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There are also accurate definitions of some current terms mainly used in cultural studies, with a very specific signification that couldn't be found in ordinary dictionaries, such as 'cult', 'Queer theory', 'cyberpunk', and, more broadly, concepts like 'cyborg', 'political correctness' and even 'Thatcherism'. Most definitions are well formulated, concise and clear. For instance, 'citizenship' is presented here as "the idea that the individual has rights and responsibilities which must be recognized by the state" (p. 69). 'Civil society' is defined as "everything in society that is not government" (p. 71). We find an entry on 'code', and another one on 'encoding/decoding', although the author has not put a link between these two entries. But some other definitions end with the useful mention "see alsoÖ", that refers to other related entries. There are no entries for persons or authors per se, neither for specific works nor for famous books. It is too bad there is no index either, but a brief bibliography is to be found at the end (pp. 255-258). While I read this Megawords, I couldn't help but think about Raymond Williams' famous book titled *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society* (1976; rev. ed., 1983). But as Richard Osborne fairly writes here in his entry on 'culture', academics' recent critique of everything related to culture has tremendously evolved and has profoundly changed the way we now use this concept, more than two decades after Williams' pioneered efforts and theorizing : "Williams has an entry in his *Keywords* for 'popular' but not for popular culture, a term which is today almost a disciplinary object in its own right." (p. 97). Of course, perhaps as many scholars who also teach, I would have preferred 210 entries instead of 200 in this single book ! For instance, we can find an entry on 'inter-textuality' (p. 172), but none on 'cross- cultural' ; there is an instructive entry on 'interdisciplinarity' (p. 169), but not on 'transdisciplinarity'. One would need as well an entry on Foucault's concept of 'superstructure'. But the book stands on its own. Furthermore, I appreciated the fact that there are quite some French words that are fairly defined here, such as 'bricolage' (p. 55), from Claude Lévi-Strauss' *The Savage Mind*, but also 'jouissance' (p. 173), a term often used by Lacan, Kristeva and Barthes, and 'interpellation', that refers to Louis Althusser's theory of the state (p. 170). A few sociological terms forged by Pierre Bourdieu such as "cultural capital", "doxa", "habitus" are also explained here. Definitions often give historical elements but do not pretend to be comprehensive. For instance, 'Anomie', one of the earliest sociological concepts, is defined as "normlessness (a product of social disintegration)" (p. 28), and related here to Émile Durkheim's book on *Suicide* (1897), but there are no mention about French philosopher Jean-Marie Guyau, who in fact first used the term in 1885. As an affordable reference book, Megawords will be a useful tool for students in social sciences, cultural studies and philosophy, and for others who need to build a strong conceptual framework by using cleverly the right terms in the right place. Yves Laberge Institut québécois des hautes études internationales, Québec 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Proper reviews. By a Professor of Sociology. By Casio Brentagene Read this review by a professional sociologist from Sociology Online- not the idiot trolls who seem to appear from nowhere-----Richard Osborne is known for his best-seller *Philosophy for beginners*, a book that sold more than a million copies in some 30 languages. This prolific author is also senior lecturer at Camberwell College of Art in London, England. Osborne's Megawords is a kind of a technical dictionary on social theory, that includes many of the current academic terms and concepts that scholars and students use daily without always giving a straightforward definition, because those specific terms can be used in a widely diverse range of contexts and disciplines. Definitions are about one page long, presented alphabetically, beginning with 'aberrant decoding', until the last entries on 'Whiteness' and Roland Barthes' concept of 'Writerly/Readerly'. 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1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nothing you need to know. Look elsewhere. By James Lane Richard Osborne has stooped to flippant marketing expressions to market his nonsense books. What a pathetic waste of paper and a sad indication that we are publishing the works of the worst among us.

Richard Osborne has done something very special here. He takes us on an exciting journey into the knowledge required to exist, survive, thrive, in the new millennium, in an interconnected global space that includes cyberpunk and cyborg, chaos theory and conspiracy theories, the postcolonial and the diaspora, hybridity and whiteness, the postmodern and the post-feminist, the digital and the Net, as much as older yet still influential terms like Enlightenment, empiricism, positivism, aesthetics, agency, nationhood and citizenship. Osborne writes with wit, wisdom, and insight, always wary of any approach becoming an orthodoxy. He shows how particular concepts arise at particular times with particular authors and intellectual personalities. The entries proceed by illuminating examples, engaging anecdotes, subtle cross-referencing, wide historical contexts' - John Docker, author of *Postmodernism and Popular Culture: A Cultural History* Written by the author of the international bestseller *Philosophy for Beginners*, *Megawords* provides definitions for the key terms every student in the humanities and social sciences needs to know.

Osborne writes with wit, wisdom, and insight, always wary of any approach becoming an orthodoxy.... The entries proceed by illuminating examples, engaging anecdotes, subtle cross-referencing, wide historical contexts' - John Docker, author of *Postmodernism and Popular Culture: A Cultural History* Do you know your animus from your anomie? Puzzled by all that jargon at university? Now there's no need to be... In 1976 Raymond Williams published his classic book *Keywords* - which analyzed the genesis of key cultural concepts that were in use at that time. Richard Osborne presents *Megawords* a 21st century *Keywords*. The book is not simply a glossary, rather it is a map of the links between ideas and concepts in the humanities and without which no self-respecting student should set sail. - provides definitions for the key terms every student in the humanities and social sciences needs to know - is written in an accessible and lucid style - has huge potential for students across the humanities and soft' social science subjects Written by the author of the international bestseller *Philosophy for Beginners*, *Megawords* provides definitions for the key terms every student in the humanities and social sciences needs to know. `Osborne writes with wit, wisdom, and insight, always wary of any approach becoming an orthodoxy.... The entries proceed by illuminating examples, engaging anecdotes, subtle cross-referencing, wide historical contexts? - John Docker, author of *Postmodernism and Popular Culture: A Cultural History* Do you know your animus from your anomie? Puzzled by all that jargon at university? Now there's no need to be... In 1976 Raymond Williams published his classic book *Keywords* - which analyzed the genesis of key cultural concepts that were in use at that time. Richard Osborne presents *Megawords* a 21st century *Keywords*. The book is not simply a glossary, rather it is a map of the links between ideas and concepts in the humanities and without which no self-respecting student should set sail. · provides definitions for the key terms every student in the humanities and social sciences needs to know · is written in an accessible and lucid style · has huge potential for students across the humanities and `soft? social science subjects Written by the author of the international bestseller *Philosophy for Beginners*, *Megawords* provides definitions for the key terms every student in the humanities and social sciences needs to know. About the Author Richard Osborne is senior lecturer in philosophy, semiotics and cultural studies at Camberwell College of Art, London