

Physics A-Level

Bridging the Gap Year 11 – Year 12

If I was 16 and about to embark on the most fascinating of all A Level subjects, I would at least dip into some of these books. If I was serious about engaging both hemispheres of my mind, I would start by reading one for fun (e.g no. 1) and one for depth of knowledge, which should still be fun (e.g. no 3).

Books I have read and highly recommend:

1. Surely You're Joking Mr Feynman? - Richard Feynman. GREAT FUN, EASY READ, MY FAVOURITE PHYSICIST!
2. What Do You Care What Other People Think? – Richard Feynman AGAIN.....HE'S THAT GOOD.....BEST TEACHER EVER. COVERS HIS DETECTIVE WORK TO DISCOVER THE CAUSE OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER DISASTER
3. Storm in a Teacup: The Physics of Everyday Life – Helen Czerski EASY READ COVERING MANY INTERESTING ASPECTS OF PHYSICS OUTSIDE THE LAB, YOU HAVE SEEN THE AUTHOR ON TV
4. We Have No Idea: A Guide to the Unknown Universe – George Cham EASY, INTERESTING, LOTS OF JOKES ABOUT LLAMAS
5. Seven Brief Lessons on Physics – Carlo Rovelli BRIEF, WELL EXPLAINED, GOES INTO SOME DEPTH

Books I have glanced at and look interesting and useful to prospective A Level students

- The Fifth Essence - Lawrence Krauss LOOKS INTERESTING AND REVIEWS ARE GREAT
- Why does $E=mc^2$? - Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw TRICKY CONCEPTS CHARMINGLY EXPLAINED BY THE ROCK STAR OF PHYSICS
- A Short History of Nearly Everything - Bill Bryson LONG AND COVERS MANY ASPECTS OF SCIENCE, NOT JUST PHYSICS. WORTH AT LEAST DIPPING INTO CERTAIN CHAPTERS

MAGAZINES

- Physics World
- New Scientist
- Quanta
- Scientific American

PODCASTS

- Inside Science
- The Life Scientific
- Infinite Monkey Cage
- Hubbletalk
- Ask a Space Man
- Physics World
- Titanium Physicist
- Star Talk
- Oxford Department of Physics (vodcast)

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Thanks everyone,

Mr Pearce

(A-Level Physics Teacher)

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