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The *Humanities* MATTER!

The Humanities are academic disciplines that seek to understand and interpret the human experience, from individuals to entire cultures, engaging in the discovery, preservation, and communication of the past and present record to enable a deeper understanding of contemporary society.

The Humanities encompass literature, classics, ancient and modern languages, history, philosophy, media studies, the fine and performing arts, and other related subjects. It can be a challenge to show the benefits the Humanities bring: in this infographic we gather available evidence to show the Humanities matter!

Presented by 4Humanities and UCL Centre for Digital Humanities

WHAT THE HUMANITIES DO

The Humanities are about what it is to be human.

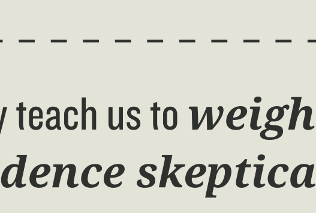
Understanding others in the world through their **LANGUAGES, HISTORIES, & CULTURES.**

They foster *social justice* and *equality*

& reveal how people have tried to make **moral, spiritual,** and **intellectual** sense of the world. *They teach empathy.*

The Humanities teach us to deal **critically and logically** with **subjective, complex, imperfect information.**

They teach us to *weigh evidence skeptically*, and **consider more than one side** of every question.

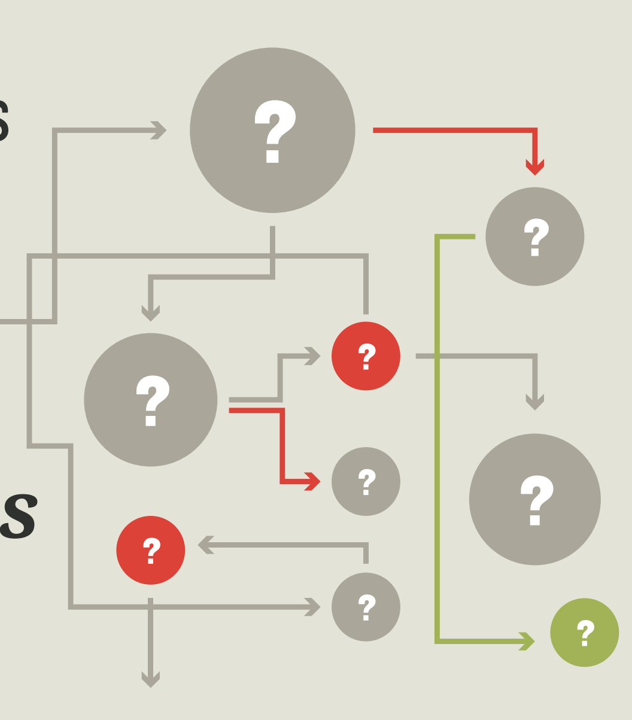


Humanities students build skills in *writing* and **critical reading.**

The Humanities encourage us to ***think creatively.*** They teach us to reason about being human and to ask questions about our world.

The Humanities develop informed and critical citizens. **Without the Humanities democracy will not flourish.**

The value of the Humanities is more often in the *questions posed* than the answers found; *Humanistic study is not formulaic.*



One only needs to turn on the news to see that we need the skills and knowledge of the humanities in: ***understanding other cultures***, **being able to communicate effectively**, *realising the ramifications of history, and* **analysing human behaviour.** The Humanities are more important to global society than ever

THE CRITICS SAY...

Critics accuse the Humanities of **lacking cultural or economic relevance.**

They say *the Humanities have no purpose.*

They say our **academic work is inaccessible to the public.**

They say that Humanities students are not immediately employable.

They say in times of economic recession **resources should not be spent on the study of the human condition.**

They say *the Humanities are in crisis.*

BUT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS...

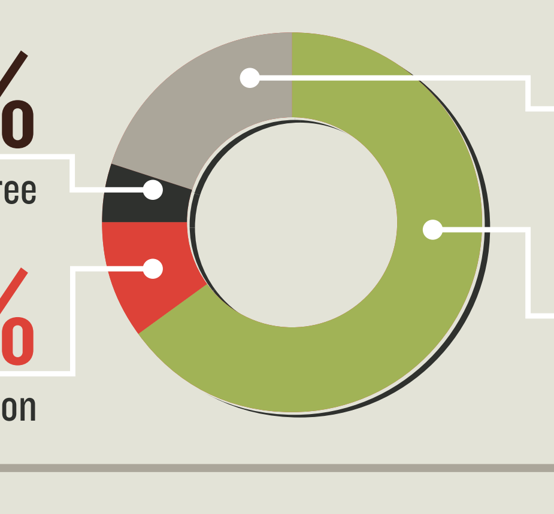
A 2012 survey of **652** U.S. born **Chief Executive Officers** and **Heads of Product Engineering** showed almost **60%** *had degrees in the Humanities.*

A study of **100 FTSE** companies' CEOs showed that

34% studied the arts, Humanities and Social Sciences,

31% had a Science and Technology background

In 2011, of the **650** UK Members of Parliament



5% had a vocational degree

10% had a scientific qualification

20% unknown

65% had an Arts, Humanities or Social Science degree

It has been estimated that the economic importance of UK universities amounts to

The underinvestment in language skills costs the UK economy a minimum of £9bn annually

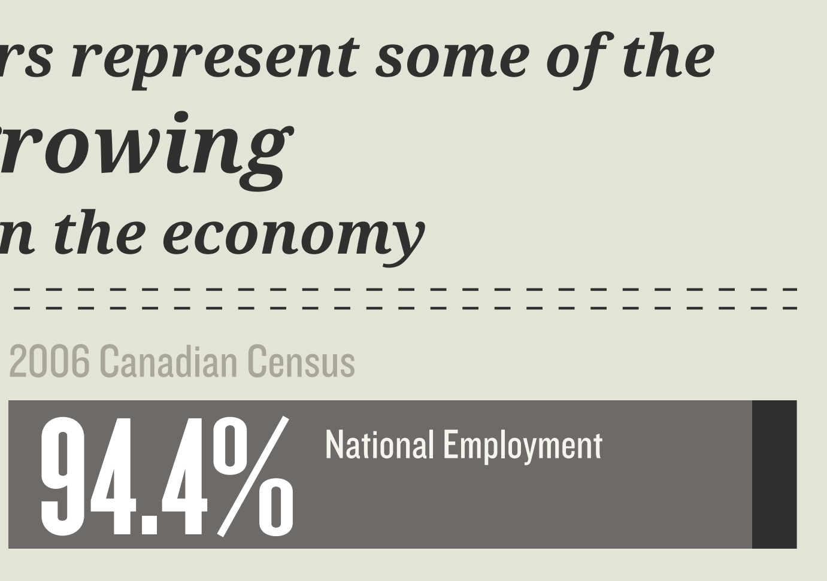
54% of all qualifications achieved each year are in the **Humanities** and **Social Sciences.**

The total annual economic benefit to the UK from non-UK Arts and Humanities students is approximately *£2.7 billion per year*

Over **two thirds** of Humanities and Social Science graduates enter the **private sector**, primarily the **financial** and **business sectors**, followed by **wholesaling** and **retailing.**

These sectors represent some of the fastest growing areas within the economy

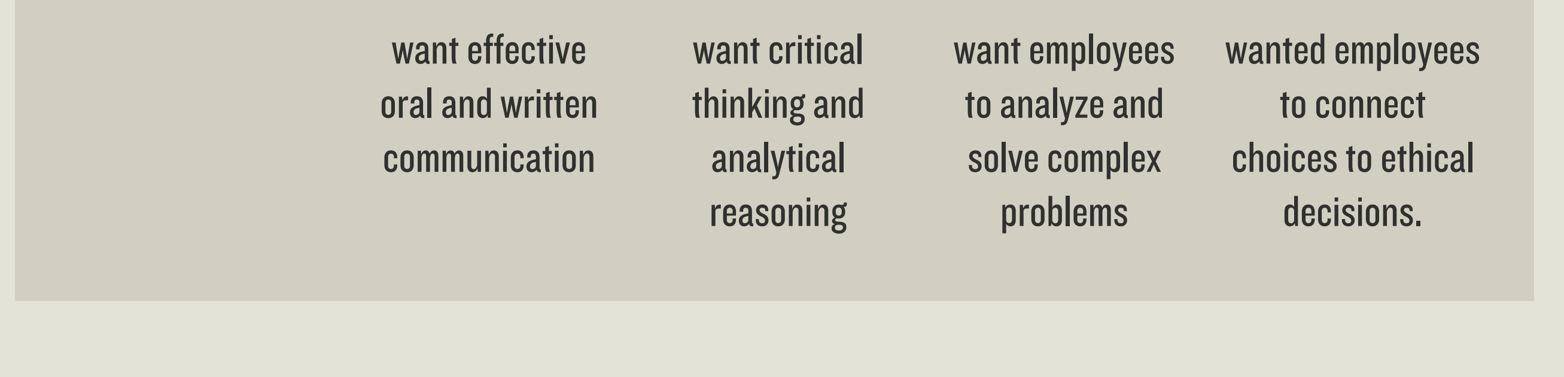
On average Humanities graduates have a *comparable* employment rate to graduates with other degrees



2006 Canadian Census

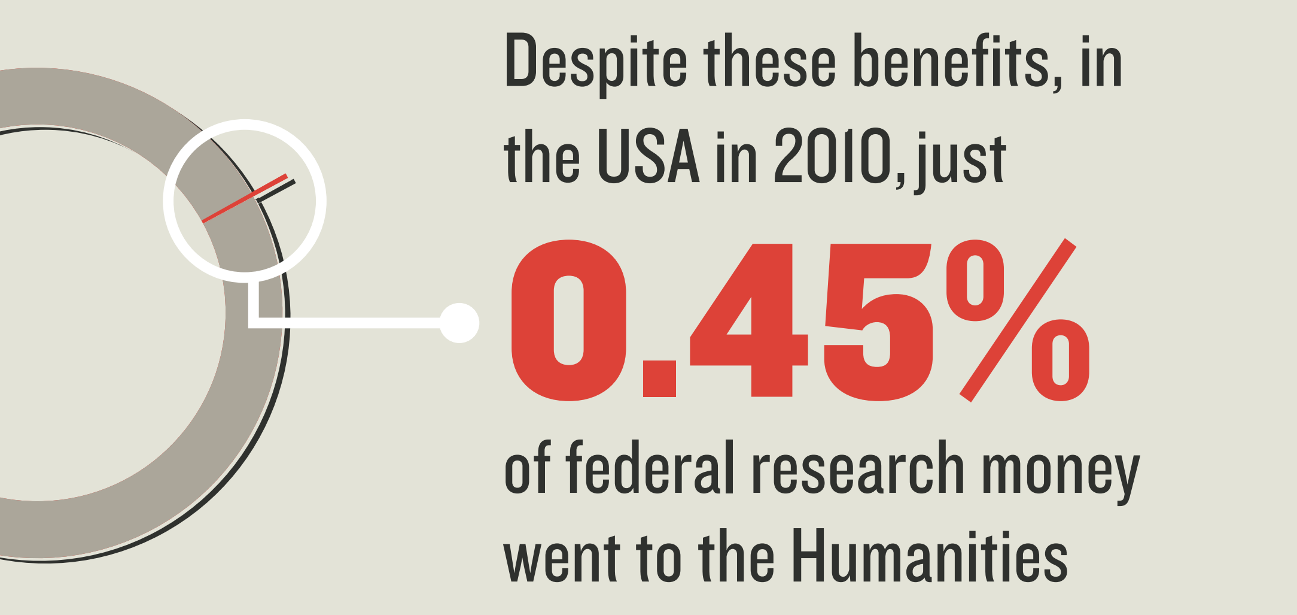
94.4%	National Employment
94.6%	History graduates employment
96.4%	of graduates in Theology and Religious Studies employed

In 2008 – the year the recession hit – those who were employed in Canada were:

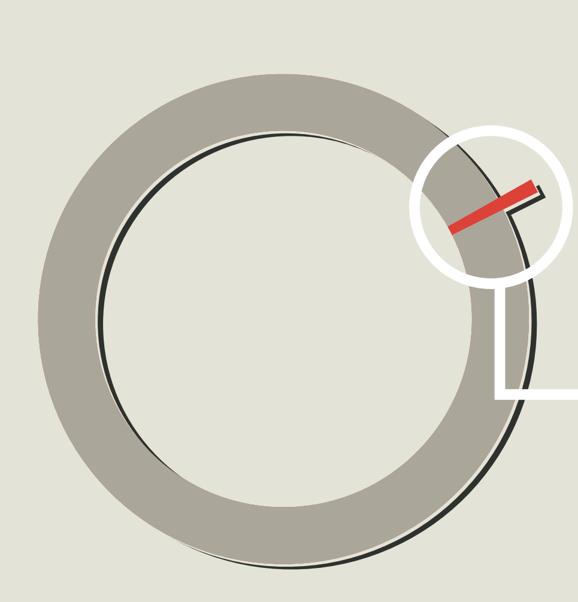


95%	of Engineering graduates
94%	of Health Workers
94%	of Graduates of fine and applied arts programs
91%	of Humanities and Social Science graduates
90%	of those with only a high-school diploma
84.1%	of those with only "some" high schooll

Skills of Humanities students are *in demand from employers:*



89%	want effective oral and written communication
81%	want critical thinking and analytical reasoning
75%	want employees to analyze and solve complex problems
75%	wanted employees to connect choices to ethical decisions.



Despite these benefits, in the USA in 2010, just **0.45%** of federal research money went to the Humanities

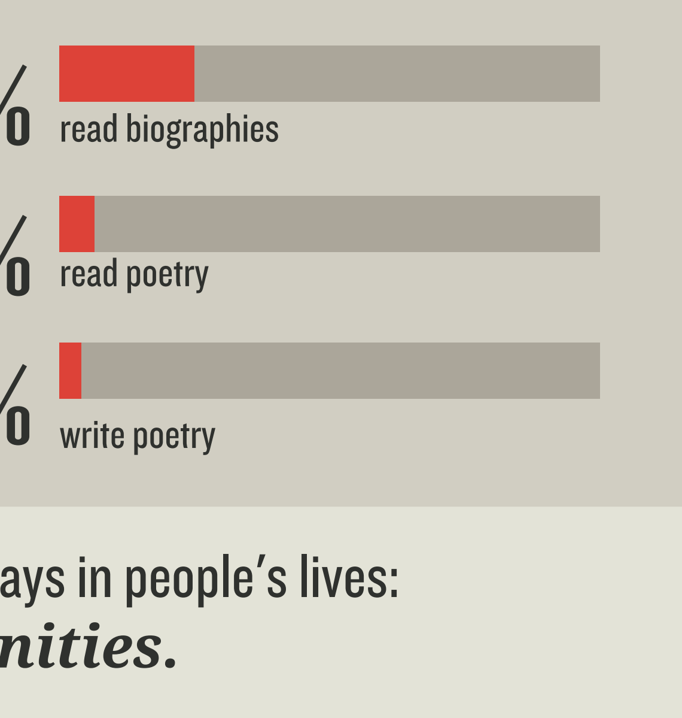
Between 2007 and 2013, European Commission Funding to the Social Sciences and Humanities was just **1.06%** of their total research budget of £55.51 bn

CULTURE IS IMPORTANT...

76% of people think their lives are richer for having the opportunity to visit or view the historic environment

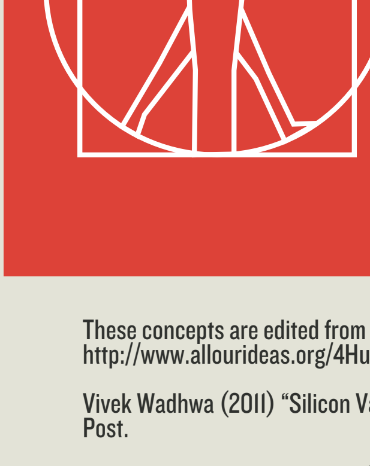
88% of people believe that it is important in creating jobs and boosting the economy

Every year



55%	of people read works of fiction, including novels, plays and short stories
50%	buy a novel, play or poetry for themselves
25%	read biographies
6.5%	read poetry
4%	write poetry

We need to understand the role culture plays in people's lives: *this is the role of the Humanities.*



The Humanities are about discovery: ***discover the Humanities!***

4Humanities.org

These concepts are edited from a crowdsourced list generated at http://www.allourideas.org/4Humanities.

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Data collected by @melissaterras with assistance from @ernestopriego and the @4hum collective: @alanyliu, @GeoffRockwell, @sgsinclair, Christine Hensler, and @lindsaycthomas.

4humanities

Do you know any more statistics about the Humanities? Please do contact us at contact@4Humanities.org

UCL CENTRE FOR DIGITAL HUMANITIES

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