NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8

THIS ISSUE'S OVERVIEW

Find out about the importance of networking! Additionally, read our five tips for learning how to code.

BLOCKCHAIN!!!

Cherish A also talks about a pathway to the interesting realm of **blockchain technology.** Furthermore, dive deep into 5 books that Maha M recommends all politics students should read!
We hope you enjoy reading! :) 💜

CONTENTS

THE IMPORTANCE OF NETWORKING

You've probably heard the saying "It's who you know, not what you know". Or perhaps you've heard some variation of this phrase which is essentially saying that your connections are more valuable than your knowledge, and unfortunately, that's the truth.

It's the main reason why students attending private schools on average have higher salaries because at the top, circles are very small and the benefits of this are endless, leading to better job opportunities and more connections within the world of work.

And the only way to combat this issue is to build your very own network of like-minded and driven individuals, so here are our top tips on how to network along with a few networking opportunities you can sign up for!

HOW to form new connections

Before the event

1 **Do Your Research** - There's usually a lot going on at a networking event, and stepping through the door not knowing what to expect is going to severely disadvantage your chances of getting anything out of it.

So spend some time learning about the Sponsors, Speakers, and Attendees of the event and arrive knowing:
- Who you want to speak to
- What you're going to ask them
- Their interests and the industry they work in

2 **What do you want to get out of the Event?** - This is how you decide the questions you're going to ask and the people you'll be asking them of. Ask yourself rhetorical questions such as these below and take part in the brainstorming exercise below.

What do you want to learn from the speakers? Are you trying to network with employers? Do you want funding/advice for a project you're starting? Are you trying to meet like-minded young people to collaborate and share ideas?

MORE below

Before the event

3

Brainstorm - Do your research on the event and its attendees, then fill both sides of an A4 paper with everything you want to gain from the event and remember it. Then, convert all of these thoughts into the questions you will ask at the event, and make sure to tick off your entire mental A4 sheet.

4

LinkedIn and QR Codes - Your LinkedIn is the main way you're going to be communicating with the people you meet after the event. So make sure you have a strong LinkedIn profile already set up (The 93% Club has a great guide for this https://www.93percent.club/blog/linkedin-tips-for-students). LinkedIn is professional and it can help tell the person who you're networking with a bit more about you than what you could in your brief conversation.

But our tip for this goes beyond just setting up your profile, it's more about having your LinkedIn QR Code ready! Think of it as the modern, digital business card. The best part about it is that they have to add you first, which allows you to accept their request and initiate a conversation without seeming overly intrusive.

What about AT the event?

At the event

1

Be Yourself - I think I speak for everyone when I say that we often conform to the vibe of the room, which of course you should do in some way to fit in. But completely changing who you are is not the way to do it. If you're not yourself and you build meaningful connections whilst not being yourself, you won't be able to uphold this "persona" when communicating with these people later down the line without it having a massive bearing on you. So be yourself and you'll find more like-minded people, PLUS, you'll stand out more as most people will conform.

2

Be Confident - First Impressions Count and there are two main ways to do this confidently.
- The Handshake - You haven't got to rip the person's arm off, and yes, you should shake hands with every gender. Just be at ease and offer an open and slightly firm palm, then shake the person's hand with eye contact whilst introducing yourself. Very simple, but very effective tool to introduce yourself with which you will irradiate confidence.

MORE below

At the event

2 **cont.**

- The Conversation Starter - Before you've even gone up to the person, you should know what you're going to say to the person you're speaking to. But what matters more than what you say, is how you say it. Don't rush to get the words off your chest, take it slow and stay composed and you're assured to make a lasting impact.

3

Don't Wallhug - This is probably the biggest mistake you can make, sitting in the corner or staying with the same group of people you arrived with or initially met, which there is nothing wrong with. Just remember, you're at a networking event. Your goal is to expand your network, and the only way you're going to do this is by working your way around the room and introducing yourself to more and more people. Remember that mental A4 piece of paper that has the checklist of everything you want to learn/gain from the event from the brainstorming exercise earlier? Well, your goal is to complete that, so get out there and get at them!

At the event

3 cont.

Actively Listen (Body Language) - There's a big difference between listening to someone and actively making an attempt to understand them, and it all depends on body language. Maintain eye contact, and give them affirmation through nodding, or an occasional OK. Also, when someone's speaking, make mental notes on things that you find interesting, and ask them questions about it once they're done. This is your most effective tool to steer conversation in the route you want to and remember, people love to talk about themselves.

That went well! What about AFTER the event?

1

Online Networking - If your contact with everyone ends the moment the event does, the harsh reality is that most people you meet will forget you in a week. This is where LinkedIn comes in as it allows you to keep in contact with everyone you meet. This contact doesn't have to be active (Messages, Calls, etc), rather it can be as simple as occasionally interacting with their posts or vice versa, allowing you to build lasting connections with ease.

**Good luck on your networking!
:)**

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1    five tips
2    for code "mastery";
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why learn how to code? ✕

The digital world is ever-growing and learning to code allows you to shape and understand it. By acquiring this skill you enable yourself to innovate and solve problems using technology. If you are not interested in the field of tech, it still fosters critical thinking, creativity and problem solving capabilities in all fields.

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1    scroll down for the
2    tips to code mastery
```

five tips for code mastery

tip one:
START WITH THE BASICS.

Rust, Java, C++, python... You don't know which to pick? **Forbes** has a list of the 10 easiest programming languages. Our recommendation is **python**, with a **syntax** similar to the English language making it much easier to understand - but don't rush yourself; you can't tell a computer to "make a game" and expect it to do it for you. You must specify **every little operation** that could ever occur to make that game work as computers will follow **exactly** what you tell them to do. This goes for all programming languages

tip two:
WORK ON REAL PROJECTS

Now you're lost. What do you do with this skill you've achieved? How about... make a calculator? Too easy? A searching algorithm. Perhaps use **Unity** to develop a game! The possibilities are endless and you will **always** learn new things.

five tips for code mastery

tip three:
DEBUG!

Now you've made a project. It's great... if it worked. You have something called **bugs** in your program. Your software will point out that issue and it is now up to you to use your critical thinking skills to solve it! Maybe your calculator is dividing by zero? Or you are using the wrong **data type** in an operation! Research and apply and you will be able to very easily identify and tackle the same problems that later come up.

tip four:
PRACTICE REGULARLY!

Consistency is key in coding. You don't have to practice every day, but make sure to integrate code as a hobby in your life. You can't get anywhere watching a single video, nor can you get much done by burning yourself out one day and giving up on the rest. A **few hours a week** can seriously upgrade your coding skills.

five tips for code mastery

tip five:
MAKE MISTAKES.
DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS.

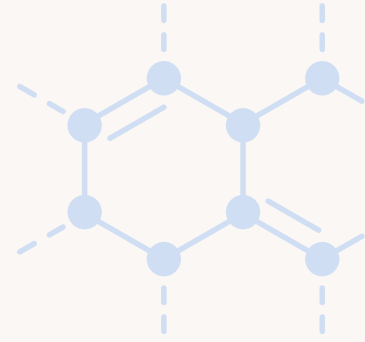**This is the most important tip in my opinion.**

No programmer has ever made progress without making mistakes and finding help. If you find yourself stuck, use **StackOverflow** or **Reddit** to find help - and **it does not matter** how often you need help. If no one has your question, ask it!

After all, coding is a journey and requires trial and error. Never in your journey will you come across an error or situation where you need help - even the most proficient of hackers and programmers search simple solutions to issues on Google.

I hope these tips helped. **Good luck on your code journey!** 💜

when you start working as a programmer
Google
how to get date in c++|
Google Search   I'm Feeling Lucky

10 years of experience later
Google
how to get date in c++|
Google Search   I'm Feeling Lucky

SMART Targets

Hi guys, my name is Frankie, and I'm one of the Co-Founders of Future Paths Initiative. I've also been successful running my own clothing store outside of this, so I think I've got some ground to stand on to provide you with a few key tips that I've used to grow and start the projects I work on.

And my No.1 piece of advice **is to keep things simple**. Take any successful business, sports team, or even person, and you'll notice that they've mastered the fundamentals of their craft; Messi had to learn how to pass and shoot before he could take a whole football team, and Microsoft had to master producing simple software before it could start building AI models. So over every issue going forward, I'm going to walk you through the fundamental principles of entrepreneurship, from the mindset you'll need to have to the way you'll have to manage your workforce.

SMART Targets

So starting off, I'm going to be introducing SMART Targets, the best way for you to set and achieve even your most optimistic goals. Anyone who has done at least GCSE-level business will have come across the term, and that's because it's so vital to a business's success, and it's relatively easy to learn and use. So let me introduce what SMART targets are, using the example of running a Burger Shop:

Specific: Your target must be pinpointed and focused on a specific area of your business.

Otherwise, the goal will seem too broad and unachievable, or instead, it would essentially be meaningless as it's too vague.
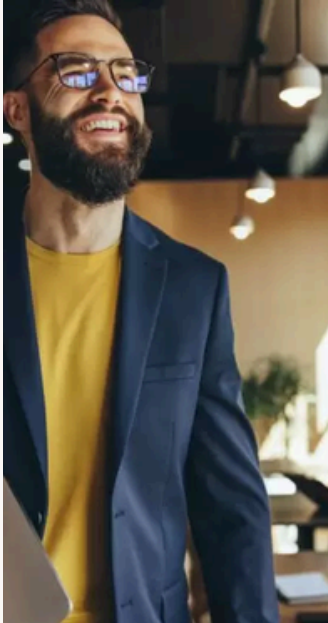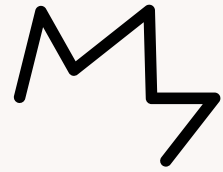
To put it into an example, if you were running a Burger Shop and you said: "I want to grow sales by 25% by the end of 2024", then that's great, but you've offered yourself no route to make it there.

Instead, you might want to break that down into: "I want to grow the sales of my new Gourmet Burger range by 15%" as one of the steps you'd take to reach that.

Pairing this with a multitude of other specific targets will give you a clearer idea of what to do, so you can break down how you'll increase your specific targets in your promotional strategy so you can improve the likelihood of hitting your overall goal.
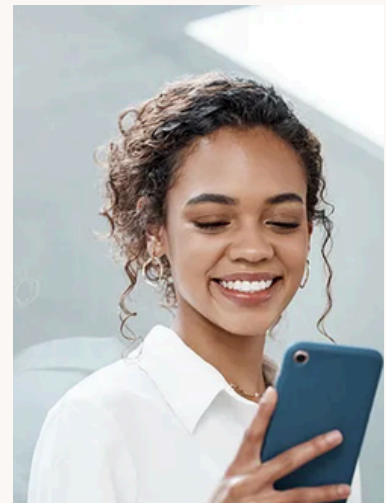
SMART Targets

Measurable: I used it a bit in the Specific Point, and it really is quite simple.

What it is is putting a statistic or value on your goals so that you can measure and track your progress. This can help you identify areas that need work or are working well so that you can adapt your strategy accordingly. If you simply said, I want to sell more burgers, technically all you have to do is sell 1 burger and you've achieved your goal, but is that really what you wanted to achieve?

Achievable: This is probably the most obvious, but you can't simply say, "I want to be the biggest burger chain in the country in 1 year" if you only have 2 stores. Just make sure everything you do, you truly can achieve if you stretch yourself. This point is so often misinterpreted as a reason to not be optimistic, but you should always be setting goals that are difficult to achieve, they can't just be impossible.

Relevant: The goal of each SMART Target has to contribute towards your overall goal. Once again bringing it back, if your objective is to increase sales, setting one of your targets within that to be, "Start recycling our food waste", then this won't increase your sales dramatically (Unless your customers really care about your impact on the environment).

SMART
Targets

And finally...

Time-Based: There is no point in setting a goal unless you have a definitive time by when you want to hit that, and there's an even better way of doing this, to set progressive targets. Let's say, if your homework had no deadline, you'd probably never complete it. And when your coursework has a deadline, you usually spend the night before it's due cramming. A progressive target, in reference to the burger example, would be having a burger sales target at the end of each month that needs hitting to reach the main goal. This is great at breaking down large and overwhelming projects into ones that seem easier to achieve.

So if you're thinking about starting your own business, or you already do run your own, or maybe you're looking to work in management in the future, setting **SMART targets** is one of the best ways to get the results that you're looking for.

PART FOUR TECHNOLOGY

an introduction to
BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

I can imagine many of you are still unsure of roles that may be of interest to you within the technology industry. Technology is such a broad and constantly changing industry. With emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, there are always new jobs coming to light. These articles will provide you with an understanding of certain roles and areas that could correlate with your skill set.

What is a blockchain?

Blockchain is a new emerging technology. It currently supports cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, however, its uses go beyond digital currency. We are seeing industries such as finance, healthcare, and cybersecurity beginning to use blockchain to offer businesses enhanced security and efficiency. Blockchain is an advanced, distributed database shared within a business network. A blockchain database stores data in blocks that are linked together by chains. These blocks are linked using cryptography. Cryptography is when information is coded or hidden so that only the person it was intended for can read it.

PART FOUR TECHNOLOGY

an introduction to
BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

How does a blockchain work?

A blockchain is where information is entered and stored. The difference between a traditional database and a blockchain is how the data is structured and accessed. There are programs called scripts within a blockchain that perform tasks such as entering and accessing information and saving and storing it somewhere. There can be multiple copies of a blockchain stored on different machines, however, they must all match up to be valid. An example of blockchain technology is PayPal. They use blockchain to speed up transactions. In 2020, PayPal launched a blockchain-based service that lets users buy, hold, and sell cryptocurrency.

What impact does blockchain technology have on certain industries ?

As mentioned, blockchain technology is being implemented into industries such as finance, healthcare, and cybersecurity. Healthcare workers can use blockchain to store their patients' medical records securely. This can provide patients with proof that the records cannot be changed by anyone. This is because they can be stored on blockchain with a private key available to certain workers to ensure privacy. The possibility of a data breach is reduced significantly due to cryptography. This gives patients a sense of confidence in healthcare systems. Blockchain is being used to improve cybersecurity and protect networks against data breaches. It improves security by using cryptography. Blockchain databases are encrypted to ensure tamper-proof transactions.

an introduction to

BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

What roles may require blockchain technology?

There is a diverse range of opportunities within the blockchain industry. They cater to a wide range of skills and interests leading to the creation of various different roles. One role that may require an understanding of blockchain technology is a Blockchain Consultant. If you are someone who is a good communicator and is good at giving advice, this is the perfect role for you. A blockchain consultant advises businesses on how to implement blockchain technology. They provide insight on the best practices, strategies, and possible challenges for businesses to ensure optimal performance after implementation. Another role is a blockchain project manager. If you have great leadership and organisational skills, you would be amazing at this role. A blockchain project manager will oversee projects from beginning to end. They will ensure the project stays on track, within budget, and meets the project's objectives.

an introduction to

BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

What pathways are available to get into blockchain technology ?

One pathway available is university. If you would like to get into blockchain, you can get a degree in computer engineering, database management, or information security. Another pathway is online courses and certifications. There are many different courses available that can educate you on blockchain whilst also providing practical experience. A final pathway is building an understanding of certain skills that can help you progress in the blockchain industry. Some skills include cryptography, smart contracts, programming languages, and data structures. It may also be advantageous to have an understanding of blockchain architecture and design.

Even if you have never heard of blockchain before, I hope this article has given you an understanding of it and will potentially influence some future decisions.

with 💚 by **Cherish A**

TOP 5 BOOKS
EVERY POLITICS STUDENT SHOULD READ

Embarking on a journey to study politics or a related field at university Is an exciting step, and one way to get ahead is to immerse yourself in foundational texts that have shaped political thought and international discourse. These are 5 essential books that will bolster your application and deepen your understanding of Politics.
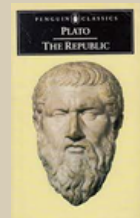
1. *The Republic* by Plato

Why you should read it:
Plato's 'The Republic' is one of the most important works in Western political philosophy. You will be able to delve into essential inquiries regarding justice, the
perfect state, and the function of individuals in society. Examining Plato's dialogues will allow you to acquire a deeper understanding of the foundations of politics.

How it helps your application:
Demonstrating a grasp of classical political philosophy shows that you have a strong
foundation in the historical roots of politics, which is impressive to admissions tutors.
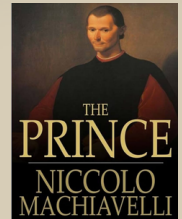
TOP 5 BOOKS
EVERY POLITICS STUDENT SHOULD READ

2. *The Prince* **by Niccolò Machiavelli**

Why You Should Read It:
Machiavelli's "The Prince" provides a pragmatic and controversial guide to political
leadership and how power is exercised. Understanding Machiavelli's arguments
about power dynamics and political morality is essential for aspiring politics students.
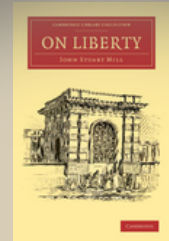
How It Helps Your Application:
Engaging with Machiavelli's text demonstrates your ability to critically assess
complex and sometimes morally ambiguous political ideas, showcasing your
analytical skills.

MORE BELOW

TOP 5 BOOKS
EVERY POLITICS STUDENT SHOULD READ
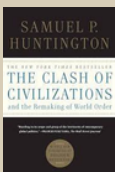
3. On Liberty by John Stuart Mill

Why You Should Read It:
Mill's "On Liberty" is a foundational text for the liberalism ideology, advocating for individual freedom and limits on societal authority. It's crucial for understanding debates around civil liberties, free speech, and the role of government.

How It Helps Your Application:
Highlighting your understanding of the principles of liberalism and their relevance in today's political climate can strengthen your application, showing that you are well-versed in critical discussions about individual rights.

4. The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order by Samuel P. Huntington

Why You Should Read It:
Huntington's "The Clash of Civilizations" offers a deep analysis of post-Cold War global politics, posing the question of whether conflicts between civilisations would dominate the future of world politics. Huntington's answer to this question is that clashes between civilisations are the greatest threat to world peace. This book is essential for understanding global conflicts, and is seen as a classic study of international relations.

How It Helps Your Application:
Referencing Huntington's work shows that you are engaged with contemporary debates in international relations and are capable of analysing global conflicts.

AND FINALLY... ⬇

TOP 5 BOOKS
EVERY POLITICS STUDENT SHOULD READ

5. Globalisation and Its Discontents by Joseph E. Stiglitz

Why You Should Read It:
Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz speaks out against the management of globalisation, arguing that globalisation can still be a force for good but the balance of power has to change between the Global East and West. His insights are vital for understanding the economic dimensions of international relations and global inequality. In the word of the Guardian magazine, Globalisation and Its Discontents is a 'massively important political... document'.
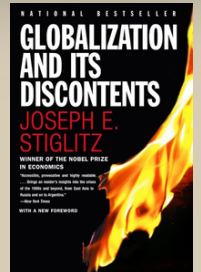
How It Helps Your Application:
Engaging with Stiglitz's criticism highlights your awareness of the economic factors influencing global politics and your ability to think critically about policy impacts on a global scale.

These five books offer a deep understanding of political theory, governance, and the intricate dynamics that shape our world, making them essential reads for any serious student of politics.

I hope this helps you on your academic journey and inspires deeper passions into the fascinating realm of political science.

- **maha m** 🤎

FPI will be having a website makeover.

As a result, less resources will be allocated to the newsletter - you may not see this for a while!

If this newsletter helps you, please **leave us a review.**

However, since you've read to the end, we'll give you a sneak peek into what we're doing: **we will place <u>all</u> <u>opportunities</u> on our website.**

This makes it far more accessible!

We 💜 you all!

FPI