

Tutorial 7

Super-Curricular Activities



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Regional School Improvement Consortia



Tutorial 7: Super-Curricular Activities

Super-curricular activities/resources are those designed to help students expand their subject knowledge. They go beyond what is taught in the classroom and completing these not only helps students write personal statements and prepare for interviews, they also help students decide whether courses and careers may be right for them. Completing super-curricular activities, is a great way to demonstrate to universities and employers that you have a passion for a particular subject/career and are an independent, resourceful, autonomous learner.

This tutorial aims to showcase the different types of super-curricular activities that exist, where to look for them and how to make the most out of these activities.

Task 1: Getting Started

In this first task, we would like you to explore the different options that exist for super-curricular activities and then make a list of the different types of activities that you could undertake in the space below. To help you with this list, watch the followings videos made by the University College Oxford and Queens' College, University of Cambridge.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIytV9UakDo>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w199oVRZh90&feature=emb_logo

Task 2: Delving A Little Deeper

After completing Task 1, you should now have a better understanding of the meaning of the term super-curricular and the great variety of super-curricular activities available. In this next activity, we want you to do some research to find three different super-curricular activities you could undertake for each of your subject options at sixth form or college. Record details of these in the table on page 4.

To help you with this, here are some excellent resources to get you started.

Staircase 12 (University College, Oxford)

An online hub of resources and information for students thinking about applying to top universities. These resources are great for stretching yourself beyond the school syllabus. The reading bank contains recommended reading material for a range of subjects.

<https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/applying-to-univ/staircase12/>

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

Future Learn

Future Learn hosts an array of free MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) produced by universities. These provide an excellent opportunity for students to explore subjects and have a taste of university learning. MOOCs can help students decide on possible courses/careers and can be great for stimulating ideas when writing personal statements or preparing for interviews.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/>

HE Plus (University of Cambridge)

Thinking about applying to University and looking for ways to explore your subject beyond the curriculum? Then this website is for you. Each topic is produced by Cambridge postgraduate students and academics at the cutting edge of research in their field. The topics provide guided activities, questions to think about and suggestions for further reading. The main subject pages also give you a quick guide to what it would be like to study the subject at university level and suggest some further resources to check out.

<https://www.myheplus.com/>

Explore

Explore is an innovative digital outreach portal from the University of Oxford. It aims to engage students with debates and ideas that go beyond what is covered in the classroom. The website tackles complex ideas across a wide range of subjects and draws on the latest research undertaken at Oxford.

<https://explore.org>

TED Talks

TED talks are a great source of inspiring talks from leading experts.

<https://www.ted.com/talks>

HWB Post 16 platform

These Welsh Government platforms contain links to a range of excellent super-curricular resources.

<http://hwb.gov.wales/distance-learning/resources/post-16/#overview>

<https://hwb.gov.wales/distance-learning/resources/seren#advice-and-guidance>

The Brilliant Club

Lots of excellent resources to challenge students and to encourage them to explore their subjects.

<https://thebrilliantclub.org/the-brilliant-club-for-pupils/info-for-pupils/>

UniTasterDays

A great website to search for taster days, summer schools and other super-curricular activities.

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/>

Sixth Form/College Subject	Description of Super-curricular Activity 1	Description of Super-curricular Activity 2	Description of Super-curricular Activity 3

Task 3: Taking The Plunge

Now that you have identified some super-curricular activities, we now want you to take the plunge and complete one of these. This might be listening to a podcast, reading a book, watching an online lecture etc. After completing this, we would like you to keep a record of it in the following super-curricular log. It's important that whenever you complete a super-curricular activity, that you keep a record of it and reflect on what you have learnt during this activity. You should also think about what further activities, you could undertake to develop your knowledge further. For example, you might want to reflect on how you could explore alternative or opposing concepts.

<u>Super-Curricular Activity</u>
<u>What have you learnt from this activity?</u>
<u>What can you do to explore this subject or topic further?</u>

Task 4: Sharing Your Experiences

Now that you have completed your super-curricular activity, to get even more from it, we want you to share what you've learnt with others. Your task is to give a 5-minute presentation to your form group about the activity.

In your presentation, describe what the activity involved, what you learnt from it, how this links to your interests, future career plans etc. Also discuss how you plan to explore this subject further in the future. This activity will also give you a chance to learn about the super-curricular activities other students have undertaken. Record details of any that interest you in the space below.