to think deeply and ask questions; helps you decide if it is really a subject/career you want to pursue at a higher level; looks very impressive on your Personal Statement/CV. Or pick a MOOC in something you've not studied before to broaden your learning?

### ART, GRAPHICS AND PHOTOGRAPHY

**Video Game Design:** how and why do video gamers identify with the characters they control? <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/video-game-character-design> *Abertay University*

**Fashion and Sustainability:** an introduction to issues, agendas and contexts relating to fashion and sustainability in a changing world. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/fashion-and-sustainability> *London College of Fashion*

**WW1 Heroism: Through Art and Film:** Discover just some of the ways that heroism and the First World War is portrayed through art and film. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/ww1-heroism-art-film> *University of Leeds*

### BUSINESS AND FINANCE

**Business Management:** discover how to manage people, money and information, and gain confidence and insight into your own management style. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/introduction-to-business-management> *Kings College London*

**Create a Social Media Marketing Campaign:** learn to plan and launch a successful social media marketing campaign with the Institute of Coding and the University of Leeds. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/create-a-social-media-marketing-campaign> *University of Leeds*

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Learn to Code for the Web:** ever wondered what's behind your favourite websites and apps? Get to grips with the basics of coding in HTML, CSS and JavaScript. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/learn-to-code-for-the-web> *University of Leeds*

**Ethical Hacking:** learn the principles and methods of ethical hacking and penetration testing, and build your ethical hacking skills. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/ethical-hacking-an-introduction> *University of Coventry*

### DRAMA AND THEATRE

**Physical Theatre:** learn about Meyerhold's form of physical theatre; biomechanics; understand and perform 'The Slap'. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/physical-theatre-exploring-the-slap> *University of Leeds*

**Introduction to Screen Writing:** explores the key concepts and fundamental principles involved in the process of screenwriting. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/screenwriting> *University of East Anglia*

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

**Unseen Poetry and the Creative Process:** discover effective techniques to analyse unseen poetry and learn about the creative writing process. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/a-level-study-unseen-poetry> *University of Reading*

**Creative Writing:** get started with your own fiction writing, focusing on the central skill of creating characters. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/start-writing-fiction> *Open University*

## ECONOMICS

**The Politics and Economics and the Economics of Politicians:** investigate links between economics and politicians with Sir Vince Cable and leading economists. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/politics-of-economics> *University of Nottingham*

**Challenging Wealth and Income Inequality:** explore the concerns about rising wealth and income inequality between different generations in developed countries. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/inequalities-in-personal-finance> *Open University*

## ENGINEERING

**Engineering the Future-creating the Amazing:** learn more about the fascinating world of engineering, and discover where an engineering degree could take you.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/creating-the-amazing-engineering-the-future> *University of York*

## FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION

**Controversies in the Food System:** become more confident in making informed decisions about the food you eat by exploring different food controversies. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/engaging-with-controversies-in-the-food-system> *University of Reading*

**Improving Food Production with Agricultural Technology and Plant Biotechnology:**  
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/food-production-agricultural-technology-plant-biotechnology> *EIT, University of Cambridge*

## GEOGRAPHY

**Concepts in sustainable development:** explore some of the key issues in sustainability, tackling the big questions with examples from around the world. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/sustainability> *University of Leicester*

**Come rain or shine-understanding the weather:** understand and explore the physical processes behind the weather <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/come-rain-or-shine> *University of Reading*

## HISTORY

**Anti-Semitism:** 50 leading scholars from all over the world explore issues relating to antisemitism including: what is antisemitism? How has it changed throughout history? <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/antisemitism> *Yad Vashem*

**The Tudors:** compare the rule of the Tudor monarchs and examine the significant political, religious and cultural changes of the period. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/the-tudors> *University of Roehampton*

**The Cold War:** explore the role that the Royal Air Force played in the Cold War.  
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/raf-cold-war> *Royal Holloway, University of London*

## LAW/CRIMINOLOGY

**Are prisons a suitable punishment?** Explore life inside UK prisons. Learn whether this type of punishment reduces crime and if rehabilitation can prevent reoffending.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/incarceration-prisons-suitable-punishment> *University of Leeds*

## MATHS

**Flexagons:** learn how to make flexagons - beautiful and unique paper constructions - and explore the maths behind them. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/flexagons> *Weizmann Institute of Science*

**Puzzles:** explore and enjoy 'recreational' maths, while boosting your creative and deductive thinking skills. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/recreational-math> *Weizmann Institute of Science*

## MEDIA STUDIES

**Gender Representation:** explore how women are represented in the media and reflect on what it means for contemporary society and culture. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/gender-and-the-media> *University of Strathclyde, Glasgow*

**Media Literacy and Representation:** how does the media affect us? Improve your media literacy by learning how to analyse media, film and culture <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/media-literacy-representation> *University of Newcastle, Australia*

## MEDICINE/DENTISTRY/NURSING

**Discover Dentistry:** an entertaining and illuminating course for everyone to explore the impact dentistry has on our lives. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/discover-dentistry> *University of Sheffield*

**MedTech-Exploring the Human Genome:** discover how advances in the field of genomics are transforming healthcare. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/medtech-exploring-the-human-genome> *University of Leeds*

**Nursing:** explore the diverse skills and knowledge required to be a nurse and find out where a career in nursing could take you. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/nursing-the-application-of-bioscience-psychology-and-sociology> *University of York*

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

**Intercultural Studies:** Explore intercultural communication by understanding the relationship between language and cultural identity. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/intercultural-studies-language-culture> *University of Leeds*

**Learn Spanish:** learn Spanish online for beginners and discover the Spanish-speaking world with six free online Spanish courses, <https://www.futurelearn.com/programs/spanish-for-beginners> *Open University*

## MUSIC

**Recording Music and Sound:** provides an historical introduction to music and sound recording in the creative industries and offers some guidance about making your own recordings. <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/recording-music-and-sound/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab> *Open University*

**How to write your first song:** practical introduction to the mechanics of song writing and meet established songwriters. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/songwriting> *University of Sheffield*

**From Notation to Performance:** find out how musicians turn the notation of a musical score into a memorable performance. Change how you listen to music. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/musical-scores> *Open University*

## PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

**Global Ethics:** explore key ethical theories surrounding global challenges and learn how philosophy can be used to address these problems. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/global-ethics> *Open University*

**Think Again I-how to understand arguments:** how to reason and argue reasoning, analyse other people's arguments and construct your own. <https://www.my-mooc.com/en/mooc/understanding-arguments/> *Duke University*

**Philosophy, Science and Religion:** explore contemporary debates at the intersection of Philosophy, Science and Religion. <https://www.ed.ac.uk/ppls/philosophy/research/impact/free-online-courses/philosophy-science-and-religion> *University of Edinburgh*

**Moralities of everyday life:** How can we explain kindness and cruelty? Where does our sense of right and wrong come from? Why do people so often disagree about moral issues? <https://www.my-mooc.com/en/mooc/moralities/> *Yale University*

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Football-More than a Game:** explore the role of football in the world today - including finances, clubs, nations and rivalries <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/football> *University of Edinburgh*

**Psychology of a sports injury:** Have you ever experienced a sport injury? Have you ever thought there could be a psychological dimension to sport injuries, as well as a physical one? <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/exploring-the-psychological-aspects-sport-injury/content-section-overview?active-tab=description-tab> *Open University*

## PRODUCT DESIGN

**Medtech and Product Design:** explore the product design process of MedTech devices and examine future trends in healthcare technology and the MedTech industry. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/medtech-trends-and-product-design> *University of Leeds*

## PSYCHOLOGY

**Forensic Psychology:** discover how forensic psychology helps obtain evidence from eyewitnesses in police investigations and prevents cases of injustice. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/forensic-psychology> *Open University*

**Cognitive Psychology - an experimental science:** learn how to use cognitive psychology experiments to explore the internal workings of the mind. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/an-introduction-to-cognitive-psychology-as-an-experimental-science> *University of York*

**Understanding Depression and Anxiety:** <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/health/understanding-depression-and-anxiety/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab> *Open University*

**Sport Coaching and Psychology:** <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/exploring-sport-coaching-and-psychology/content-section-overview?active-tab=description-tab> *Open University*

## SCIENCES

**Ecology and Wildlife Conservation:** discover ecology and learn how we can conserve our natural world. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/ecology-and-wildlife-conservation> *University of Leeds*

**Science behind Forensic Science:** an introduction to the science of forensic science and its applications to the real world. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/science-behind-forensic-science> *Kings College London*

**Biochemistry-the molecules of life:** explore the impact of biochemistry on bioenergy and health, discovering why graduates are in demand; with the Biochemical Society. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/biochemistry> *University of East Anglia*

**The Higgs Boson:** find out more about particle physics and understanding the universe. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/higgs> *University of Edinburgh*

## SOCIOLOGY

**What is Sociology?** Examine perspectives on society, and the cultural issues facing society. Apply sociological theory to researching social groups. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/what-is-sociology>

**Gender Inequality:** a key challenge in society. Explore causes, consequences and consider the ways you can overcome it. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-gender-inequality> *University of Exeter*

## TEACHING

**Preparing for Teaching:** prepare for a career in teaching by learning what makes a teacher and reflecting on your own experiences of education. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/preparing-for-teaching> *Manchester Metropolitan University*

## EXCELLENT PRE-READING BOOK SUGGESTIONS

Or if you'd rather read, see the websites below (most Universities have suggestions/lots available as e-books)

Lots of different degree areas:

<https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/applying-to-univ/reading-bank/>

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/suggested-reading-and-resources#>

Specific University and degree:

<https://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/law/newstudents/newundergraduates/reading/>

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