Editor-in-Chief: Oliver Cooney

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more than news, *more* than school.

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More. News:

The Leaves Are Turning, So Are the Pages

ST THOMAS MORE'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

COVER-ILLUSTRATOR: MILO PEWTER

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Complex language definitions can be found in a coloured box at the bottom of the page if applicable!

A Message From the Editor;
Oliver Cooney

Dear reader,

Almost as though the summer had never happened, I sit here once again writing to you in this our first issue of the new academic year. For many this year will be the end of a journey and for some, the beginning of a new, but for *More.* News it's a renewal of our commitment to you, our readers, and to our school, a commitment to delivering the stories that matter, the stories that shape our lives as young people, and bringing forward the conversations that we are so often excluded from.

I would like to first and foremost take this opportunity to reaffirm our welcome to *More.'s* newest writers who join us in a range of years from 9-13, and I would like to welcome you all to engage with the work that they have so passionately curated for you, our readers.

You may have seen posters appearing around the school advertising the newspaper, particularly advertising the opportunities we have available not just as writers but as videographers, photographers, illustrators, podcasters and so much more, these opportunities will be available to anyone interested and willing to commit year-round. If you would like to get involved please reach out to Mrs Lewis.

In the year ahead *More.* News will continue to grow, evolve and diversify it is up to you whether you would like to embark on this journey with us as a reader or as an active contributor.

I once again thank you all for your continued support and engagement with us as we navigate the year ahead!

Wishing you a very pleasant read!



Oliver Cooney
Editor-in-Chief

more, *Environment*

Microplastics are found everywhere on Earth- from the Thames in London, all the way to the sea ice in Antarctica. These particles are capable of entering food chains, and potentially changing the way sea life survives forever. Are Animals capable of adapting to their new plastic-filled world, or are humans pushing the capabilities of evolution beyond its limits?

A sea of plastic: Is evolution enough to save our marine life?

Poppy Chambers
Environment & Fashion



The majority of marine microplastics come from the breakdown of macroplastic waste, such as plastic bottles and bags, as well as polyester fibres released when washing clothes. Ocean currents transport these particles thousands of miles, where they usually accumulate on our beaches and coastlines, the sea floor, and even in ocean Gyres. The plastic is so widespread, nothing can avoid its path.

For marine animals, eating microplastics is a bit like filling your stomach with rubbish instead of food. The particles irritate and block the digestives system, leaving animals unable to eat, grow and reproduce. To add to that, the plastics can carry highly toxic chemicals and pollutants into animals' bodies, killing cells, and causing inflammation and stress. Over time, the immune system depletes, and the animals' behaviour can even change significantly. Plastics pass along the food chain, acting like a poison that can never be escaped.

Some marine life is fighting back against human pollution. The Atlantic killifish is a small fish found along the US coast, and is already evolving at an unprecedented rate. A 2016 study found that killifish living in four heavily polluted estuaries had independently evolved to Industrial chemicals that would normally be lethal. Changes in the fish's genetics had altered their response to the toxins, allowing them to survive. However, gains in chemical resistance meant the fish had become vulnerable in other factors, such as a reduced ability to respond to temperature stress.



A turtle, mistaking a plastic bag for food

Whilst the study reveals the remarkable ability of marine life to adapt, its important to mention the adaptations were for the chemicals often found on the microplastics, not the microplastics themselves. The future of evolution in response to plastics is uncertain.

By 2050, the progression of biological resilience may help some species to survive, but it is unlikely to solve the crisis alone. Entire Evolution takes generations, and plastic pollution is growing faster than they can handle. Human intervention remains essential, the only possible solution is to reverse the damage we have caused ourselves. Using reusable items like coffee cups and straws may seem insignificant, but reducing our reliance of single use plastics is the key to mitigate waste. After all, it can take 450 years for a single plastic bottle to decompose at sea.



Plastic, accumulated at the coast



The atlantic killer fish

KEY TERMS:

- Ocean gyres- a large system of rotating surface currents driven by global wind patterns, Earth's rotation, and landmass boundaries

more, Revision

In fear of November mocks? Here is how to prepare for them:



George Beacham
Revision

If you are reading this, then it's highly likely you are in this frenzy of panic due to these rapidly approaching exams. These mocks can put students under heaps of pressure, but finding the right revision techniques and approaching them correctly can make your preparation very, very manageable. This is why I would certainly advise you to start as soon as you can. You may ask, "What ways can I even revise?" "Do I just read over notes?" This article can help with finding your revision methods and how you can prepare for these November mocks.

Blurting:

This technique is essential (optional but super helpful). Blurting is a form of active recall that can easily be done with a pen and paper, or other things like whiteboards and even an iPad – If you invest in it that is – The reason this method is super effective is due to how it tests your knowledge regarding a certain unit that you are learning. Additionally, it identifies your areas of weakness which you'll need to spend time and focus on improving on to acquire the best grades you can.



Gizmo - Active Recall:

Much like blurting, using gizmo to help with revision is such an effective, efficient choice. Why? its similar level in effectiveness to blurting (Helps improve long term memory of content, identifying areas of weakness). As well as that, it can be super accessible, being a free app with a good programme for normal users (infinite number of cards and pretty much all features are available without the need to pay). However, with gizmo stick to individual revision as it is much better for an app like this, just doing a "gizmo live" with your friends won't be as effective due to the element of "betting" XP on others.

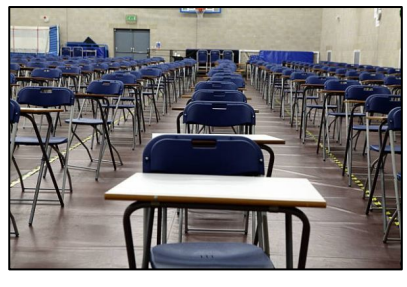
Past Papers

An undisputed top method to familiarise yourself with the types of questions and essays you may need to do in these mocks. It is also very helpful to identify areas of weakness like other methods, not just that however, there can only be so many types of questions that will appear on the exam! This means by mocks and the actual exams, you can be familiarised with practically all types of questions that could possibly appear.

Routine

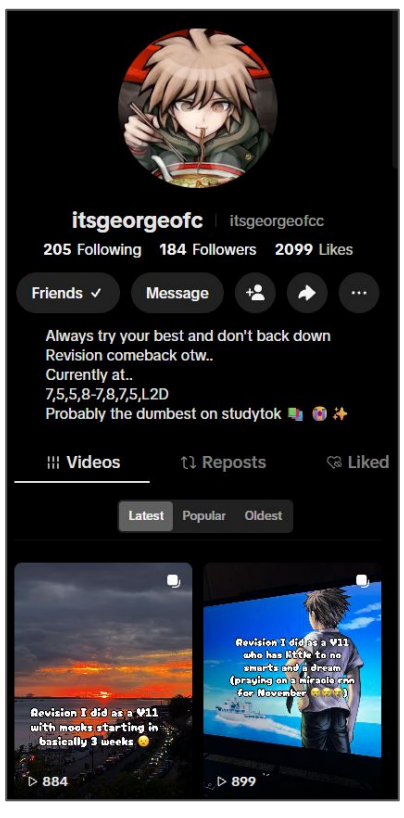
With the days getting shorter, and shorter, it's important you take short frequent breaks throughout your revision. Take it from myself, if you overload yourself with too much information at once you will indeed burnout (especially when studying essay-based subjects through prolonged periods of time).

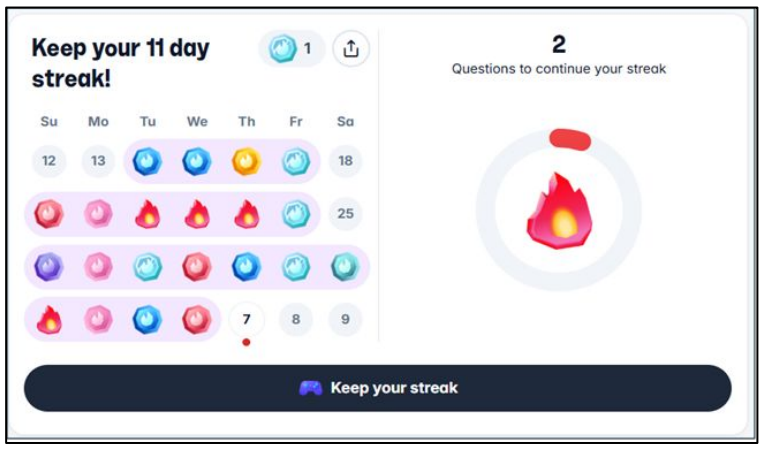
Along with frequent breaks, if you feel the need to, start off slowly. This is important because, to incorporate revision into your routine, you need to construct this layer of consistency when it comes to your revision so it will eventually be integrated into your routine.

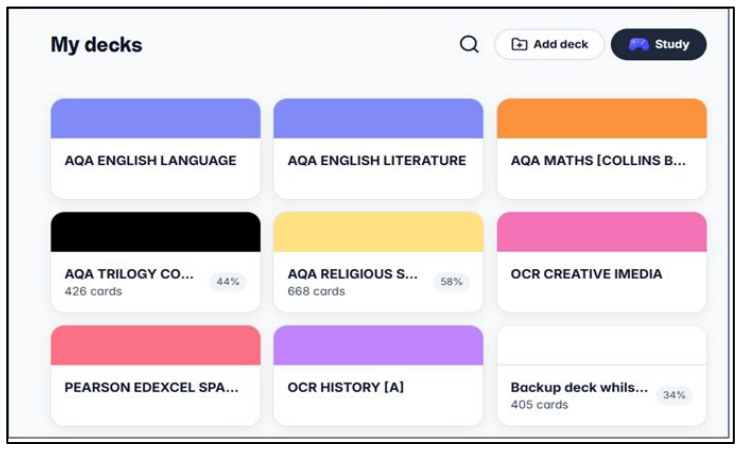


Hopefully with this advice, using at least one of these tips will make the mocks a little easier! On an important note, make sure you're still living your own life during these exams, as well as that if you don't do so great then please just remember these mocks are mainly just to check where your progress is! (Do try in them though). With that, good luck with the exams and keep working hard.











RE REDEMPTION P1 T4 QUOTE BANK !!

"Salvation is nearer now than when we first believed." - Epistle to the Romans 13:11
-It shows salvation is in the future and approaching competition
"You are being guarded... for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." - First Epistle of Peter 1:5
-shows salvation will be revealed at the end of time
"It is finished." - Gospel of John 19:30
-shows salvation has been completed
"We have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins." - Epistle to the Ephesians 1:7
-Shows salvation is in the present, and how redemption is currently a reality
"The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life."
- From Second Vatican Council, shows eucharist is the focal point in a Catholic's life, everything comes from it and it is the MOST IMPORTANT sacrament
"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" 1 Corinthians 1517 (NRSV)
-Shows that Jesus' resurrection is of central importance in catholic faith
"Conscience is the most secret core and sanctuary of a man" Gaudium et Spes 16
-Shows the catholic church believes the conscience is the voice of God prompting people to show love towards others and obey God's laws.
"This is my blood... poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Gospel of Matthew 26:28
-Shows Jesus' death brings forgiveness = redemption
"Christ has indeed been raised from the dead." First Epistle to the Corinthians 15:20
-This quote is the foundation of Christian hope in salvation
"Early on the first day of the week..." John 20:1
-Links closely to "On the first day" In Genesis, showing redemption means new and better creation (more perfect)
"This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:11
-Shows redemption is complete but salvation will be fully completed at the end of time, judgement day
EXTRA QUOTES: (write them down here)

10 Years On: Was Brexit Worth it?



Sean Chikamata
British Politics

On 23 June 2016, 51.89% of UK voters chose to leave the European Union. A decade later, the aftershocks remain evident economically, legislatively and politically. Brexit remains one of the most defining events in modern British politics. More recently, Prime Minister Andy Burnham declared that Brexit had done "more harm than good", reigniting the debate. So, was leaving the EU the right decision?

The portmanteau "Brexit" was coined by Peter Wilding in 2012 but gained mainstream attention in 2013 when then-Prime Minister David Cameron promised a referendum on EU membership if the Conservatives won the next general election. Notable campaigning politicians including Nigel Farage and Boris Johnson pushed what Brexit would provide for the British people, such as: sovereignty, border control and economic independence. Vote Leave's controversial campaign bus claimed that £350 million a week sent to the EU could instead fund the NHS, alongside its slogan: "Let's take back control."

Economically, Brexit has brought significant challenges. The Office for Budget Responsibility estimated that leaving the EU will reduce long-term UK productivity by 4% compared with remaining a member. This was proven correct and further by the UK GDP dropping by 6-8% by 2025. Meanwhile, UK goods exports to the EU were 14% below their 2019 level in real terms by 2025. However, services exports (which includes gaming, finance, technology and tourism) to the EU increased by 28% over the same period, demonstrating that the economic picture is not entirely negative. Despite this, additional trade barriers have increased costs for businesses, raising questions about whether Brexit has delivered the economic opportunities promised by its supporters.

Legislatively, Brexit provided the UK freedom over domestic policy making. The UK was provided freedom from EU regulations and introduced a points-based immigration system through the Immigration Act, replacing free movement between the UK and EU. Supporters view these changes as important steps towards national sovereignty. Critics, however, question whether greater independence has justified the economic costs and whether immigration outcomes have matched campaign promises.

Politically, Brexit has reshaped Britain's political landscape. Successive governments faced divisions over how to implement withdrawal from the EU, contributing to instability and public frustration. Meanwhile, parties such as Reform UK, Reform particularly headed by one of Brexit's primary campaigners in Nigel Farage, have continued to campaign on immigration and national sovereignty. In a YouGov poll conducted on 11–12 October 2026, Reform received 21% of voting intention, showing its continued relevance. Brexit has also exposed divisions between Leave and Remain voters, although political loyalties today extend beyond the referendum regarding age and education most notably.

Brexit has delivered greater legislative independence, but its economic consequences and political divisions remain significant. Traditional voting alignments have shifted and there tends to be a sentiment of distrust towards the government, regardless of party due to opposing stances on Brexit and Brexit-oriented policies. Perhaps the true extent of Brexit will only become clear to future generations who must live with its consequences.



Brexit Campaign Bus, The Guardian



more, Film

Are Blockbuster Movies Saving the Film Industry?



Isabelle Morgan
Film

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, movie theatres have been slowly dying due to the rise in streaming services and rising ticket prices. This has made it harder for cinemas to attract a regular set of viewers. However, blockbuster films have managed to invite film and non-film lovers to the big screen.

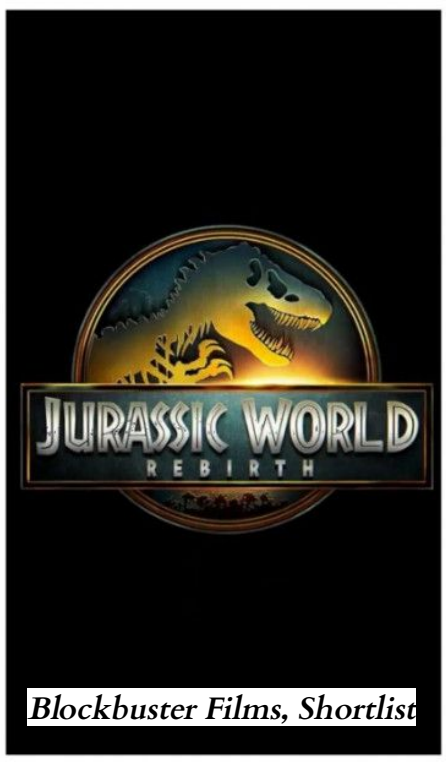
Big budget movies provide what the audience wants, famous actors and stunning visual effects. Superhero films such as Marvel attract an audience months before the film is released, along side sci-fi and fantasy. Using exhilarating special effects is not an experience an individual can enjoy from the comfort at their own sofa. The large screens with blaring sounds and a massive 'wow factor' brings people to cinemas to make the movie more of an event.

Blockbusters are more successful than an independent film due to their strategic marketing ideas. When going to a cinema, not only does the viewer pay for a ticket, but they also pay for the excessively overpriced popcorn and drinks, also helping the movie theatre itself. Large companies such as Marvel place their products in cinemas, such as customised popcorn buckets, which with the help of social media draws a whole new audience of consumerists to purchase said popcorn bucket.

However, the popularity of blockbusters is still challenged by the popularity of streaming platforms. People can watch hundreds and thousands of films as many times they want and when they want to. No travel, low cost, and a quick turn around for the
films to be put on the platform after its initial release. This therefore means that cinemas cannot depends entirely on audiences returning simply because a new blockbuster has been released.

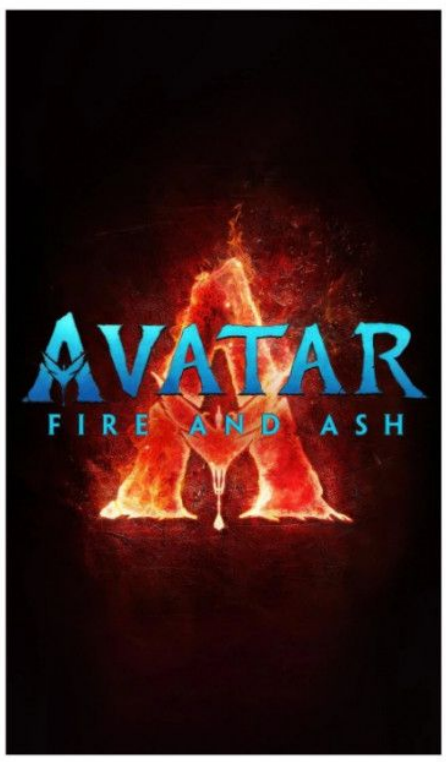
Blockbusters may be important because they encourage people to leave their homes and share an experience with others. Going to the cinema and watching a highly anticipated film with a huge audience can create excitement which is hard to replicate at home alone. The overall experience can make the whole film way better because the individual's memory of that event was a fulfilling experience. Several types of cinemas such as IMAX or 4DX can also convince a person to watch a movie in the cinema rather than in the comfort of their own home.

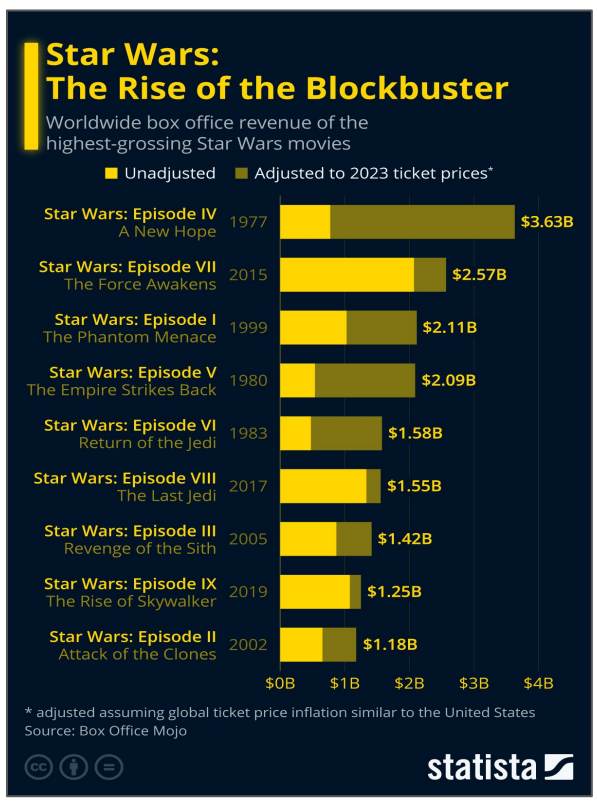
Blockbuster films are clearly an important source of income for cinemas, and evidently major releases such as The Odyssey and Spider-Man: Brand new day can bring a mass amount of people through the doors. However, this can not solve the problem of rise of interest in streaming services



Blockbuster Films, Shortlist







Fashion in the Corridors: Comfort Made Chic

Poppy Chambers
Environment & Fashion



Blending comfort with individuality, Miss Osbourne proves that the best style doesn't need to be complicated to stand out. Today, she wears H&M trousers, a top bought from Vinted, and a green snakeskin pattern watch. Advocating sustainability, her well loved Italian ballet flats have remained a staple in her wardrobe for years.

For her fashion 'do's', Miss Osbourne's number one rule is simple: comfort is key. She admits that, pre-COVID, she was more partial to a suit and heels, but now she's firmly in her cosy knitwear era. As for her fashion 'don'ts', she isn't a fan of rigid, structured pieces on herself. Miss Osbourne prefers loose flowing silhouettes that feel softer, and of course, comfier. Crocs, however, are definitely a no-go.

If she were to swap wardrobes with any teachers at the school, Mr Griffin, Miss O'Connell and Miss Rogers were at the top of her list. She mentioned her and Mr Griffin's similar taste in shoes, specifically his love for her leopard print Clarks Wallabees. Miss Osbourne also has her eye on Mrs Rogers' oversized jackets.

Miss Osbourne has loved Alexa Chung's effortless, 60's inspired style since she was a teenager, making her a long standing fashion inspiration. If money were no object, she would fill her wardrobe with Chloé and Massimo Dutti, admiring their timeless and elegant pieces.

Her go to accessory is a pearl-beaded designer dupe bag, which accompanies her to every fancy occasion. Miss Osbourne proves you don't need a fully designer wardrobe to look effortlessly chic.





From Runway to Reality: How Fashion Takes Over The Street

Luc Maskwell
Runway Fashion



Fashion doesn't stay on the runway, it escapes

One moment, it's under the spotlight, then next, its everywhere. Bold colours, dramatic shapes, oversized silhouettes and fearless ideas move from the catwalk to the streets, turning runway fantasy into everyday reality. The runway doesn't just show us what to wear- it decides what the world will be wearing next.

Colours: the language of fashion

Before a word is spoken, Colour has already made its statement. On the runway, designers transform the catwalk into a living canvas, using fearless reds, electric blues, glowing yellows and shimmering metallics to create emotion and tell stories. A single shade can turn an outfit into a symbol of confidence,

Makeup: Finally... Colours comes back

Makeup is having its moment again, and this time, it refuses to be boring. Across the runway, faces become canvases for electronic eyeshadows, graphic liner, glossy lips and unexpected bursts of colour. The beauty world is leaving behind the idea that makeup has to be subtle, and bringing back the fun of experimenting, playing and creating. As bold looks move from the catwalk to the streets, colour becomes more than a trend, it becomes a reminder to be creative and let yourself shine.

Silhouettes that break the rules

Fashion refuses to stay in shape this season, exaggerated shoulders, oversized proportions, and sculptural designs turn the runway into a rebellion against the ordinary. These silhouettes don't follow the rules- they rewrite them, because fashion was never meant to colour inside the lines ; it was born to tear up the canvas.







The Great Shift: How Global Influence is Changing



Aiden Vinn
Geo-Politics

British Influence

The United Kingdom is currently a prominent figure on the global stage, ranking as the 6th largest economy in the world with a nominal GDP of £3.6 trillion (or $4.26 trillion), 2.3% of which is spent on defence making it the 6th largest defence budget in the world while also meeting NATOS's 2% requirement. The UK is home to London, which sits at the pinnacle of the global stage. It remains a key financial centre, with 11.5% of all global foreign-listed companies on the London stock exchange. Alongside that, it's also a major destination for tech an AI investment according to British world.org.uk

Naturally British influence isn't only economic, as one of two nuclear powers in Europe, and being ranked 8th in the world in terms of military firepower according to the global firepower index, they work as a detergent towards any oncoming threats, for instance Russian aggression, working closely alongside the US and NATO, however strains are apparent between the US and UK regarding differing foreign policy decisions.

Currently, Britain remains a prominent figure in geopolitics due to its advantageous position in Europe geographically, its military might and nuclear deterrent, and its numerous trade deals with foreign powers such as India, the US and the European union.

Resource Race

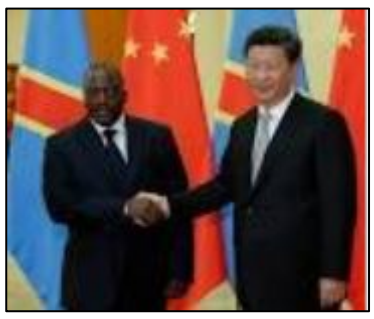
In other news, Africa over the years has been becoming increasingly valuable to western nations and China due to its abundance of untapped natural resources, as the world moves into a new age of renewable energy, countries like the democratic republic of Congo, Zimbabwe and south Africa are coming to the forefront of the world's leading powers interests.

Looking into the democratic republic of Congo, it's the world's major producer of cobalt and according to the cobalt institute, produced roughly 75% of the global mined cobalt supply while also holding up to 50% of all currently known reserves in the world.

However, they don't produce nearly enough refined cobalt, which is where China comes in, they refine around 65-80% of the worlds cobalt supply into battery grade materials.

The west has several concerns regarding Chinese dominance, as China controls a vast majority of the country's critical mineral extraction and midstream processing. This creates a major chokepoint over supply chains, mirroring the chokepoint in the strait of Hormuz that Iran have already largely blocked, if China wanted to, they could block the west from refined cobalt to pressure them into relieving tariffs imposed on Chinese goods.

however, this is only one example, events like this are happening throughout Africa and are likely to continue into the near future.







more, Pop-Culture

October's Haunt the Narrative Moments



Eva Williams
Pop-Culture

It is no doubt that pop culture has a tight loop around us all. Whether that is on the big screen, social media, or the latest music trends. Pop culture enables friends and family to discuss and debate hot topics, the latest trends and everything in between. Now that spooky season is upon us, let's talk about October's latest trends, which haunt this month's narrative.

Thrill Seekers & Movie Goers

Have you planned your Halloween costume? Anne Hathaway sure has after 'ghosting' the big screen upon her final movie premiere of 'Verity.' The Oscar-winning actor has starred in a total of five hit films released this year, all while expecting her third child, so wrapping up her supremely busy year with the psychological thriller Verity is quite on trend.

On the hot topic of thrillers, October's movie theatres are thriving with new and exciting productions, from 'Other Mommy' starring Jessica Chastain, to 'Resident Evil,' a horrifying reinvention of the Resident Evil franchise. However, they are not all sit on the edge of your seat, hands covering your eyes scary. Olivia Coleman steels the spotlight with a quirky fun film 'Wicker.' This tail follows a unique and unconventional relationship with her and a man, played by Alexander Skarsgard, you guessed it, made from wicker. So, whether you live for the thrill, or simply go to the cinema to indulge in popcorn, this month's films provide for all audiences.



Wikipedia

Pop Music Comeback



Royal TV Society



Allure

October is also an exciting month for music lovers, with Troye Sivan realising his latest album 'She's the Best' just in time for Halloween party nightlife. His album explores themes of love and the excitement of partying, blending pop and storytelling, offering plenty for fans to discuss and add to their playlist. So, will Sivan make a feature on your Spotify wrapped this year? Or will it be the unexpected twist of Olivia Rodrigo and Chappell Roans 'Expectations' remix? The announcement was teased on social media, generating excitement among fans. The original track features on Olivia's album 'You seem pretty sad for a girl so in love,' released earlier this year, and makes history, as its Roans first official feature on another artists song. Fans expectations must be high, with the two distinctive pop stars sparking one of Octobers biggest music talking points.

Is It Worth the Binge?

Its not doubt we all love a bingeable TV show, whether you are a marvel lover, a Netflix chick, or want to keep up with the latest trend, this month has it all. From Disney's 'Vision Quest' to Netflix's 'East of Eden', there is a program for all ages and audiences. But what sparks British pop culture is the iconic, annual Channel 4 Great British Bake off- a beautiful escape where nothing can hurt you (apart from the craving of a cheeky custard cream during biscuit week). With hosts Alison Hammond and Noel Fielding, their humorous innuendo never fails to keep audiences focused on more than the fabulous bakes (and mishaps.) However, this year the show has seen a new addition of judge Nigella Lawson, with audiences starting new conversations aside from Paul Hollywoods baby blue eyes. Early reactions to Lawson debut focused on one thing: how much she ate and her style of eating when tasting each dessert. There are a dozen of other things to talk about when it comes to Lawson, but instead, all we got was ridicule about how a woman eats on camera. Isn't it hysterical, a judge being 'judged' simply for eating. Hollywood said in a recent episode that a cookie should be "indulgent" and "naughty." Nigella was quick to point out that "food shouldn't be talked about as naughty," and that we should "take out pleasure where we can in life."

The Final Verdict

This leaves an important message this spooky season, whether that is enjoying popcorn at the cinema, or steeling your younger siblings Halloween sweets, that is it is a pleasure to simply enjoy food- something so scrutinised within pop culture.

Now that we have taken a bite into Octobers thrilling pop culture moments, Im going to finish with a hot take: Not every Disney movie needs a live- action remake.

AI: A Catalyst for the Future



Aiden Vinn
Geo-Politics

Artificial intelligence. it's shaping up to be one of the most consequential technological developments of the 21st century, stated by JP Morgan Chase & Co., and for right reason. Everywhere you look nowadays, artificial intelligence has had an influence, no matter how minor it might've been. Which is why countries are rushing to pool resources into ai and secure trade deals with country's who provide the components to build it.

One country in particular, Taiwan, is the dominant producer of advanced chips. Advanced chips are a key component In the training, efficiency and processing speed of the ai models that we all benefit from in our daily lives. Taiwan produces a staggering 90% of all advanced chips as stated by the international trade admissions, making it a global chokepoint for ai hardware supply and a country that everyone would benefit improving diplomatic relations with.

However, there's concern in the west, specifically the United States, over Taiwan's security considering its neighbour, China, whose longstanding goal is to have Taiwan fall under the rule of the Chinese communist party, specifically their current leader xi Jinping wishes for it to be within his lifetime, although this is seen as independent and not an economical reason.

Information provided by an article from cfr.org.

In other words, China has already shown signs of understanding that it will have to rely on building its own ai industry without the assistance of Taiwan's chipmaking capabilities, already preventing their companies from using overseas foundries, including Taiwan semiconductor manufacturing company (TSMC)

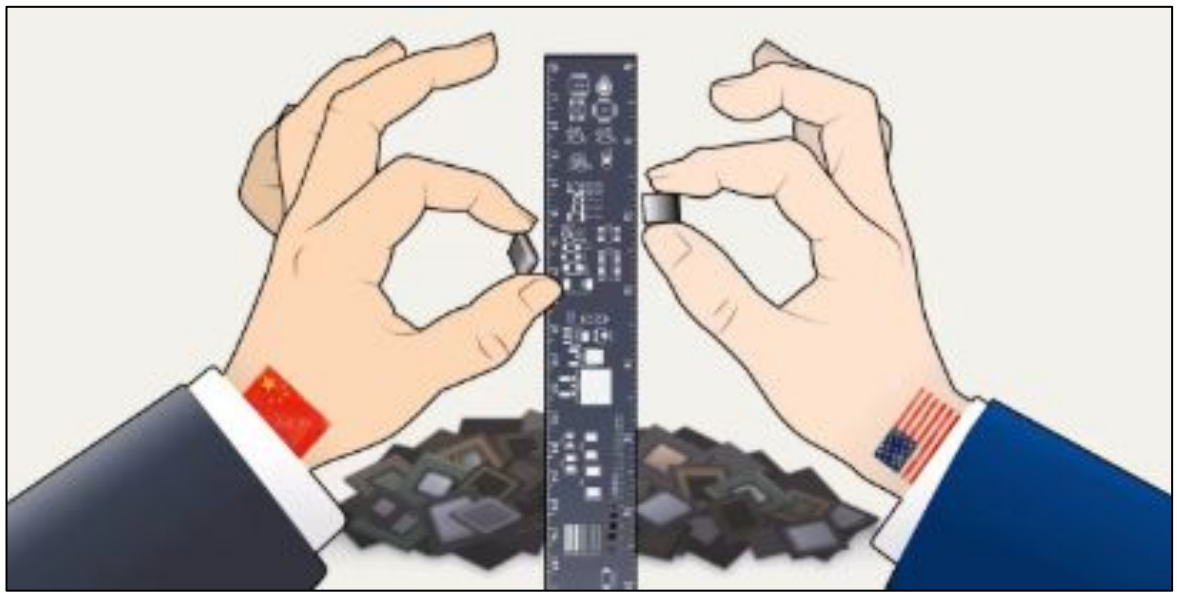
While on the contrary, the us continues to heavily rely on Taiwan, its strategic importance steadily rising as the US attempt to maintain their strategic lead in the race of AI. However, president trump has made statements suggesting that by 2029 he expects the US to account for 50% of the chip manufacturing business. Although this seems unlikely due to labour and water shortages, so even if they invest in reshoring advanced chip manufacturing to the United States any meaningful impact may come too late before the US-China AI competition reaches its decisive stages.

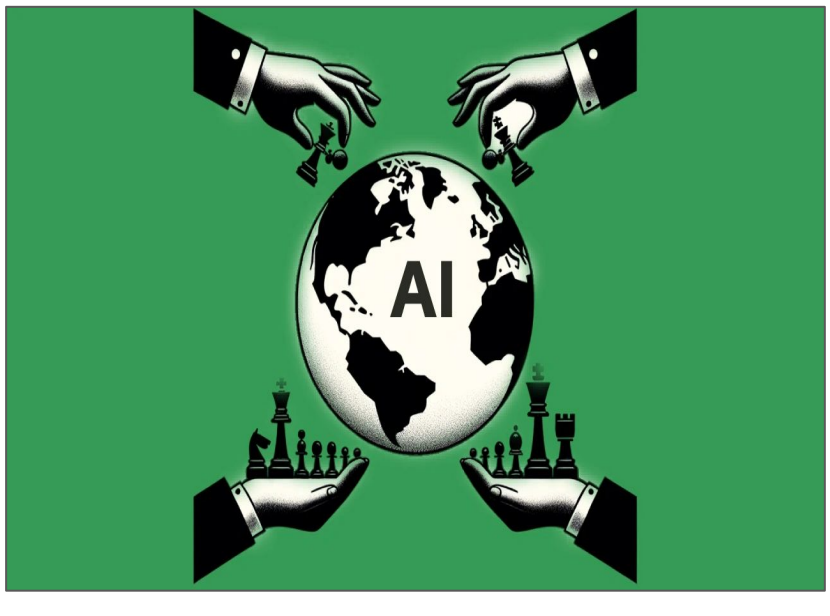
Overall, it seems as though we should be expecting increasing clashes over AI development and Taiwan,

With further trade deals in Africa regarding vital raw minerals for the present and future shift towards renewables. While Britain also continue to play their part in the world as a renowned global power and valuable member of NATO and the UN.



US-China, Institute for New Economic Thinking





How to Spend Your Half Term: Films Worth a Watch



Aaron Spurgeon
Film

Get Out (2017), Age Rated 15

Get out is the directorial debut of the now horror star Jordan peel. Starting his legendary horror run that would later be followed by "US" and "nope", this movie is already a beloved cult classic. Acting as a commentary on the ignorance of society towards racism through the lens of a horror movie.

Following Daniel Kaluuya as the main character Chris Washington, we are taken on a journey as he visits his partners parents. Arriving at their secluded New York estate to find that all is not as it seems. Jordan peel does an exceptional job of building tension as soon as they step through the door. Portraying both the parents (played by Bradley Whitford and Catherine Keener) as wolves in sheep's clothing, using them to convey embedded racist symbolism spread throughout the story. Both actors bringing sinister performances to the big screen. Conveying the poison hidden underneath each word said to Chris with a wicked edge. Jordan embarks to show the viewer how often times underlining racism goes unnoticed and unacknowledged. How pressing questions about race and background are normalised, as those asking them don't take into account how who the questions are aimed at may feel. Jordan really conveys this idea in the tea party scene. Having Chris be one of only two black men in attendance. Portraying the uneasiness of the conversations going on as Chris is asked protruding questions about his "inherited strength" and "personal experience as a black man in America". With those asking the questions seeing no wrong in them, and eventually bearing their teeth as they ask wildly inappropriate questions about his romantic life. In this scene Jordan is challenging the viewer to see the ignorance and often malice behind the questions.

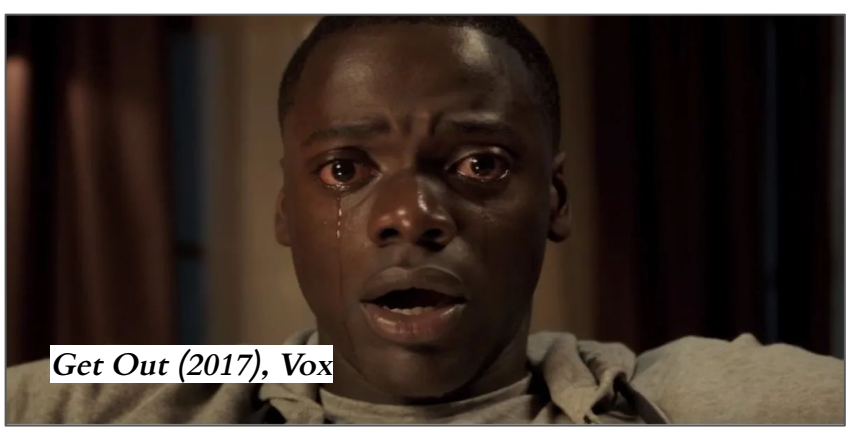
Whilst still highlighting the issues that the movie commentates on, Jordan simultaneously creates a cult classic horror movie. With a deep plot full of sinister twists and disturbing phycological horror, this movie has all a horror fan could ask for. Maintaining an air of mystery right before pulling the rug from under our feet with the flooring reveal of the true threats of the movie. Having the villains wait till the second act to truly bear their teeth. Culminating in one of the most thrilling third acts of this decade.

Resident Evil (2026), Age Rated 15

Resident evil is the latest movie to be adapted from the infamous game and the clear best. It's also the latest directorial outing of Zack Cregger, the horror star responsible for the likes of "barbarian" and "weapons".

This perfect harmony of horror and comedy follows the character Bryan Hodukavich played by Austin Abrams as he navigates racoon city after a mysterious outbreak occurs. A gritty horror boasting horrifying monsters and gruesome body horror with comedy woven in throughout the runtime, the movies looking to be an instant cult classic. An especially prevalent part of this movie is its preferred use of practical effects over digital effects. At the head of these effects was creature designer Shane Mahan, known for his work on "aliens" and "terminator 2" Mahan is a well-known name in the horror industry. Using various effects such as blood bags dropping off buildings and combining practical effects with digital effects to achieve shockingly realistic results. Creating gruesome and bewildering sights for the viewer to grimace at whilst looking through their shaking fingers.

Another highlight of this movie is the premium jump scares it includes; resident evil contains one of the best jump scares in all of horror, with test audiences averaging a heart rate of 134 during it. Despite expecting them, the jump scares somehow always catch you out. Weather it's the pace at which they happen or the pure fear they evoke, each jump scare gets you. All of these attitudes culminate into what looks to be the new gold standard for video game adaptations. Being a well rounded masterclass of both horror and comedy, this is a movie to look out for when its available to stream.



Get Out (2017), Vox



Resident Evil (2026), IMDb

Language: Culture, Control, Chaos



Oliver Cooney
Language

From the beginning of time language has been mankind's most powerful tool, used every single day to complete transactions, debate current issues, participate in democracy, and share stories. Language is a lot more than just words, it's the source and summit of every person's life, without language - a common form of communication - we would be nowhere.

Imagine that one day you are sitting at home, on your phone and suddenly you get a notification. The notification is an announcement from the Government announcing that there will be an immediate ban on the use of the English language in any part of the country. Instead of English all must speak French with penalties introduced for failure to comply, referring to the act of speaking English as a now 'treasonous offence', punishable by death. Within moments, your life has changed entirely, your parents lose their jobs because they are unable to comply with these new regulations, your entire education is nulled and voided because you can't convey your thoughts in, what is to you, a foreign tongue. In the coming weeks and months you and your family lose everything, the highly educated elite will thrive, the debilitation of the working class gives them immense control over society, and you can not do anything to stop it.

Now return to the present moment, fortunately a scenario such as this seems to us nothing but a figment of our imagination, but many years ago, this was a reality. In Ireland, in the 1300s Gaeilge (*'Irish'*) was the predominant language used on the island of Ireland, spoken by almost everyone, daily, the newspapers, the government statutes, taxes, deed polls, and audits were all published in Gaeilge, Ireland's native tongue. It was all any common person knew, it was the language used to buy a loaf of bread, the language sung in nurseries, taught in schools and used in high office. Yet in 1367 in a wave of crippling reforms made by the British Colonial Government in Ireland, Gaeilge was banned, the act of speaking, teaching, singing Irish was outlawed and classed as a Treasonous Offence punishable by death, a seizure of lands, and imprisonment.

These reforms outlined in the Statute of Kilkenny crippled the Irish people and prevented them from engaging with simple dialogue with neighbours without fear of persecution. It prevented them from seeking employment, establishing businesses, and prevented dialogue surrounding colonial rule. Only some could communicate to the required standard in English, reinforcing the pre-existent divides in class and only allowing the few to access opportunities and education.

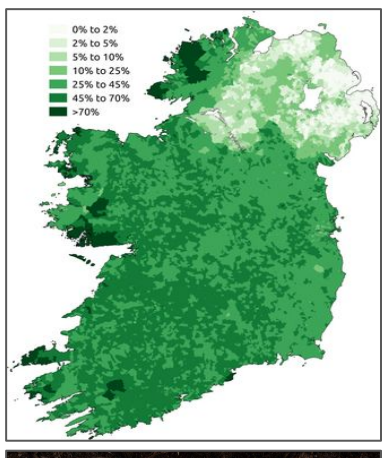
Not only did the Statute of Kilkenny have a direct knock-on-effect on people's economic & educational endeavours but it also posed a real threat to Irish Culture. Schools could not teach texts in Irish, songs that once united people could not be sung, and slowly, but surely, with every new generation, fluency rates declined until in February of 2009, the UNESCO World Language's Atlas rated it as a "Definitely Endangered" language.

This was not just a simple ban of a language, it was an attempt to decimate an entire Culture, to force people to assimilate and integrate into an unwanted culture, speak a foreign tongue, and live a life that was not true to them or their ancestors.

Unfortunately this story is not one that is individual to Ireland, events like these happened across the world's empires. Stories like these are much more than just stories; they are prime examples of language being used to bring an entire population to its knees, demanding assimilation and rejecting culture. It is important now more than ever to engage with culture through the means of language, explore its evolution and allow it to transport you to a time before ours.

A few years ago I read a play recommended to me by the one and only Mrs Green, it's a play by Brian Friel called 'Translations'. It portrays the events of the 'standardisation' of all practical uses of the Irish language to English.

There is also a beautiful song by Hozier, a renowned Irish singer and songwriter called 'Butchered Tongue', this song explores the gift that is the Irish language, but more broadly the gift that is a native language, not just that belonging to the Irish.







more, Philosophy

Tearing the Mask & Misconceptions Around Stoicism



Jason Odion
Philosophy

When people hear stoic, they immediately picture a bald, Alpha, long bearded dad figure almost breaching the cusp of emotional attachment gets up every day at 5 am; Does his ice bath and power lifting routine and grinds through the rest of his day like an absolute machine, sounds fantastic but it's not necessarily stoic. You think he loves you but he's not the type of say it, he doesn't cheat on your mum but you would never know because you think he has only three facial expressions and you've only seen two of them one face for when he's picking up something heavy and other face for when he's looking at you which shows zero love and affection.

I will assure you how much they care because Marcus Aurelius said "when you kiss your child good night you should say silently tomorrow perhaps you will meet your death" – Marcus Aurelius, meditations. I am guessing your response to this is what type of messed up thought processes is this, this guy is crazy and well jokes on you, every philosopher has some screws loose some more than others. My goal by the end of this article is to unravel the mask around stoicism by simply showing you the three key ethical claims of stoicism which is going to change the lens of which you view the world.

The first key claims of stoicism are external goods do not decide happiness so to prove this let us start with the highest good, the most sacred and precious thing we have in our lives – money
The most common view of money would be money is not sufficient for happiness, there's plenty of wealthy people who are miserable but money is necessary and usually the more the better now Marcus view on money as "happiness as possible even in a palace" – Marcus Aurelius, meditations I know and in simple terms happiness is possible even for a billionaire "no way really."
The Stoics believe life should be virtue only and externals cannot decide our happiness because they are complete indifferences
The Stoic argue that what matters more is how we respond to these externals if we treat them as an indifference we respond accordingly to them with virtue leading us on perfectly into.

The second key claim of Stoicism which is virtue is the only determining factor for your happiness to explain this in the best way possible I'm gonna bring up a true Stoic or one of the true stoics ironically his name is also Marcus but Marcus Cato he was a man that worked in a Roman senate, he was notoriously stubborn and eccentric. he wants brought up a promotion against Caesar for genocide and goal while everyone is voting things for Cesar and his great victories Cesar the man that asked people.

The third key claim of Stoicism is some indifferences or more preferred than other's and this is to prevent people from being lazy, low-achieving human beings because the stoics believe that we have a goal to pursue and to fulfil while on earth.
For example, not doing your homework is an indifference particularly a dispreferred indifference because if you don't do your homework, there's no virtue in that only vice, same as getting your hands sliced off it is an indifference to the stoics at least but it is a dispreferred indifference. Someone giving you £500 tomorrow at school is an indifference. It should not decide your happiness at all, but it is a preferred indifference.

What is Stoicism?

Stoicism is a Hellenistic philosophy founded in the late 4th century in Athens and the goal of this school of thought was happiness or as the majestic, bearded romans would say "eudaimonia".

The Stoics Focus on virtue (the morally right) and if you have virtue you will automatically have happiness or you have fulfilled your task as a human being.
My interpretation of this is: All a basketball player needs to do is to shoot the ball as well as he possibly can . The goal isn't to get it into the net because in the process of the ball leaving your hands there are so many different externals that could prevent the player from scoring, for example the wind, someone blocking it before it goes in or the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB), widely known as the "Mother of All Bombs," hitting the basketball court.

But the player would not be unhappy, maybe mutilated, and turned to dust by the bomb but definitely not unhappy because he did not miss the shot by any fault of his own. They did their absolute best. However a stoic would regard it as a dispreffered indifference which you will learn more of as we go beneath the surface.

more, Psychology

Are Criminals Made or Born?



Alyssa Andrade
Psychology

The Nature vs Nurture topic is debated heavily by psychologists, criminologists and the public alike. The question follows: Does our society birth natural 'criminals', or is it in their DNA? Or is it more convincing that their behaviours reflect external influences, such as their environmental circumstances? The aim of this article is to explore the evidence for both cases, with reference to both psychological and sociological case studies, in order to bring light to the murky debate of what triggers disruptive, violent and criminal behaviour.

Born

Some people argue that criminals are born the way they are. Growing evidence in neuroimmunology and behavioural genetics has discovered that some individuals are biologically, born hostile. It has shown that some individuals genetic makeup can leave them with a phycological deficiency in empathy, fear and impulse control. A scientist did a study on a large Dutch family that had high crime rate and were violent in 1993 called the Brunner study, DNA tests showed they all had a rare mutation in their brains which turned off the MAOA gene that causes a person to overreact to threats and to have a low impulse control. This was the first time scientist linked a missing gene and violent behaviour.

Another study suggests that chemical imbalances can have an effect of behaviour. High levels of testosterone are heavily influenced to dominance, power and physical aggression. This is because testosterone reduces the activity of an area in the brain that is responsible for impulse control and rational decision making.

Researchers look at families with twins to see if it's their DNA vs their environmental upbringing plays a bigger part in criminal behaviour. Psychologist measure concordance rates which is the percentage of chance if one twin commits a crime the other twin will too. Johannes lang found that if one identical twin went to prison the chances are of the other one going to prison too is very likely, however that rate for fraternal twins is much lower. This strongly suggests that genetics plays a massive role in predisposing someone to rule break behaviour. A big example of criminals in identical twins is the Spahalski twins who were separated as infants who grew apart, but both became murders without knowing the other was doing the same.

Made

One of the biggest, if not the, biggest reason why criminals are made and shaped into one due to their environment is due to the social learning theory by Albert Bandura. His study demonstrates how people copy others behaviour if shown to them. This was conveyed in his study when he got 2 groups for each gender and split them into the children that watched the film of an adult being aggressive, violent, and unkind to this bobo doll, and the other group didn't watch any video. Each group were then told to play in this room. The results showed that the children that had watched the video all did the same and abused the bobo doll whereas, the children who didn't watch the video showed no sign of violence. This is called the mediation process, which is attention, retention, reproduction, and motivation all of this is highlighted in the social learning theory which suggests that behaviour is learnt.

Another strong reason is John Bowlby. He preached about his theory called the attachment theory and his maternal deprivation argument stating how if a child's relationship with their mother/ caregiver during their time as an infant was a loving caring trustworthy relationship then it meant the bond is secure. If the bond is broken and say the child is neglected then they may grow up to have distorted view on the world and that others are hostile and untrustworthy, due to them not feeling this love they physically lose the capacity to feel emotion or empathy for other as this is how they were brought up. in terms to crime this lack of trust and being uneasy, makes it's much easier to link crime to a criminal that commits murder or stealing. Due to them never learning how to feel safe and loved could explain why many criminals lack empathy, conscience and guilt towards their victims.

To conclude, the Nature vs Nurture debate remains a heavily discussed topic across both psychological and sociological fields. As discussed, the social learning theory with bandura, John Bowlby, Spahalski twins, and mutations in the brain via the Dutch family. The arguments presented therefore show that the question of whether criminals are made or born has no clear answer, and the topic remains a nuanced area of discussion.



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