Biochemistry Reading List

One of the important things to do before coming to University is to try and widen your horizons by reading general books and periodicals. Scientific periodicals that are valuable to study include *New Scientist* for short articles and *Scientific American*. Both of these are generally available, e.g. in your local public library as hard copies or online, and will enable you to understand how different scientific disciplines approach solving important questions.

You are also receiving a booklet of maths problems for the Maths course in the first year. This booklet is mainly for students who have not taken A-level Maths. For students with an A grade in A-level Maths, there is a *General Maths* course which can be taken, but is not compulsory. For those of you who are not taking A-level Maths and for those of you who might be rusty after a year away from full-time study, please complete the examples in the booklet before arriving in October.

Please extend your knowledge of basic organic chemistry, as this is examined in the first year and can give rise to problems if basic understanding is not maintained. A recommended text is “*Guidebook to Mechanism in Organic Chemistry*” by Sykes (published by Pearson). You are likely to need to buy this text.

Further guidance on excellent texts for general reading of basic biochemistry and cell biology are provided on the Department of Biochemistry’s website (http://www.bioch.ox.ac.uk/aspsite/index.asp?pageid=422). These are useful texts to look through to aid the transition from school to University and give you some idea of what to expect. It is a good idea to find which texts best suit your needs for essay writing before purchasing them. Another useful book with medical facts included is “*Textbook of Biochemistry with Clinical Correlations*” by Devlin (published by Wiley-Liss).

A comprehensive list of appropriate books can be found on the Web @ http://bookshop.blackwell.co.uk

**Do not buy them all!**

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