

Read free Engineering a very short introduction .pdf

there are many stories we can tell about the past and we are not perhaps as free as we might imagine in our choice of which stories we tell where those stories end john arnold s very short introduction is a stimulating essay about how we study and understand history the book begins by inviting us to think about various questions provoked by our investigation of history and explores the ways these questions have been answered in the past concepts such as causation interpretation and periodization are introduced by means of concrete examples of how historians work giving the reader a sense of the excitement of discovering not only the past but also ourselves 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 introduction 1 the information revolution 2 the language of information 3 mathematical information 4 semantic information 5 physical information 6 biological information 7 economic information 8 the ethics of information conclusion references how many languages are there what differentiates one language from another are new languages still being discovered why are so many languages disappearing these are some of the questions considered in this very short introduction by examining the science of languages we find that the answers are not as simple as we might expect

to offer us deep insights into some of the most formidable problems of life and offer solutions to them too combining a global approach with examples from everyday life partha dasgupta describes the lives of two children who live very different lives in different parts of the world in the mid west usa and in ethiopia he compares the obstacles facing them and the processes that shape their lives their families and their futures he shows how economics uncovers these processes finds explanations for them and how it forms policies and solutions along the way dasgupta provides an intelligent and accessible introduction to key economic factors and concepts such as individual choices national policies efficiency equity development sustainability dynamic equilibrium property rights markets and public goods 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 sample sections from the very short introductions series are presented in this encapsulation of human knowledge from the beginning of time humans have been driven by both a fear of the unknown and a curiosity to know our forebears tried to create certainty in the unknown by seeking to influence outcomes with sacrifices to gods preparing for the unexpected with advice from oracles and by reading the stars through astrology as scientific methods improve and computer technology develops we become ever more confident of our capacity to predict and quantify the future by accumulating and interpreting patterns from the past yet the truth is there is still no certainty to be had this introduction considers some of our most burning questions about what the future is what is knowledge how does it differ from mere belief do you need to be able to justify a claim in order to count as knowing it how can we know that the outer world is real and not a dream questions like these are ancient ones and the branch of philosophy dedicated to answering them epistemology has been active for thousands of years in this thought provoking very short introduction jennifer nagel considers these classic questions alongside new puzzles arising from recent discoveries about humanity language and the mind nagel explains the formation of major historical theories of knowledge and shows how contemporary philosophers have developed new ways of understanding knowledge using ideas from logic linguistics and psychology covering topics ranging from relativism and the problem of scepticism to the trustworthiness of internet sources nagel examines how progress has been made in understanding knowledge using everyday examples to explain the key issues and debates 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

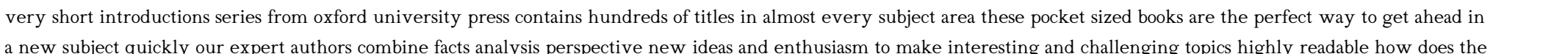
perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable hume is one of the greatest of all british philosophers and even in his own lifetime was celebrated as one of the 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 ayer himself one of the twentieth century s most important philosophers ayer 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 this stimulating very short introduction to music invites us to really think about music and the values and qualities we ascribe to it the world teems with different kinds of music traditional folk classical jazz rock pop and each type of music tends to come with its own way of thinking drawing on a wealth of accessible examples ranging from beethoven to chinese zither music nicholas cook attempts to provide a framework for thinking about all music by examining the personal social and cultural values that music embodies the book reveals the shortcomings of traditional conceptions of music and sketches a more inclusive approach emphasizing the role of performers and listeners 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 fashion is a global industry and plays a role in our economic political cultural and social lives however fashion is often denigrated as trivial and superficial a sign of vanity and narcissism this very short introduction will give a clear understanding of how fashion has developed while addressing these divergent views

scope across the millennia from high literature to popular culture between page and stage and screen this very short introduction considers comedy not only as a literary genre but also as a broader impulse at work in many other historical and contemporary forms of satire parody and play what has tragedy been made to mean by dramatists story tellers critics philosophers politicians and journalists this work shows the relevance of tragedy to the modern world and extends beyond drama and literature into visual art and everyday experience an unimaginably vast amount of data is now generated by our online lives including all our uploaded documents social media traffic online shopping and even gps data from our cars at the same time our ability to manage this data is becoming ever more sophisticated in this very short introduction dawn holmes explains how big data is stored analysed and exploited by a variety of bodies from large companies to organizations concerned with medical research as big data transforms the way businesses operate it simultaneously raises important ethical issues as cases such as the snowden affair and hacked smart devices have shown fully updated new edition label on cover international relations affects everyone s lives their security economic well being rights and freedoms and the environment they share recently we have seen the transformation from a world of empires to today s world of sovereign states which are enmeshed in a complex array of international institutions all exercising degrees of political authority the new global organization of political authority has far reaching consequences this very short introduction untangles this complex world providing an accessible framework for understanding the contours of global political change christian reus smit treats theory as an indispensable tool for grasping international relations but demystifies theorizing introducing it as an everyday human practice he surveys a range of theories from realism to feminism reading them as contrasting perspectives on the global organization of political authority historically such organization has been shaped by diverse social forces four of which are discussed in detail shifting patterns of warfare changing economic conditions struggles for rights and the politics of culture reus smit concludes with a reflection on the future of international relations in an era of profound

global change 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 the united nations a very short introduction engages the current debate over the united nation s effectiveness and explains how it was originally conceived how it has come to its present form and how it must confront new challenges in a rapidly changing world in what ways has the un succeeded and failed as a guardian of international peace and security as a promoter of human rights protector of international law and engineer of socio economic development



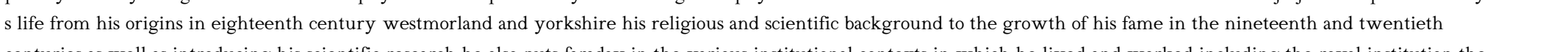
very short introductions brilliant sharp inspiring the concept of peace has always attracted radical thought action and practices it has been taken to mean merely an absence of overt violence or war but in the contemporary era it is often used interchangeably with peacemaking peacebuilding conflict resolution and statebuilding the modern concept of peace has therefore broadened from the mere absence of violence to something much more complicated in this very short introduction oliver richmond explores the evolution of peace in practice and in theory exploring our modern assumptions about peace and the various different interpretations of its applications this second edition has been theoretically and empirically updated and introduces a new framework to understand the overall evolution of the international peace architecture 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 how does the brain work michael o shea provides an accessible introduction to the key questions and current state of brain research and shows that though we know a surprising amount we are still far from having a complete understanding the topics he discusses range from how we sense things and how memories are stored to the evolution of brains and nervous systems from primitive organisms as well as altered mental states brain computer hybrids and the future of brain research book jacket



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history michael faraday is one of the best known scientific figures of all time known as the discoverer of electro magnetic induction the principle behind the electric generator and transformer he has frequently been portrayed as the father of electrical engineering from whence much of his popular fame derives this very short introduction dispels the myth that faraday was an experimental genius working alone in his basement laboratory making fundamental discoveries that were later applied by others instead it portrays faraday as a grand theorist of the physical world profoundly influencing later physicists such as thomson kelvin maxwell and einstein frank a j l james explores faraday s life from his origins in eighteenth century westmorland and yorkshire his religious and scientific background to the growth of his fame in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as well as introducing his scientific research he also puts faraday in the various institutional contexts in which he lived and worked including the royal institution the royal society trinity house and other agencies of the state james therefore provides a commentary on the rapidly changing place of science in nineteenth century society especially in regards to its role in government and the growth of a professional scientific community 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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2014 5 nelson mandela 1918 62 5 64 94 2013 95 this text is about the central role of evolution in shaping t

describes the processes of natural selection how adaptations arise and how new species form as well as summarizing the evidence for evolution we have all wondered about the meaning of life but is there an answer and do we even really know what we re asking terry eagleton takes a stimulating and quirky look at this most compelling of questions at the answers explored in philosophy and literature at the crisis of meaning in modern times and suggests his own solution to how we might rediscover meaning in our lives aesthetics is a branch of philosophy that explores the nature of art beauty and taste it doesn t just consider traditional artistic experiences such as artworks in a museum or an opera performance but also everyday experiences such as autumn leaves in the park or even just the light of the setting sun falling on the kitchen table it is also about your experience when you choose the shirt you re going to wear today or when you wonder whether you should put more pepper in the soup aesthetics is everywhere it is one of the most important aspects of our life in this very short introduction bence nanay introduces the field of aesthetics considering both western and non western aesthetic traditions and exploring why it is sometimes misunderstood or considered to be too elitist by artists musicians and even philosophers as nanay shows so called high art has no more claims on aesthetics than sitcoms tattoos or punk rock in fact the scope of aesthetics extends far wider than that of art high or low including much of what we care about in life it is not the job of aesthetics to tell you which artworks are good and which ones are bad it is not the job of aesthetics to tell you what experiences are worth having if an experience is worth having for you it thereby becomes the subject of aesthetics this realisation is important because thinking about aesthetics in this inclusive way opens up new ways of understanding old questions about the social aspect of our aesthetic engagements and the importance of aesthetic values for our own self 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 epidemiology what are the causes of a new disease how can pandemics be prevented epidemiology is the study of patterns of disease and its main aim is to improve the health of populations it s a vital field central to the health of society to the identification of causes of disease and to their management and prevention epidemiology has had an impact on many areas of medicine from discovering the relationship between tobacco smoking and lung cancer to the origin and spread of new epidemics however it is often poorly understood largely due to misrepresentations in the media in this very short introduction rodolfo saracci dispels some of the myths surrounding the study of epidemiology he provides a general explanation of the principles behind clinical trials and explains the nature of basic statistics concerning disease he also looks at the ethical and political issues related to obtaining and using information concerning patients and trials involving placebos 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

schopenhauer is the most readable of german philosophers this book gives a succinct explanation of his metaphysical system concentrating on the original aspects of his thought which inspired many artists and thinkers including wagner and freud



metaphysics is one of the traditional four m
 epistemology it is also an area that continues to attract and hold a fascination for many people yet it is associated with being complex and abstract for some it is associated with the mystical or religious for others it is known through the metaphysical poets who talk of love and spirituality this very short introduction goes right to the heart of the matter getting to the basic and most important questions of metaphysical thought in order to understand the theory what are objects do colours and shapes have some form of existence what is it for one thing to cause another rather than just being associated with it what is possible does time pass by using these questions to initiate thought about the basic issues around substance properties changes causes possibilities time personal identity nothingness and emergentism stephen mumford provides a clear and simple path through this analytical tradition at the core of philosophical 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 the devil has fascinated writers and theologians since the time of the new testament and inspired many dramatic and haunting works of art today he remains a potent image in popular culture the devil a very short introduction presents an introduction to the christian devil through the history of ideas and the lives of real people

of understanding knowledge using ideas from logic linguistics and psychology covering topics ranging from relativism and the problem of scepticism to the trustworthiness of internet sources nagel examines how progress has been made in understanding knowledge using everyday examples to explain the key issues and debates 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

Knowledge: A Very Short Introduction 2014-09-25 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 ayer himself one of the twentieth century s most important philosophers ayer 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

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Comedy: A Very Short Introduction 1967-09-27 with a broad scope across the millennia from high literature to popular culture between page and stage and screen this very short introduction considers comedy not only as a literary genre but also as a broader impulse at work in many other historical and contemporary forms of satire parody and play

Comedy: A Very Short Introduction 2012-12-20 what has tragedy been made to mean by dramatists story tellers critics philosophers politicians and journalists this work shows the relevance of tragedy to the modern world and extends beyond drama and literature into visual art and everyday experience

Tragedy: A Very Short Introduction 2005-08-11 an unimaginably vast amount of data is now generated by our online lives including all our uploaded documents social media traffic online shopping and even gps data from our cars at the same time our ability to manage this data is becoming ever more sophisticated in this very short introduction dawn holmes explains how big data is stored analysed and exploited by a variety of bodies from large companies to organizations concerned with medical research as big data transforms the way businesses operate it simultaneously raises important ethical issues as cases such as the snowden affair and hacked smart devices have shown

Big Data 2017 fully updated new edition label on cover

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The United Nations 2015

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2003-02-25 very short introductions brilliant sharp inspiring the concept of peace has always attracted radical thought action and practices it has been taken to mean merely an absence of overt violence or war but in the contemporary era it is often used interchangeably with peacemaking peacebuilding conflict resolution and statebuilding the modern concept of peace has therefore broadened from the mere absence of violence to something much more complicated in this very short introduction oliver richmond explores the evolution of peace in practice and in theory exploring our modern assumptions about peace and the various different interpretations of its applications this second edition has been theoretically and empirically updated and introduces a new framework to understand the overall evolution of the international peace architecture 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

Peace 2023-02-23 how does the brain work michael o shea provides an accessible introduction to the key questions and current state of brain research and shows that though we know a surprising amount we are still far from having a complete understanding the topics he discusses range from how we sense things and how memories are stored to the evolution of brains and nervous systems from primitive organisms as well as altered mental states brain computer hybrids and the future of brain research book jacket

The Brain: A Very Short Introduction 2005-12-08

2020-11-30 describes the latest scientific research on smell and explores its place in culture and history

Smell 2020 michael faraday is one of the best known scientific figures of all time known as the discoverer of electro magnetic induction the principle behind the electric generator and transformer he has frequently been portrayed as the father of electrical engineering from whence much of his popular fame derives this very short introduction dispels the myth that faraday was an experimental genius working alone in his basement laboratory making fundamental discoveries that were later applied by others instead it portrays faraday as a grand theorist of the physical world profoundly influencing later physicists such as thomson kelvin maxwell and einstein frank a j l james explores faraday s life from his origins in eighteenth century westmorland and yorkshire his religious and scientific background to the growth of his fame in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as well as introducing his scientific research he also puts faraday in the various institutional contexts in which he lived and worked including the royal institution the royal society trinity house and other agencies of the state james therefore provides a commentary on the rapidly changing place of science in nineteenth century society especially in regards to its role in government and the growth of a professional scientific community 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

Michael Faraday: A Very Short Introduction 2010-11-25

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that of art high or low including much of what we care about in life it is not the job of aesthetics to tell you which artworks are good and which ones are bad it is not the job of aesthetics to tell you what experiences are worth having if an experience is worth having for you it thereby becomes the subject of aesthetics this realisation is important because thinking about aesthetics in this inclusive way opens up new ways of understanding old questions about the social aspect of our aesthetic engagements and the importance of aesthetic values for our own self 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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metaphysics is one of the traditional four main branches of philosophy alongside ethics logic and epistemology it is also an area that continues to attract and hold a fascination for many people yet it is associated with being complex and abstract for some it is associated with the mystical or religious for others it is known through the metaphysical poets who talk of love and spirituality this very short introduction goes right to the heart of the matter getting to the basic and most important questions of metaphysical thought in order to understand the theory what are objects do colours and shapes have some form of existence what is it for one thing to cause another rather than just being associated with it what is possible does time pass by using these questions to initiate thought about the basic issues around substance properties changes causes possibilities time personal identity nothingness and emergentism stephen mumford provides a clear and simple path through this analytical tradition at the core of philosophical 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

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The Devil: A Very Short Introduction

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