Law Personal Statement 1

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.

Law Personal Statement 2

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.

Psychology Personal Statement 1

The scientific study of mental illness: biological psychopathology, and the workings of the brain: cognitive neuroscience, are what intrigue me most about studying psychology. The way the mutation of a single base on a chromosome or a slight change to the workings of a chemical in the brain can change someone's whole life is amazing; yet the fact that Neuroimaging has enabled us to visualize these minute reactions is even more incredible.

The dynamic nature of Psychology has drawn me to the subject, astounding me by the sheer complexity of our bodies and lives, urging me to want to discover the answers to some of the riddles of our minds. In school, integration of Psychology with my other subjects has helped this; my AS Biology coursework investigated links between cannabis and schizophrenia, a Psychology project looked at Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and my German A2 coursework compared the dream interpretations of Freud and Jung in continuous German prose. I have also thoroughly enjoyed researching for my Extended Project Qualification on The Science of Laughter, in which I have encountered the pioneering works of Robert Provine, evolutionary psychology, neurotransmitters such as serotonin and dopamine and a vast array of other aspects of psychology. It was interesting to read how bipedalism has taken the pressure off our respiratory system allowing us to laugh, and how the control humans have of their exhalations has enabled them to speak, while apes do not have this control and therefore have not evolved speech.

I believe my chosen A-level subjects complement each other well, providing a sound basis for a future in Psychology. Geography and Biology have developed my experimental and field study skills, giving me opportunities to research and analyse data, while learning German has taught me how to use language and appreciate other cultures. Psychology and Biology both consider ethical viewpoints such as how to treat people with life-threatening disorders, and have broadened my understanding of genetics and neurology, while Psychology is excellent for learning how to evaluate theories.

Aside from my studies, music is a huge part of my life. I am working very hard towards grade 8 on the trumpet and piano, and I am also a keen singer. Putting these musical abilities to use, I represent groups in and out of school and have been part of three operas and two major school productions: Sweeney Todd and Oklahoma, the latter of which I was cast as the lead role. I hope to continue playing in an orchestra or jazz band when I am at university. Reading "This is Your Brain on Music" by Daniel Levitin and "Musicophilia" by Oliver Sacks has synthesised my passion for music and Psychology by enlightening me to the science behind music; how our brains react to music and how we are influenced by what are essentially combinations and sequences of notes played at different pitches using certain timbres.

I also possess good interpersonal skills and work well in a team, gaining valuable experience of this through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and Young Enterprise. Being a school prefect and a Corporal in the CCF has provided me with opportunities to be self-reliant and to take the initiative, to practice my leadership skills and to be trustworthy. In July I head to Malawi and Zambia on a three-week expedition during which I can put these skills to the test as I will be physically and mentally challenged, venturing into unchartered waters. All of my activities provide me with important skills that will help me in later life as well as benefiting me at the present, satisfying a broad range of interests, while helping me stand out as an individual.

The challenges of answering the questions to why we do what we do and why we are as we are have confirmed my commitment to studying Psychology at university. The course you offer will stretch me and stimulate my curiosity, as I will approach it with great enthusiasm and an open mind.

Psychology Personal Statement 2

I have always been interested in the human behavior and the analysis of the factors that shape our personality so I decided to take up an A level in psychology. During the course I became increasingly fascinated by psychological studies and I began to gain confidence in analysis and evaluation. I started reading The Psychology Review as I find this magazine to be extremely interesting and it helps me with my study. The grade I received at the end of the year reflects my effort, determination and enthusiasm for the subject. I am hoping to follow a career as a psychologist as being part of a psychological study would really interest me. We are currently studying sleep in the lesson and I feel that this has been the most interesting topic to date

I work part time in a large supermarket store, which I feel has helped me develop independence and has given me experience of working with others outside of college. The job has helped me to mature and given me practice of life within the workplace. It has also shown me good opportunity to enhance my social skills. For my Yr 11 work experience placement, I went to Gym World where I worked as a receptionist. The job included running errands, doing computer work and generally using my initiative to answer telephone enquiries. Although this placement was not psychology based I found this to be a good experience in dealing with people. I am currently working on Key Skills level 3 in communication where I did the portfolio in psychology, looking at stress and its relationship to physical illness. I am also arranging a work experience placement fixture along the psychology foundation as I feel that this would be a good lesson to be learnt about a career in such a demanding subject. My teacher put my name forward for a psychology master class at Durham University to give me an insight of psychology at a higher education level, which I will be attending later this month

During school I participated in many sporting events such as athletics, hocky and cross-country as I like to keep myself physically active. I proved to be a valuable member of the school hockey team as I have the ability to work in a team and was often chosen to be team captain. This opportunity helped me to develop my leadership qualities and made me feel confident to speak aloud. I am extremely interested in photography, which I also study as an A level as I have a very keen eye for art, creativity and the decisive moment

This subject helps me to develop as an individual. Outside of college I have an active social life and I enjoy meeting new people. I also like to go swimming and I am a member of the local gym

I understand that university life will be very demanding, but I am confident that it will give me the best chance to achieve my potential, and guide the way forward to a successful career as a psychologist.

Biology Personal Statement 1

Since as long ago as I can remember I have always been fascinated by the natural world. That childish fascination has not left me but deepened over the years. This interest has led me to my love of biology, ecology, animal behaviour and evolution.

Following my graduation from High School I studied Biological Sciences for two years at the Catholic University of Chile in Santiago. From March 1997 to November 1998 I was obliged to take a break from my studies at university as my father was moving from the city to a more remote rural area. While helping my father I was able to work closely with birds of prey among others and I was successful in breeding the endangered chinchillas. During my time away from university I continued to deepen my knowledge of my subject and studied evolutionary thinking and the biological basis of behaviour. I also worked for a brief time as a translator which made me think that perhaps my English was good enough o complete my studies in an English speaking country.

Since coming to Oxford and studying at OLT I have improved my written English a great deal. I am a member of The Natural History Museum (London) and recently attended a course called 'The History of Evolution'. The course was organised by Birkbeck College and took place at the Natural History museum in London each Wednesday. The course has been fascinating and has served to confirm my suspicion that the more I learn of this subject the more I want to know.

I am hopeful that my previous studies in Santiago, my maturity and my experience in this field will allow me to enter the second year of an undergraduate programme in the UK. After completing my undergraduate it is my wish to continue studying at postgraduate level and ultimately conduct my own research in this area. My other academic interests include, Paleoanthropology, and the history and development of science. I am most interested in the writings of Darwin and Thomas and Henry Huxley.

I am keen on fitness training, horse riding, trekking and diving. I am most interested in all outdoor pursuits. I am also keen to develop my newly found skills in classical singing and dance.

I realise that as a non-native student I will be required to work harder than my contemporaries and I am prepared to do that. I have a cheerful and open-minded disposition and look forward to sharing and exploring new ideas.

I hope may application will be considered favourably.

Biology Personal Statement 2

University has always appealed to me because of the wealth of experiences it has to offer as a student. Although I enjoy a wide variety of subjects: An A level subject that I am especially keen to study is Biology. For me, the main appeal of the course lies in the variety of topics that will be covered. The aspects of Biology I find particularly interesting are cellular Biology and how the immune system functions and responds. Student life also appeals to me immensely. The thought of living away from home and being almost totally independent appeals to me because it is a challenge, and one I really want to take. I think I will cope well as I can manage time quite well. I attended Treorchy Comprehensive School and I have enjoyed my years at the school. I sat my GCSEs at the school and I received 4 A grades, 6 B grades, and 1 C grade. I then went on to further my education in the six form at the school, which has been very successful in recent years. I opted to study Biology, Geography, Physics, and ICT. I received an A grade in Biology, Geography, and Physics at GCSE and they were also very enjoyable subjects so I opted to pursue them at AS level. In my AS level exams I received a B in Biology, a B in Geography, a C in Physics, and a C in ICT. I was pleased with my results and I continued my studies to study Biology, Physics, and Geography at A2 level. I am finding the subjects interesting and a challenge, which is what I wanted from them. I have had two work placements 'Young & Phillips Chartered Accountants' in Treorchy, dealing with people's income and expenditure bills and working out profits and losses. This involved using a spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel. The work experience was very helpful to me, as it gave me my first impression of an office environment. My intended career path used to be that I wanted to work in an office, after work experience I have learned that the day-to-day work is very repetitive

This helped me in my decision to concentrate on subjects that have some practical work to give me a change from time to time. The other work placement that I have been on is 'bridgend county borough council' in bridgend. The work I was involved in was working with another employee of the council installing white interactive boards in schools. I was involved in talking to teachers in schools, and with the people that worked for bridgend council. Both my experiences proved successful and productive. These experiences especially allowed me to use my interpersonal skills to the full. In my references, both employers remarked on my willingness to learn, my enthusiasm and initiative as well as my ability to work with others, and to communicate fairly clearly. I have a variety of hobbies outside school. When time allows, I find playing basketball, and cricket very enjoyable and a change from my studies. I also play pool in my spare time for a local pub team. I enjoy using computers as a hobby, and I am computer literate as I have studied ICT at AS level and my work experience placements have involved a lot of work on a computer. I can fully use a spreadsheet, word processing package, databases, desktop publishing packages, and I can install software easily and work around problems that I come across while using a computer. At present, I am putting most of my effort into achieving the best grades in my A Levels to allow me to reach the next target in my education. I understand that university life will be very challenging, but I am confident that it will give me the best chance to achieve my potential, and lead the way forward to a successful career. I believe that University is the best option for people hoping to get the most out of their career, and those that wish to have the most skilled jobs. I want a successful and promising career and I believe that University is the first step to achieving this aim. I hope that this application indicates that I am a promising candidate.

History Personal Statement 1

Ancient History, English language and history of the English language are my special interests.

I have a particularly strong interest in ancient history and - more recently - in the history of the English language. However, the complexities of the Roman and Greek Empire caught my imagination, which enveloped me in my own thoughts for many an hour. My earliest interests in The Roman Empire were to come about in my second year at school, where we drew diagrams of what the Roman "Tortoise" defensive manoeuvre would look like. My interest however, dimmed on this subject when we were no longer taught it. This was when I started middle school. Instead, I pursued other historical interests that were more recent historically. In particular, I enjoyed (and still do) studying the Second World War. I enjoyed this topic during this time I suppose because my Father was in the Army, and I wanted to be like him.

Towards the end of Middle school I discovered such programmes as Time Team, which showed me how exciting the task of uncovering the past and its secrets could be. This kindled my interest in Archaeology. My mother can vouch for me when I say that I spent about 6 months of my life wanting to become an Archaeologist!

My interest in ancient history was re-ignited when my mother lent me a book that she had read. It was the first of five books in the EMPEROR series by Conn Iggulden. The Book itself was about the childhood of Julius (or Gaius) Caesar and Marcus Brutus, whose lives would progress through the five books right through to the murder of Caesar. After reading this enthralling book, I was convinced that this was a literary text, instead of the slightly altered fiction that it turned out to be. After finding out in the acknowledgements that it had been altered slightly to make the storyline flow better, it spurred me on to find out what really happened and when. Unfortunately, the curriculum that we studied at GCSE and A-level did not cover any of the Classics, so to compensate I embarked upon lots of personal study, in particular on the life of Julius Caesar, and most recently The Peloponnesian War, the twenty-seven year long war between the Spartans and the Athenians in 431-404BC. Resources that I must include in this is The Histories, By Herodotus, and The Landmark Thucydides: A comprehensive guide to The Peloponnesian War. These I am now currently studying as a hobby, rather than begrudgingly slogging through an un-enjoyable subject, which I had experienced pretty much throughout all of my GCSE and A-level History. These topics were all on recent political history such as Poverty in Great Britain in the 18th and 19th Century. Although some of it was incredibly interesting, I don't have a passion for these types of subjects as much as the Ancient Histories.

After finishing the three years completing your Ancient History degree,I will go on to take a Bachelorship of Education, and find a post at a University to teach exactly this subject.

As personal interests, I enjoy Golf, Football and other recreational sports. I was also allowed to use my knowledge of the past in other subjects at A-level, particularly English Language, as I am studying the History of the English Language, and its roots, which are derived mainly from the Persian and the Indo-European Languages.

I would like to join your University because I believe that this is the best course for me to study if I am to carry on to teaching at a University. This is because of your high level of teaching standards, as I wish to be the best, therefore I need to be taught by the best to follow in their example.

History Personal Statement 2

History links us to the consequences of life in worlds gone by. Childhood visits to the inspiring Hadrian's Wall and Stonehenge fuelled my curiosity in the subject as I wanted to explore and absorb these worlds. I still have that enthusiasm and now recognise how past times have had a profound impact not just on my childhood interest and enjoyment but also the world today. My voluntary post in a Salisbury museum has enabled me to discover how the past is brought to the public and I have enjoyed meeting people with a background in history. This and the motivation I gained from GCSE and AS History have confirmed to me that I want to take my studies to degree level.

AS History led me to Amsterdam's Anne Frank Museum and Dutch Resistance Museum, showing me the broader impact of World War Two not in the taught syllabus. To complement my studies I also took part in a school trip to Berlin. Here I was able to hear a first-hand account of the true terror of crossing the border from Eastern to Western Europe, revealing to me that history isn't just found in text or by unearthing artefacts but also through the lives of others. I am eager to study Soviet Russia at A2 after reading Service's biography of Stalin. This book opened my eyes to the dramatic changes the Soviet Union went through in political and social terms with policies of collectivisation and the Purges.

I feel my A level subjects have allowed me to do what I most enjoy - researching and analysing sources from the past while developing my own ideas. English has allowed me to experience writers such as Owen, Sassoon and Sherrif who further broadened my thinking showing me differing and very personal views of life within WWI. Studying Politics has shown me the breadth of implications of history, particularly in studies into Northern Ireland.

Since joining 6th form after moving to Salisbury I have been determined to become an integral part of the school community. I have achieved this, becoming a Prefect and Form Captain in Year 12 where I integrated with other years as well as my own, and developed leadership and organisational skills. I am now a Senior Mentor for Year 12, which is very rewarding as I offer emotional and academic support to students. Previous positions of responsibility include being a librarian. In terms of sport I was on the school tennis team which improved my fitness and taught me teamwork and communication.

I am currently working towards Grade 8 flute. Music lessons have encouraged me to persevere to achieve excellence. I became leader of the flute section of Skipton Music Centre's Wind Band, and, after moving, joined the Senior Wind Band of Salisbury Area Young Musicians. These groups have improved my ability to listen to others and gain confidence through performing to unfamiliar audiences in a variety of locations.

I have varied paid and voluntary work experience which has developed my responsibilities and taught me how to interact with customers and work as a team with other employees. The balance of work and study has developed my time management skills, something I feel is crucial to a history degree.

I am looking forward to studying history at university because this will allow me to think critically and broadly. I believe university will allow me to meet many people from a wide variety of backgrounds, and that the experience will provide me with excellent transferable skills for the career path I choose to follow.