Suggested Reading List for Potential Experimental Psychology and Psychology, Philosophy & Linguistics Students

It is best to read one or two books and articles carefully, and spend time thinking about their arguments, rather than reading more, but unreflectively.

Reading for Psychology

- Goldacre, B. (2009). Bad Science

Introductory Psychology Textbooks:


THE PSYCHOLOGIST: A monthly publication of The British Psychological Society has back issues freely available on its archive at http://www.thepsychologist.org.uk. Also see the BPS Research Digest at http://bps-research-digest.blogspot.co.uk/.

Useful Journals to Read

NATURE, SCIENCE, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN and the NEW SCIENTIST are journals in which a number of articles on psychology topics appear. Back copies of the Scientific America contain excellent articles on a wide range of scientific topics and there are several collected volumes of published articles.

Reading for Philosophy

- Nagel, T. (2004). What does it all mean?
- Descartes, R. (Many translations) Discourse on the method

Revised (June 2013)
Reading for Linguistics

Advanced reading: not particularly academic, but to help you learn what linguistics is and whether you are interested in studying it has a part of a degree.

- Parkvall, M. (2008). Limits of Language: Almost everything you didn’t know about language and languages

An Introductory textbook at the level you would study in the first year Introduction to Linguistics course:


Note that earlier editions of many of these books can be found at a lower cost, but may be somewhat out of date.

The Language Log (http://languagelog.ldc.upenn.edu/nll/) is a blog written by world renowned academic linguists but with a general readership in mind, and an emphasis on humour, debunking language myths and erroneous beliefs, topical issues relating to language, etc.

You may also like to have a look at the website of the Linguistics Olympiad: http://www.uklo.org.

Introductory Reading for Statistics

STATISTICS BACKGROUND

A grasp of elementary algebra, particularly elementary probability theory (combinations and permutations), what is meant by logarithms, powers, and some knowledge of elementary coordinate geometry (particularly the equation of curves) and elementary statistics, is useful. If you have little or no statistical background, the following books are recommended: