

Creating Outstanding Personal Statements

Student Booklet 2024 Entry



Information contained in this booklet is sourced from:

Causeway Education/Sutton Trust- Outstanding Personal Statements Student Booklet

Michael Senior and Paul Mannix "Writing an Effective UCAS Personal Statement"

Useful Sources of Information

Unifrog

UCAS website

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement/how-write-personal-statement>

University Prospectuses (copies available in the study room, also online)

Information on course details and specific entry profile requirements.

Degree course offers by Brian Heap (available from Mr Wright – reference only)

Course information and brief guidelines on what to include in personal statements

How important is your UCAS Personal Statement?

Universities are **very interested** in your personal statement. This is your **one chance** to stand out as an individual amongst **thousands** of other applicants with **similar** qualifications.

Fewer and fewer universities **interview applicants** so a good quality Personal Statement matters. It could **influence** whether you are made an offer or not especially when competition is fierce.

For **vocational courses** like teaching, medicine, dentistry, nursing, occupational therapy and physiotherapy your personal statement is hugely important as many students will have similar predicted grades so admissions tutors will **expect** you to give details of what sets you apart from the other applicants, i.e. your **relevant work experience**.

What are Admission Tutors Looking For?

The Basics:

- Evidence that you have chosen a suitable course
- Relevant examples demonstrating personal qualities needed for university life
- A well written statement - correct spelling, punctuation and grammar, good structure, clearly written and to the point
- A maximum of 4000 characters in 47 lines
- At least 75% of your Personal Statement should be about academic interests, motivation and strengths with 25% or less on the skills developed through extra-curricular activities.

3 main questions:

1. Why do you want to study the course?
2. What have you done that makes you a suitable applicant for the course?
3. What else have you done that makes you an interesting and unique individual who will contribute to the course and university community?

1. Why do you want to study the course?

- Motivation, interest and enthusiasm for the subject
- Evidence that you have researched the subject and understand what you are applying for
- Desire to take a particular subject you are studying now to a further depth
- **Don't** just write down what you are studying now **BUT do** say why it is interesting and what skills you have developed from it.
Link your current studies to your chosen course. For example "The practical elements of the multimedia module have led me to experiment with games design which is why I have chosen to specialise in this area".
- Inspirations stemming from what you have read, seen on TV, work or personal experiences including work experience.
- Future career plans.

Some Examples of Subject Specific Interests / Experiences / Strengths

- **History/Archaeology**- Passion for the past; visits to places of historical interest
- **Economics/Politics** – Awareness of political developments; interest in current affairs
- **Social work/Nursing/Medicine** – Awareness of demands of the profession; work experience
- **English/Drama** – What you read/watch and your views, likes and dislikes; theatre visits; favourite authors/actors/directors; writing styles
- **Education/Teaching** – Experiences; observations; government policies
- **Science/Geography** – Topics that interest you and why; future careers; logical thinking.
- **Business Studies/Economics** – Interest in how businesses work; current affairs; work experience; how did the interest first start?

Structure and Detail

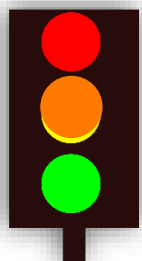
The Personal Statement can be broken down into four main sections.

1. Why do you want to study your chosen course?

2. Is there a specific topic that you can discuss in detail?

3. What have you learnt from taking part in course-related activities?

4. What are your extra-curricular activities?



Only 1 key skill/development needed for each activity

Can you provide 1-2 key pieces of detailed information?

Can you provide 2-3 key pieces of detailed information and provide specific examples?

Making a start

- Now have a go at filling in the worksheets on the next few pages which have been taken from the book “Writing an Effective UCAS Personal Statement” by Michael Senior and Paul Mannix. This will give you a basic skeleton of what to write
- When you have done this try drafting your Personal Statement
- Draft your statement in Word so you can check your spelling and grammar! Use type size 12, approx 45 lines of type will fill the space (4000 characters in 47 lines is the maximum length you can submit to UCAS).
- Read the attached examples to give you a feel for what some people have written in their Personal Statements. These are just that... EXAMPLES! It is not to say they are outstanding, good or even bad. Just something for you to refer to as a starting point.

Don't copy from any of the examples. Use your own sentences and ideas and make your statement truly personal!

Expect to draft your statement several times to make sure it is as effective as possible

Step - by - Step

1. Make a list of points you'd like to include under headings: e.g. course choice, current studies, about you (try to discuss with someone who knows you, to bounce ideas off).
2. Translate these ideas into sentences followed by paragraphs.
3. Redraft sentences /paragraphs until you are happy with the way it looks and flows.

Top tips

- ✓ Your personal statement should be a **reflective document, not a list of activities.**
- ✓ Well written – structure, grammar, relevant examples - express yourself clearly and to the point.
- ✓ Don't be vague - be specific in all your statements and give examples when possible.
- ✓ Avoid long complicated sentences - write in short sentences using positive action words from the list on the next page.
- ✓ Don't repeat information which is available from other parts of the UCAS application - it's a waste of valuable space.
- ✓ Avoid starting all sentences with 'I'.
- ✓ Ask friends and/or tutors to read the **draft** statement – they may remember things about you that you should have included and have forgotten. You can improve on initial ideas.

Section 1: Opening Paragraph-Why do you want to study your course?

Activity 1:

The key question you need to answer in the opening paragraph is WHY you want to study your chosen subject.

Example 1

I enjoy analysing and comparing sources and this is one of the key reasons I want to develop my study of Law further. The contradictions seen by comparing two accounts of events really interests me and I enjoy assessing their validity. My interest in this stemmed from my History A Level study of the contradictory sources from the superpowers USSR and USA during the Cold War. For example, Kennan's Long Telegram (February 1946) disclosed from a US perspective that the Soviets wanted to expand and must be contained. The Novikov Telegram (September) responded by mirroring Kennan from a Soviet point of view. The judgement is dependent on the author.

Example 2 – This example could be improved; how would you go about it?

During my A-Levels, and through attending University summer schools, I have discovered many new areas of Biology that have inspired me to explore this subject further at degree level. In particular I have become fascinated by cell biology and what you can learn about a cell through studying it under the microscope. For example, I have enjoyed studying the process of mitosis by observing the chromosomes in each stage and using staining techniques, which can highlight areas such as the cytoplasm.

Activity 2: Can you think of a good academic reason for wanting to study your chosen subject?

Writing about your choice of course is the most important part of your statement so think of plenty of ideas.

State your reasons for your choice of course	
Write out the reasons why you are applying for your chosen degree/HND. Some suggestions have been made to help you get started.	
Reason	Explanation
Enjoy the subject	State why <hr/>
Enjoy particular aspects of the subject	State which aspects <hr/>
Look forward to studying in greater depth	State specific interest <hr/>
Work experience confirmed interest	How did work experience help? <hr/>
Look forward to putting theory into practice	Anything in particular? <hr/>
Possess the skills required for the course	Which Skills? <hr/>
Post degree aim e.g. particular career in mind	Which career and why? <hr/>
Consider some others and add to the table	

Activity 3- Can you think of a good academic reason for wanting to study your chosen subject?

Use the **Subject Skills Bank and the below** to find some of the key skills that are needed for the subject you want to study.

Explain what you have done (in lessons and relevant work experience) and what you have learnt from it

1. Identify key skills you particularly enjoy and write them in the space below. These are your reasons for wanting to study the subject.

2. Go into more detail, using evidence to back up your reasons for wanting to study your subject. Evidence-this should be a specific example of when you have used/demonstrated this skill.

Chosen Course:

Key Skills	Evidence

Skills Bank-Sciences

Sciences	
Analysing biological/chemical/physical structures and processes.	Engaging with new scientific concepts.
Using experimental techniques to solve problems.	Analysing and interpreting mathematical data and statistical models.
Medicine / Veterinary Medicine	
Pursuing and applying scientific knowledge.	Prioritising and synthesising information to form conclusions.
Exercising good judgement in complex and uncertain contexts.	Understanding relevant ethical considerations and applying these in complex situations.
Evaluating competing needs and prioritising in order to allocate limited resources effectively.	
Nursing/Health and Social Care	
Pursuing and applying scientific knowledge.	Using research and evidence to build up clinical and technical expertise.
Exercising good judgement in uncertain contexts.	Understanding relevant ethical considerations and applying these in complex situations.
Keeping up to date with contemporary issues in nursing, healthcare and the NHS.	
Engineering	
Using scientific and mathematical principles to reach creative.	Analysing structures and processes.
Designing models to test ideas.	Collecting, analysing and critiquing experimental data.
Maths	
Articulating mathematical ideas with precision.	Applying rules logically to prove or disprove mathematical conjecture.
Interpreting complex problems and identifying appropriate tools and techniques to break them down.	Thinking flexibly and creatively, approaching the same problem from different angles.
Computer Science	
Using high-level logic and reasoning to tackle questions.	Combining logical and creative thinking to solve problems.
Working with complex sets of rules.	Analysing complex processes and systems.

Skills Bank-Humanities & Arts

Languages and Cultures	
Undertaking sophisticated analysis of texts.	Reading closely with a critical eye and a sensitivity to aesthetics.
Presenting information and arguments in a structured form.	Investigating the complexities of different cultures.
Sociology, Theology and Ethics	
Making precise textual arguments, testing both sides of an issue.	Engaging with difficult problems and looking at them from multiple angles.
Working with and criticising theories and abstract concepts.	Researching, judging and evaluating complex information.
History	
Making arguments based on complex sources and evidence.	Analysing, comparing and contrasting complex sources.
Critiquing the arguments and interpretations of other historians.	Researching complex historical questions and issues.
Geography	
Analysing numerical data and statistical models.	Critically evaluating theories and concepts.
Researching and analysing contemporary social, economic and cultural problems.	Composing persuasive and fully-evidenced arguments.
Psychology	
Applying multiple perspectives.	Identifying and evaluating general patterns.
Integrating a range of research methods, theories and evidence.	Generating and exploring hypotheses and research questions.
Philosophy	
Constructing arguments and counter arguments.	Working with and criticising abstract concepts.
Engaging in logical and rational thinking.	Distinguishing relevant and irrelevant points.
Law	
Constructing arguments and counter arguments.	Making precise distinctions between terms.
Examining complex problems and thinking about where rules do and do not apply.	Analysing, comparing and contrasting complex sources.

Politics and International Relations	
Analysing political structures, theories and concepts.	Researching complex questions and issues.
Examining problems from a range of conflicting perspectives	Constructing arguments based on persuasive evidence
Business Studies	
Understanding and analysing how organisations operate.	Interpreting and using data, including numerical data.
Analysing markets and consumer needs.	Communicating complex information effectively.
Economics	
Using logical and mathematical concepts to explore problems	Analysing and interpreting mathematical and statistical data
Researching complex problems with a variety of competing sources	Examining the relationships between different variables
Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism	
Solving problems in high-pressure environments.	Identifying and responding to consumer needs.
Setting organisational standards and managing others.	Communicating professionally with a wide range of people,
English, American and Film Studies	
Advancing independent arguments and interpretations through textual evidence.	Exploring the complex relations between texts and specific contexts: social, historical, political, intellectual.
Looking in great detail at specific parts of texts and thinking about how they produce different effects.	Analysing the forms and structures of different types of literature and film.
Exploring variations and deviations in genre.	
Fine Art	
Technical analysis of art drawing on a range of approaches.	Exploring work by a range of artists and reflecting on own work.
Showing creativity, imagination and innovation.	Experimenting with different techniques and media.
Researching new subjects for artistic work.	Self-reflection: evaluating own work critically and developing skills.

Section 2: Is there a specific topic you can discuss in detail?

Activity 1

Paragraph A - What is wrong with this paragraph?

I enjoy reading dystopian novels, for example I recently read A Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood. This book was about the oppression of women by the state.

Paragraph B – What is better about this paragraph?

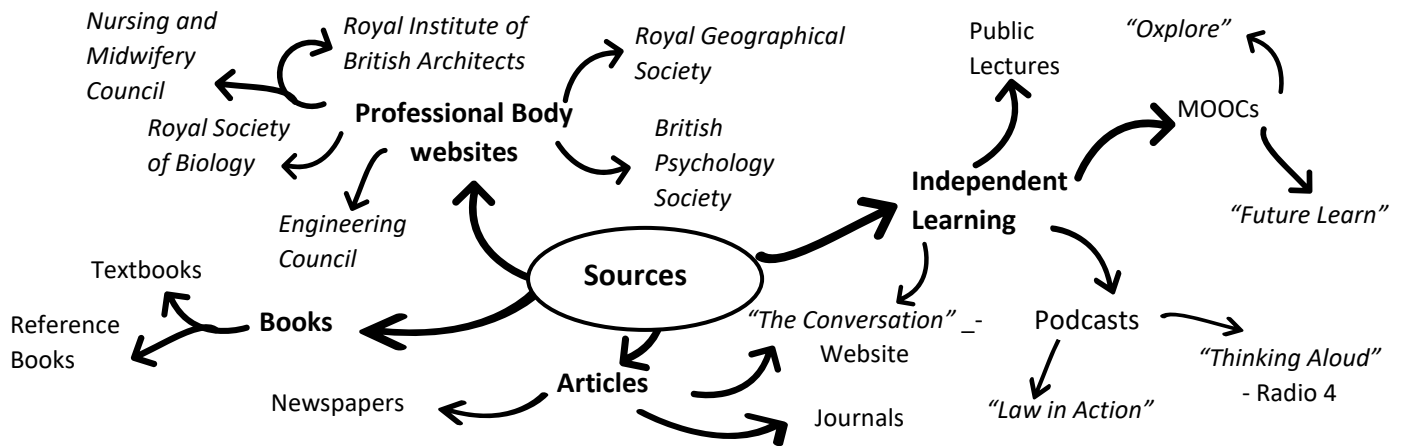
I am particularly interested in how the principles of bioinformatics are used in detection and identification of microbes. I read an article in New Scientist about how bioinformatics is used in Forensic Science for detecting bio-crime attacks. For example how it is used to identify and examine skeletal remains of victims after long periods of time. In some cases the type of microbes present in remains can indicate the length of time the person has been dead. This demonstrates the importance of attention to detail and scientific understanding in forensic science.

Paragraph C – And what about this paragraph?

Having witnessed a wheelchair user refused entry onto a bus, I found the legalities of this situation particularly interesting. I was drawn to the landmark case concerning FirstGroup Plc v Paulley. Although company policy stated that wheelchair users have priority of the designated space, drivers have no powers of compulsion. As a result, Mr Paulley was unable to board because the space was occupied by a pushchair. I have begun to question the effectiveness of the Equality Act 2010 and its construction, especially relating to Section 29 (7), which mentions reasonable adjustments. I feel that this leaves many questions unanswered, especially with regard to what exactly "reasonable adjustments" are and defining what is or is not "reasonable". A starting point for improving the Equality Act 2010 would be providing clearer parameters by stating explicitly who has responsibility for these adjustments and the extent to which companies can empower their employees, as individuals, to enforce the legislation.

Activity 2

1. Where could you find sources of relevant information about your subject?
2. Can you think of a specific topic, related to your subject, that you can discuss in detail?



Sources of Information	Specific Topic

Remember:



FOCUS

(a) Find a specific i.e. small topic



SELECT

(b) Can you select and summarise 2-3 key points?



REFLECT

(c) Did anything surprise you/did your understanding of the subject change from your research?

Activity 3: Writing about your subjects

Writing about the subjects you have studied during year 12 and are continuing to year 13 will be the longest section of your statement. You need to think about both subject content that you have enjoyed learning (try to relate this to the degree you are applying for) and the skills that you have developed that would help you to be successful at university.

For each of your subjects describe and explain the topics that you have particularly enjoyed learning about. It is a good idea to relate these to the degree you are applying for.

Subject...	
Subject...	
Subject...	

Write about the skills you have developed through studying your subjects which will help you to be successful at university

Skills	How you developed them
Working independently	_____
Computer literacy	_____
Team work	_____
Managing others	_____
Working to deadlines	_____
Diplomacy	_____

Problem solving

Using initiative

Section 3: What have you learnt from taking part in course-related activities/Writing about school/college experiences

Activity 1:

Version A-What have they done well? What could be improved?

During the summer, I participated in the Sutton Trust Summer School at UCL where I was able to take part in a few lectures which were given by PhD and former students. These lectures showed me what the real university experience is like for an undergraduate student. Discussing my subject with current students gave me extra insight into university level study.

Version B- What is better about this paragraph?

In the summer, I participated in the UCL Sutton Trust Summer School. The most interesting lecture for me was about the maths of chocolate fountains. During this lecture, we discussed what liquids can be used in a fountain and viscosities and shear rates. We used graphs to demonstrate the relationship between the two and we found out that the graphs are variations of $y=cx^n$ with different values of n - with this equation we can use it to differentiate between Newtonian and non-Newtonian liquids.

Activity 2:

1. Can you identify any course-related activities you have taken part in which are relevant to your chosen university course?

Examples – think beyond these as well:

1. *Work experience*
2. *University lectures*
3. *Extra subject-related activities at school*
4. *Student Leadership Programme*
5. *Senior Prefect*
6. *Paired reading*
7. *Charity/voluntary work*
8. *Department Assistance Programme*
9. *Music/Drama productions*
10. *Helping staff*
11. *Subject related trips*
12. *Completion of MOOCs*
13. *Signing up and completing student opportunities in the form of webinars, courses, day events, etc*
14. *Supporting academic or extra curricular sessions*
15. *Summer schools*
16. *Competitions e.g. maths challenge*

And many others.....

2. Can you focus on a specific aspect? E.g. a particular lecture you attended or article you read.

Can you go into a little detail about the key things you learnt or found interesting?

Course-related activity	Specific aspect-what did you learn or find interesting?

Section 4: What are your extra-curricular activities?

Activity 1:

Version A-What have they done well? What could be improved?

Outside of the classroom, completing the Duke of Edinburgh Silver award has helped me to develop a number of skills. It allowed me to develop my communication skills in organising our expeditions in a group, maintain exceptionally high planning skills, physical fitness and leadership. I am extremely passionate about swimming and have been a member of the school team since Year 11, competing in various competitions and being team captain in year 12. During my GCSEs I was also a member of the netball team. Swimming at a high level has provided a perfect training in managing pressurised situations. For two years, I have worked in a busy local shop and this has massively developed my abilities to work with people and my time management as I balance work with studying for exams. I feel confident interacting with people from all walks of life and backgrounds. I was honoured to use these skills when given my role as a school prefect which involved organising school events such as our recent talent show. Alongside raising a considerable amount of money for charity, it involved organisation of the student performers, helping with advertising and showing confidence in presenting when speaking to all attendees, my role as a School ambassador has likewise improved my confidence through speaking to parents.

Version B-What is better about this paragraph?

In completing my Duke of Edinburgh Silver award, I have developed skills in planning tasks and leading a team. During my A-Levels, I worked in a busy shop and swam for the school team – by balancing these commitments with my studies, my ability in organising and managing my time has improved significantly. Through my role as a school prefect I've supported the organisation of school events, improving my confidence in public speaking. I speak two different languages - English and Portuguese - and this has given me a valuable perspective in understanding different cultures.

Activity 2

1. Write a list of extra-curricular activities you have taken part in.
Examples include; Theatre, dancing, concerts, music, films, cooking, cycling, museums, painting, etc.
2. What general skills did you demonstrate? (for example, time-management, prioritisation of tasks, teamwork). Give 1 general skill per activity.

Extra-curricular activities	Outline	Skills demonstrated/Relevance
E.g. Reading novels	Science Fiction- Asimov	Enjoy a wide range of literature
Part-time work/Volunteering	Describe the main tasks undertaken and responsibilities you have been given	

Writing an effective Personal Statement

The following Personal Statements are for your information and should help you get a grasp of what other students have written. It is important that you realise that whilst they are real they are not intended to be exemplars, i.e. they all contain errors and could be improved in some ways. Please remember that a Personal Statement is a personalised document and there is a lot of subjectivity involved in trying to differentiate between good and bad.

For two or three of the following personal statements, list the strengths and weaknesses and suggest how it might be improved.

Statement number:	Degree applied for:
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • •
How might it be improved?	

Statement number:	Degree applied for:
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • •
How might it be improved?	

Statement number:	Degree applied for:
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • •
How might it be improved?	

Example only - DO NOT COPY

Statement 1

Ever since I was young, I have been fascinated with the world of finance. I believe that money has a key role to play in influencing our everyday decisions and thus the direction of our futures. Reading for a degree in a university would offer me an excellent opportunity to further my learning in Business Finance and Accounts in a more challenging environment.

In the business world, finance speculation plays an integral part in any business decision for the growth of the organisation. It would give me great interest and satisfaction to help businesses in making right financial decision. I enjoy working as part of a team as it requires flexibility and a willingness to contribute toward a common goal.

In order to broaden my financial understanding I watch the News and current affairs programmes, like 'Panorama and watchdog'. I also try and read the financial pages of the well-known broadsheets newspaper such as The Guardian and Financial Times.

In my spare time, I like to participate in a variety of activities both social and physical. Socially I have helped with the Christmas party for OAP's and with the sports day at the local special needs school. I also enjoy playing a variety of sports including: tennis and badminton. At home I use the PC for the presentation of coursework and for research on the internet. I enjoy listening to music and reading novels, both fiction and non-fiction.

I have travelled to various foreign countries including Germany, France, India and America and I am fascinated by different cultures and lifestyles. In particular I was taken aback by India because of the great variety evident in almost everything.

I am currently doing my A Levels in Sociology, Psychology and Information Communication Technology. I have gained many skills from each subject such as, learning how to apply different strategies and approaches to understanding problems, and from identifying practical steps to implementing a solution. I have learnt the ability to apply investigation and social statistics, as well as the ability to apply sociology principles to help that in need. I will be retaking some of my AS exams in January to improve my mark, as I have learnt from the mistakes that I had made in June.

I now have a part time job in a well-known supermarket which involves interacting with the public on a daily basis and taking responsibility for money. This has given me the skills in customer relations and helped me to be very accurate with exchange of money whether it is with debit/credit card or cash. Being part of a big organisation has given me confidence in working as part of a team as it allows me to make meaningful contributes from time to time. I worked in retail for over a year in customer services and learnt to be patient and a good listener and be helpful to staff.

I look forward to building on my existing understanding business and finance. I have gained a significant amount of knowledge which has prepared me for higher education and my chosen degree in business finance and accounting. I believe that I have the necessary determination and attitude to succeed at university and feel very positive about my chosen degree.

Example only - DO NOT COPY
Statement 2

My interest in the medical field began at an early age. My cousin with whom I grew up suffered from hearing loss and so I became aware of the difficulty people with hearing loss face. She became increasingly withdrawn from society and blamed herself for this. Not only her, most of the people who are disabled or have long-term illnesses are socially withdrawn from normal people, so their lives become difficult and isolated. I felt a need to constantly boost her confidence which I thought was a crucial part of her treatment. The idea of offering her aid on a professional level was increasing and I realised what I desired to achieve in the future. Being interested in people's health and being interested to provide a service to members of the public led me to do apply for courses in the medical field.

Coming to England I decided to take my ambition further and I chose to study science and Maths because I have an interest in these subjects and I knew I wanted to work in a medical area. I managed to pass my GCSEs in a one year period and I am currently studying AVCE Science and A-level Mathematics. In the science subjects not only have I developed my intellectual skills but also I have learned to work as part of a team in a safe environment. I can collect, analyse and draw conclusions from data, whilst keeping an open mind. It helped me to gain observation skills and to take accurate notes. In Mathematics also I have learned to analyse and solve problems as well as to be accurate.

From December 2001 to July 2002 I was actively involved in the Red Cross. Here we raised money to make a better living for those whom were less off than we were. We looked after people who suffer from different diseases and were withdrawn from society, especially the people who were suffering from HIV/AIDS. This was achieved by holding public talks and activities as well as volunteering to work in orphanages and hospitals. Apart from helping out with the catering, I particularly enjoyed communicating with the homeless and orphans who were mainly children. It gave me time to reflect upon life and appreciate what I had even more.

I have also been working as a waitress at the Orchid Flower restaurant in South Croydon for a year and half. Being able to work here under pressure, have patience and a positive attitude at all times are the main qualities have learned. Furthermore it has allowed me to socialise with people of all cultures and religions. Occasionally I baby-sit, which provides me with great responsibility and keeps me well organised.

During my free time I pay a great interest in reading and having discussions about different topics. I am a great fan of Danielle Steel, Agatha Christie and Shakespeare. I have read many of their books in my native language. In school I took a part in the drama club which allowed me to express myself in various ways and also I was a part of sport groups which helped me to be active and healthy. Currently I am planning to join the peer mentoring group at my local College this year. This will give me the opportunity to comfort and give the most effective advice to those students who are in need of it. Besides this I am a member of the health and fitness club as I find keeping fit is an important matter to achieve success in the long run and I am enjoying doing aerobics. In addition to these, I have a plan to start Yoga, which will help with concentration and relaxation.

I am sure I will make full use of the opportunities offered to me at University.

Example only - DO NOT COPY
Statement 3

It is impossible for a man to learn what he thinks he already knows.'
The Greek philosopher Epictetus.

When I read this statement a feeling of aspiration, enthusiasm and the desire to go out, learn and succeed comes over me. This statement reminds me that in reality, I have very little knowledge and experience of life. Going to university will help me to attain this.

Ever since I was young, I took a keen interest in money. I used to love playing board games such as Monopoly. The way money is accumulated, distributed, gained and lost were things that fascinated me. The way income has such a profound effect on individuals, groups, societies and even nations, is something I would be keen on learning about. This is the main reason I have chosen to do a degree in Economics. I have chosen this so that it may fulfil my ultimate desire of wanting to become an accountant.

I have gained an excellent foundation into economics through the economics I am studying at the moment. I have developed many skills in this subject, such as problem solving, writing essays and reports and oral presentation among many. I have enjoyed learning about production, distribution of wealth, macro and micro economics and mostly I have enjoyed learning about the various economic theories and solutions to problems that occur around the world. The mental challenges I face in mathematics and the effort and understanding I have to put in, in order to do well in the subject, is an asset which I have come to master. I intend on improving this and further develop it at university. The mathematical knowledge I have gained will aid my degree work and will also be a very useful asset as an accountant. The analytical skills required to do Government and Politics which I have acquired, are skills in which I will use in all aspects of my life.

I do not come from the most common background. I came to this country in 1993, after the outbreak of civil war in my home country. I am the only male in my household which consists of six. Due to my cultural background and being the only male, a lot of responsibility has been put on my shoulders. This responsibility has made me a mature individual with a more focused edge.

In the present political climate, as a young British Muslim and also as the President of my local Religious Society, I feel it necessary to help others understand my Religion of Islam and try and clear up all the misconceptions surrounding this beautiful Faith. In order to do this I have engaged myself in voluntary work. I have organised lectures, dinners, weekly circles, information desks and even debates. Last year we organised an Evolution debate, two hundred plus students, teachers and guests attended. After all our events, the Society receives very positive feedback from all the attendees. Being the President of this Society has developed me as an individual in many ways; it has built my organisation skills, multi-tasking ability and most evidently, it has boosted my confidence level. Also, it has developed my people skills and has helped me learn how to be part of a group. Outside of college I have involved myself in organising events and presenting a drive-time community radio show which is aired out live for two hours. This has also helped me in raising my confidence and presentation skills.

Example only - DO NOT COPY

Statement 4

I am applying for a fashion degree course because ever since I can remember I have loved fashion and would really enjoy studying in an area that best suits my fashion interest. On my current Art and Design Foundation Diploma I don't just study fashion as one of my three specialisms, it's a way of life. I enjoy every element of fashion from designing the outfits themselves to researching inspirational designers, such as Vivienne Westwood. I really believe I have the skills required for the course and I have the ambition and drive to be successful in the competitive world of the fashion industry, but a degree would enable me with the necessary skills to achieve that.

I would really love the environment that a fashion course would offer, people like me who are passionate about fashion.

My favourite designers have to be Richie Rich and Traver Rains (Heatherette) who are an L.A based duo; their designs are eclectic and bold, yet feminine they have created a lifestyle brand that truly cultivates a pop star in everyone. They have gone from a downtown brand to respected players in the fashion industry and that's what I love about them; they are driven by their dreams.

Rachel Zoc is definitely my favourite stylist of the moment she is a self-proclaimed fashion junkie and has redefined the style of L.A it girls such as Nicole Richie and Lindsay Lohan to name but a few. Her style is 'effortless chic' mixed with 1970s sex appeal. She favours skinny jeans, cropped Chanel jackets and Gucci heels infused with bohemian chic.

On my current course I have interpreted fashion into all my specialisms; fashion, graphics and textiles and printmaking. For Graphics I am creating a range of re-invented perfume adverts that are directed for the pages of a high fashion magazine. I really enjoyed creating them because it gave me the chance to create something that I would like to see in a fashion magazine and also something I would ultimately buy.

I am also incorporating my knowledge of fashion to create patterns in Printmaking and Textiles which will be finished in a handmade book.

In my Fashion specialism I am looking at revival through the years and how women's dress sense has evolved and shaped the way we dress today. For my final piece for that particular unit I will be customizing a mini jean skirt in the style of 80s punk.

Through the weekly drawing lessons I am gaining confidence and improving on my still life and life drawings. Also I have improved my skills with mixed media, composition and self-expression.

My part-time job as a sales advisor in Ladies wears at Marks & Spencer is helping me to understand about the commercial side of fashion and advertising. I can work in a team and have been gaining knowledge about the design and layout of the clothes. My hobbies are a reflection of the subjects I study; I really enjoy making my own fashion books incorporating my inspirations and the current trends. Post- Degree I hope to work as a stylist or as part of a team in a fashion house.

I really believe I have the necessary attributes to pursue a career in fashion; I am willing to learn and I am really looking forward to my time in university.

Example only - DO NOT COPY
Statement 5

From an early age I have been highly interested in business. That interest was further developed through my studies at GCSE and now at A level in business (where I have gained many skills such as my report writing through the thematic enquiry, strategic writing and people management), psychology (which will help in all aspects of business particularly marketing and human resources) ICT (where I have learnt my advanced computing skills and knowledge of modern technology) and Law (which has helped me understand the complexities of the legal system and I will further my knowledge throughout the year. I am particularly interested in the strategy and marketing sides of business. I have also gained an insight into what skills are required for being successful in business. In addition, my own knowledge I have developed through the study of the subject has given me inspiration to develop my own visions of ideas which, someday I would like to put into practice.

I have gained valuable retail experience by working at Next a well-known retailer over the summer which has given me an insight into the retail side of business, I worked independently and a part of a team. I was able to apply my knowledge of business to understand why a company operates in certain ways. I currently work for IPSOS UK which is a reputable market research company. The tasks I undertake are conducting market research for various companies and have responsibility to produce research which is valid and not contaminated, as any fault can cost the company a substantial amount of money. This has boosted my interpersonal skills and helped me to develop the patience and understanding necessary to deal with all types of customers and situations. This job has also allowed me to apply my computing skills which I have acquired over the last 4 years.

Being at College has helped me to become independent. I have learnt to balance studying with social activities and a part time job, and going to university will help me to develop my full potential.

I have always been fascinated by music and it has been my number one passion since I was a young child. I began performing and won various talent shows in my high school which I have certificates for. One of these competitions was out of 20 acts which I and two friends won from a vote from the entire student body. As I have matured I have also kept dedicated and focused on my music. Over the last year I have been given the chance to go to the studio and record music of my own. I believe my devotion for music has given me ambition to strive to be the best in whatever I do. Going to university is a goal I must achieve and taking business at a degree level will give me the qualities to be successful in my later life.

I enjoy keeping fit and am a member of my local gym. I find that physical activity relaxes me and keeps me disciplined. I was also a part of a basketball team for 3 years. Being part of this sport has taught me to work well in a team and leading the other members of the team to win a local championship in St Albans in 2002 was a great achievement.

I like to think of myself as an outgoing person who can get along with anyone. Traveling to many countries in my life such as India, Mexico, Spain, Turkey, France and America has given me the chance to experience many different cultures and broaden my outlook on life. When I am not studying I do enjoy relaxing and having a good time with friends. I believe I will be an asset to my chosen university and look forward to my undergraduate years.

Example only - DO NOT COPY

Statement 6

I have been passionate about mathematics from a very early age - I'm told that when I was three years old, after a period of contemplation I announced that 'you can't count to ten in threes'. I've been hooked on mathematics ever since. Maths is beautiful because it is undeniably correct, because every idea can be proved or disproved through logic alone, building algebra, trigonometry, topology and every other mathematical discipline from a few fundamental axioms.

In recent years especially I done everything I can to expose myself to new mathematics. I spent a week at Queen Mary's on a Sutton Trust summer school for mathematics, where I was overjoyed to work with others who loved maths as much as I did, and learnt a lot about graph theory, group working and presentation skills. I have also been to master classes at Cambridge and Queen Mary's, where I experienced university-level teaching on graph and number theory. All these experiences have helped fuel my mathematical passion and have made me even more excited about the jump to studying maths at university level.

In addition, I have read several books on mathematics such as 'Fermat's Last Theorem' and 'The Man Who Loved Only Numbers: The Story of Paul Erdos and the Search for the Mathematical Truth'. These books are fascinating, both because of the mathematical ideas and concepts they contain such as the interconnectedness of different mathematical areas, and the stories of these famous mathematicians' lives. I have even sought out mathematical videos on YouTube such as those of Vi Hart, and educational sites such as NRICH, in order to expand my understanding. I am also self-teaching an AS level in Additional Further Mathematics, which has developed my independent learning skills a great deal as well as allowing me to learn a lot of new mathematics.

I have also done my best to inspire others. As well as spending two weeks as a teaching assistant in a reception class, and another day teaching primary school children as part of a Young Enterprise programme, I spent some doing voluntary tuition of younger students in maths and English. From doing this I have gained a lot of skill in communication, since when teaching I needed to approach problems from different viewpoints in order to help others comprehend difficult topics. I am also informally tutoring a friend of mine in AS level maths.

Outside of lessons I am heavily involved in the music and drama departments of my school. I am part of the school choir, have performed in school concerts and had roles in school musicals, and have assisted backstage during concerts, assemblies and other productions. As a music prefect in year 11 I won an award for my outstanding support for the music teachers and the department as a whole. I have recently been made Head Boy, and now plan to provide the same level of support to the school as a whole.

In my spare time I enjoy acting, and have acted in several amateur dramatic productions as well as working backstage on others. I also write fiction, read a lot of books and play board games (which can offer interesting ways to apply logical techniques), along with designing games of my own. I am also teaching myself to play the keyboard. I find that this wide spectrum of more creative activities complement my more logical mathematical interests well, and having performed from an early age has given me a great deal of confidence.

I have tried to take in as much mathematical knowledge as I can, but I know that I still have so much more to learn. I can hardly wait to start.

You have now worked your way through the planning process and built upon your understanding of personal statements. Now is the time to start completing your draft versions of your personal statement! Good luck and happy writing!

