Personal Statement B

Law has been one of the most relevant, interesting and necessary areas of life throughout the ages- it has kept order, helped build civilisations and in the wrong hands caused atrocities. While reading Lord of The Flies, the degeneration of law and order and the island's descent into chaos showed me just how important the law is in daily life. In England and Wales the law often relies on statutes and cases from the Middle Ages and its arcane nature is part of the appeal for me- The recent case of three MP's trying to use Article Nine of the Bill of Rights 1688 to privilege their expenses and therefore protect them from prosecution only increased my interest in the overlapping and contradictory nature of our laws.

My interest in Law has been long-held. I was an eager barrister aged 13 participating in the Junior Mock Trial Competition run by the Citizenship Foundation. Last year I again played the role of barrister, this time in the Bar National Mock Trial Competition, writing my own cross-examinations and speeches; an experience I found highly enjoyable.

I attended court as a member of the public over the summer, watching the trial of Raymond Scott who was being prosecuted for the theft of a First Folio, and I was fascinated at how the court was adjourned for half an hour while the barristers argued over the defendant's job description as a 'rare' bookseller. I have completed work experience in a solicitors' firm, and I intend to pursue more work experience in barristers' chambers in the coming months, to experience what life at the Bar properly entails. Whilst there I took full advantage of the firm's extensive law library and I also attained first-hand experience of applying the law by assisting a paralegal. Both have further heightened my interest in the law; coupled with my love of reading I feel this makes me well-suited to studying it at degree level.

I like to keep abreast of developments in the law- I currently subscribe to The Economist and I check Legalweek and other online news sites daily- I have recently followed DPP Keir Starmer's proposals to introduce the US system of degrees of homicide. Implementing this in the UK would appear to both simplify and complicate the legal system, although third-degree murder will allow for a better distinction between the intention to harm and kill.

My choice of subjects at AS give me a good skill set for Law- History develops analytical skills, while English Literature has developed my love of literature into a good understanding of language; interpreting meanings of texts, similar to statutory interpretation. Politics has helped me gain a strong understanding of the context of laws- an example being the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, passed due to media pressure with an election due the following year. I have demonstrated my capacity for independent and intensive study by currently undertaking the Extended Project Qualification. I changed my topic to whether degrees of murder would be better for the UK, as it gives me a chance to independently study the law in depth, alongside my A2 course.

I am a hardworking and reliable person- I sat on the School Council for three years, and I also attended the Sea Cadets for two years. The variety of people and backgrounds I encountered while in the Cadets has made me considerate of everyone, and I feel this is a big part of university life. I also achieved the highest rank I could in the cadets, showing my commitment to activities and work I undertake.

At university I would like to expand my knowledge of civil law- my main interest is in the criminal law, and a chance to study both in equal depth would be incredibly valuable. I am currently particularly interested in defences to criminal proceedings and the status of UK law with regard to the nature of EU Treaties and regulations. A Law degree is vital to training to be a barrister and a strong degree is essential at the pupillage stage, increasing my desire to excel at a renowned university.

ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Personal Statement A

Since studying the legal studies intermediate course, I have known that my goal has been to go to University and study a course related to Law. I chose this subject because I enjoy the context of it. I like the idea of Law and I have realised it is very influential in life. I have realised that Law is a very diverse subject which is linked to all kinds of courses and jobs. My favourite part of Law is Criminal Law, it interests me very much. I would like to study Law further in University. I am good at remembering things and I am very competitive

Hopefully, when I finish my education I will look to become a Barrister. It is to this end I wish to take up studying at HE level

I get on well with students on my course, people from work and all the staff. This is because I am very confident, polite and well mannered

Parts of the course I do involve working in teams to deliver presentations on various topics. I enjoy working and communicating with people and feel that I contribute a major part towards the team effort. I like to be the leading instructor in teamwork because I feel very confident in my ideas

I consider that me personality is outgoing, friendly and co-operative

Away from my studies, I enjoy socialising and participating in a variety of sports including football cricket and snooker. My best hobby is cricket; I really enjoy watching and playing it in my free time. I also play for a local club called 'Moorside Cricket Club'. I am the captain there and I attend every single match and training session. It is my responsibility to keep the discipline in the team and I think I do my job very well. In the past I also represented school teams, which contribute to sharing responsibilities. I also enjoy reading books, magazines, newspapers and other sources of information. I like to watch the local news as well as the World news

By doing this it gives me awareness of the new developments around the world. However, if there is work to be done, I concentrate 100% to complete my task on time. I am very good at meeting deadlines. I hand in all my assignments on time and also meet many other deadlines. I am very punctual and my attendance is at a very good standard

I wouldn't mind going to any University around the country because I am very independent and I know I will be able to cope with the principles of everyday University life

I work five days a week, on a part-time basis at the Youth Club, where I've met many different people and I have had experience of the outside industry. My job consists of working with young teenagers between the ages of 10-13. I give them different activities to do that relate to following the right path of life. E.g. drugs and other crimes. The job hasn't hindered my college work although I realise that a University course brings up other pressures, which may not allow me the opportunity to work on a part-time basis. This is only short-term as my main aim is to secure a good job and hopefully gain a degree at University, which will then help me to achieve this.

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