

UPGRADE STUDY ADVICE

Reading: thoughts by Brookes students

All these suggestions came up in discussions at Brookes.

Have you any ideas or suggestions to add? Post them

- Be ruthless with your reading list. Flick through several books/ articles, and decide they are not for you, before you decide to spend time on one.
Only read what you can use.
- Pick something short to start with.
- Move around the book before you start.
Read and use the contents, index, chapter headings and subheadings, summaries of chapters, opening paragraphs of chapters or sections.
- Be sceptical
Any piece of reading can be questioned, subverted a bit, rejected, challenged.
Any question you ask will ginger you up intellectually, and make you feel better about reading.
- Keep asking questions as you read.
Don't be deferential. Note questions as you read, as well as detail and information.
- Why are you reading?
Try and remember why you are reading, and what you want to get out of it.
If you can't identify a purpose, there probably isn't one.
- If you can't concentrate on the text in front of you, give up.
Find something else on the subject.
- Stand up for the difficult bits – it improves concentration.
- Don't try reading when you're too tired.
- Try going really fast and see if you lose anything.