

Governance A Very Short Introduction Very Short Introductions

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Introduction Biography: A Very Short Introduction Wittgenstein: A Very Short Introduction Choice Theory The English Language Social Psychology Literary Theory: A
Very Short Introduction The Industrial Revolution John Heskett Philip Ball David Seed Matthew Bevis Alfred Ayer Oxford University Press Gary Thomas Frank Close
Andrew Robinson Llewelyn Morgan Oxford University Press Luciano Floridi Hermione Lee A. C. Grayling Michael Allingham Simon Horobin Richard J. Crisp
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this book will transform the way you think about design by showing how integral it is to our daily lives from the spoon we use to eat our breakfast cereal to the
medical equipment used to save lives john heskett goes beyond style and taste to look at how different cultures and individuals personalise objects

sample sections from the very short introductions series are presented in this encapsulation of human knowledge

science fiction has proved notoriously difficult to define it has been explained as a combination of romance science and prophecy as a genre based on an
imagined alternative to the reader s environment and as a form of fantastic fiction and historical literature it has also been argued that science fiction narratives are
the most engaged socially relevant and responsive to the modern technological environment this very short introduction doesn t offer a history of science fiction
but instead ties examples of science fiction to different historical moments in order to demonstrate how science fiction has evolved over time david seed looks not
only at literature but also at drama and poetry as well as film examining recurrent themes in science fiction he looks at voyages into space the concept of the alien

and alternative social identities the role of technology in science fiction and its relation to time in the past present and future about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

to consider comedy in its many incarnations is to raise diverse but related questions what for instance is humour and how may it be used or abused when do we laugh and why what is it that writers and speakers enjoy and risk when they tell a joke indulge in bathos talk nonsense or encourage irony this very short introduction explores comedy both as a literary genre and as a range of non literary phenomena experiences and events matthew bevis studies the classics of comic drama prose fiction and poetry alongside forms of pantomime comic opera silent cinema popular music broadway shows music hall stand up and circus acts rom coms sketch shows sit coms caricatures and cartoons taking in scenes from aristophanes to the office from the roman saturnalia to groundhog day bevis also considers comic theory from aristotle to freud and beyond tracing how comic achievements have resisted as well as confirmed theory across the ages this book takes comedy seriously without taking it solemnly and offers an engaging study of the comic spirit which lies at the heart of our shared social and cultural life about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

hume is one of the greatest of all british philosophers and even in his own lifetime was celebrated as one of the pivotal figures of the enlightenment a central theme of his philosophy is the conviction that questions traditionally thought of as completely independent of the scientific realm questions about the mind about morality and about god for example are actually best explained using the experimental methods characteristic of the natural sciences hume s naturalist approach to a wide variety of philosophical topics resulted in highly original theories about perception self identity causation morality politics and religion all of which are discussed in this stimulating introduction by a j aymer himself one of the twentieth century s most important philosophers aymer also gives an account of hume s fascinating life and character and includes generous quotations from hume s lucid and often witty writings about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

in this free very short introductions blog book we ve gathered 30 of our vsi authors very best blog posts on topics including history politics science and more we hope you enjoy this glimpse into the passion insight and great writing that characterizes these authors and the very short introductions series

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from the schools of ancient times to the present day gary thomas explores how and why education has evolved has it has examining education worldwide he explains the way schools work noting how curricula are remarkably consistent around the world delving into some of the big questions thomas explores the history of education in this very short introduction considering various styles such as progressive versus formal he also explores the ideas of some of the big theorists including piaget and vygotsky looking at different forms of education and styles of teaching he considers the ways in which education is being improved by matching styles of learning to teaching and ensuring that schools are more inclusive and meaningful for a broader range of students he finishes by considering the ways in which education may develop over the coming century about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

what is nothing what remains when you take all the matter away can empty space a void exist this very short introduction explores the science and the history of the elusive void from aristotle who insisted that the vacuum was impossible via the theories of newton and einstein to our very latest discoveries and why they can tell us extraordinary things about the cosmos frank close tells the story of how scientists have explored the elusive void and the rich discoveries that they have made there he takes the reader on a lively and accessible history through ancient ideas and cultural superstitions to the frontiers of current research he describes how scientists discovered that the vacuum is filled with fields how newton mach and einstein grappled with the nature of space and time and how the mysterious aether that was long ago supposed to permeate the void may now be making a comeback with the latest research into the higgs field we now know that the vacuum is far from being empty it seethes with virtual particles and antiparticles that erupt spontaneously into being and it also may contain hidden dimensions that we were previously unaware of these new discoveries may provide answers to some of cosmology s most fundamental questions what lies outside the universe and if there was once nothing then how did the universe begin about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

without writing there would be no records no history no books and no emails writing is an integral and essential part of our lives but when did it start why do we all write differently and how did writing develop into what we use today all of these questions are answered in this very short introduction starting with the origins of writing five thousand years ago with cuneiform and egyptian hieroglyphs andrew robinson explains how these early forms of writing developed into hundreds of scripts including the roman alphabet and the chinese characters he reveals how the modern writing symbols and abbreviations we take for granted today including airport signage and text messaging resemble ancient ones much more closely than we might think about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

vivam is the very last word of ovid's masterpiece the metamorphoses i shall live if we're still reading it two millennia after ovid's death this is by definition a remarkably accurate prophecy ovid was not the only ancient author with aspirations to be read for eternity but no poet of the greco-roman world has had a deeper or more lasting impact on subsequent literature and art than he can claim in the present day no greek or roman poet is as accessible to artists writers or the general reader ovid's voice remains a compellingly contemporary one as modern as it seemed to his contemporaries in augustan rome but ovid was also a man of his time his own story fatally entwined with that of the first emperor augustus and the poetry he wrote channels in its own way the cultural and political upheavals of the contemporary city its public life sexual mores religion and urban landscape while also exploiting the superbly rich store of poetic convention that greek literature and his roman predecessors had bequeathed to him this very short introduction explains ovid's background social and literary and introduces his poetry on love metamorphosis roman festivals and his own exile a restlessly innovative oeuvre driven by the irrepressible ingenium or wit for which he was famous llewelyn morgan also explores ovid's immense influence on later literature and art spanning from shakespeare to bernini throughout ovid's poetry is revealed as enduringly scintillating his personal story compelling and the issues his life and poetry raise of continuing relevance and interest about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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we live an information-soaked existence information pours into our lives through television radio books and of course the internet some say we suffer from infoglut but what is information the concept of information is a profound one rooted in mathematics central to whole branches of science yet with implications on every aspect of our everyday lives dna provides the information to create us we learn through the information fed to us we relate to each other through information transfer gossip lectures reading information is not only a mathematically powerful concept but its critical role in society raises wider ethical issues who owns information who controls its dissemination who has access to information luciano floridi a philosopher of information cuts across many subjects from a brief look at the mathematical roots of information its definition and measurement in bits to its role in genetics we are information and its social meaning and value he ends by considering the ethics of information including issues of ownership privacy and accessibility copyright and open source for those unfamiliar with its precise meaning and wide applicability as a philosophical concept information may seem a bland or mundane topic those who have studied some science or philosophy or sociology will already be aware of its centrality and richness but for all readers whether from the humanities or sciences floridi gives a fascinating and inspirational introduction to this most fundamental of ideas about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

biographies are one of the most popular and best selling of the literary genres why do people like them what does a biography do and how does it work this very short introduction examines different types of biographies why certain people and historical events arouse so much interest and how they are compared with history and fiction

ludwig wittgenstein 1889 1951 was an extraordinarily original philosopher whose influence on twentieth century thinking goes well beyond philosophy itself in this book which aims to make wittgenstein's thought accessible to the general non specialist reader a c grayling explains the nature and impact of wittgenstein's views he describes both his early and later philosophy the differences and connections between them and gives a fresh assessment of wittgenstein's continuing influence on contemporary thought about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

we make choices all the time about trivial matters about how to spend our money about how to spend our time about what to do with our lives and we are also constantly judging the decisions other people make as rational or irrational but what kind of criteria are we applying when we say that a choice is rational what guides our own choices especially in cases where we don't have complete information about the outcomes what strategies should be applied in making decisions which affect a lot of people as in the case of government policy this book explores what it means to be rational in all these contexts it introduces ideas from economics philosophy and other areas showing how the theory applies to decisions in everyday life and to particular situations such as gambling and the allocation of resources about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

this book provides a concise and accessible history of english engages with key debates concerning issues of correctness standards and dialects investigates the uses of english worldwide reflects on the future of the english language publisher description

social psychology is the quest to understand how our behaviour is influenced by those around us richard crisp introduces the reader to the history of social psychology covering the thinkers discussions and the debates which have shaped its first 120 years and looks forward to the cutting edge ideas in the discipline

literary theory a very short introduction offers insights into theories about the nature of language and meaning human identity and the power of language fully updated for 2011 and including a new chapter on ethics and aesthetics it steers a clear and lucid path through an often impenetrable subject

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Introduction

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