



ECONOMICS PERSONAL STATEMENT 2 PETER

DUKES EDUCATION

In few subjects are academic theory and human welfare as closely linked as in Economics and it is for this reason that I have decided to study the subject further. Economics fascinates me through its ability to interpret and explain a seemingly chaotic world through a coherent set of concepts and principles. Furthermore, whether it be in global trade, macroeconomic policy or regulation of individual markets, I am intrigued by the way in which Economics seeks for itself a leading role in influencing and even directing human affairs.

Commented [P1]: Slightly unusual introduction is a good thing – good to make a point in the first sentence rather than ‘Economics interests me because...’.

Beyond this essential interest in the subject, I find that the range of skills employed to understand Economics suits my academic strengths. Studying Maths and Further Maths at A2 level gives me an understanding of logic and mathematical processes which will be essential to a university-level course. I have received gold certificates in the UK Mathematics Trust Mathematical Challenge in each of the past five years, as well as being awarded a certificate of merit in the Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad 2008, which demonstrates my ability to deal with unusual and unconventional mathematical problems. My Modern History A level has provided me with an understanding of how the accepted economic beliefs of the day have influenced society throughout history. It has also improved my essay-writing skills and my ability to analyse the use of language and evidence.

Commented [P2]: Uncertain about the use of ‘seeks for itself’: strange phrasing. Would change to ‘intrigued by the leading role Economics plays in...’.

Commented [P3]: Strange phrasing: better to start a sentence with ‘I’ than to avoid doing so in a contrived way as is the case here.

Commented [P4]: Should be put together into one sentence: too much dwelling on maths (though clearly it is important!).

Commented [P5]: Good to link other subjects directly to the subject applied for.

I feel I am well suited to making the necessary transition from teacher-led school work to self-directed study at university. I currently aim to broaden my understanding of the subject through independent work beyond the requirements of the A level course. This has included entering the Royal Economics Society Young Economist of the Year 2009 competition. My essay ‘Are Economic Recessions Inevitable?’ was shortlisted, placing it in the top 13 of over 450 entries. The competition proved a valuable exercise in researching, planning and writing a full-length essay on the subject. I have also been selected to lead my school’s team in the ‘Target 2.0’ competition run by the Bank of England. My ability to organise this independent work effectively is further demonstrated by the fact that I received 99/100 in my Further Maths Decision 1 module exam in the summer when timetabling issues meant that I had to teach myself the course.

Commented [P6]: Good: full of evidence – makes claims credible.

Outside academia, I take part in many extra-curricular activities. As well as playing the saxophone and the guitar, I have passed grade 7 in the clarinet and play in the Salisbury area Senior Windband. I have learnt the importance of practice and have gained valuable experience performing solo in front of a large audience. I have twice been selected to represent my county in the National Cross Country Championships, and I was also senior boys 1500m champion in the Salisbury area in 2007. I play for the school’s first XI at football. These activities provide a useful and enjoyable counterpoint to academic work, as well as teaching me the importance of teamwork and training.

Commented [P7]: This section is necessary as many universities are interested in extra-curricular activities. To the extent that the student is interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge, however, the section should be kept short – tutors at my college (Trinity Hall) base decisions almost exclusively on academic ability. As such, good to keep this section evidence-based on not dwell too much on any one point.

As a result of studying Economics at A level and my additional reading I am convinced that Economics is the subject that will provide the most interesting and intellectually fulfilling experience at university.

Commented [P8]: Weak ending: adds nothing to the argument and is poorly written. Better to sum up my strong points and add a nice phrase to finish, along the lines of:

‘The interest I have in economic issues convinces me that I would enjoy studying the subject at university, whilst the skills I have developed at school convince me that I have the capacity to perform well. But above all, any success I may have at university will be based on the same factor that has enabled me to succeed at school: a commitment to study based on a genuine interest in the subject.’