



LAW PERSONAL STATEMENT

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DUKES EDUCATION

I have chosen to study a law degree as the initial step to fulfilling a longstanding desire to become a barrister. Since considering possible vocations, law has always appealed to me directly as an individual who is highly motivated and has a passion for learning. My desire for this profession has developed due to your responsibility to maintain the rights of individuals through intellect and education. The research and analysis of texts involved in the course is an element that will enthral me and I believe that this will help me achieve at the highest of levels. Consequently, I arranged work experience with a barrister's chambers in Cardiff and this succeeded in accentuating my growing desire as I was fascinated by the trial I observed, the workings of the courtroom and the trained ability of the barristers involved. Additionally, in Easter I was selected to attend a 3-day Law Conference at Cambridge University. Here, I experienced mock lectures in components of a law degree such as criminal law and law of tort. Furthermore, I partook in a small moot and also a mock debate and this experience of debating heightened my desire to study a law degree, and thus enter the legal profession. Around the subject, I have read 'What about Law' by Professor John Virgo, and 'The Law Machine' by Berlins and Dyer.

A-Level History is the subject I am most passionate about, with my particular interest being Nazi Germany. Consequently, I have read the "The Origins of the Second World War" by AJP Taylor and Kershaw's "Hitler". Moreover, around the immediate A-level syllabus, I have continued to read about other historical topics, such as the Bolshevik revolution and Mussolini's Italy. Through the study of history, I have developed the ability to construct concise, rational and well-constructed arguments instantaneously from information given to me. In addition to this, the source evaluation involved within the A-level has furthered my analytical ability. This has also been strengthened with the study of mathematics, which in turn has increased my problem solving ability and is an illustration of my logical thinking. I took French as I believe the ability to understand and communicate in a modern foreign language is becoming increasingly necessary in the modern world, and I fully intend to continue with the study of the language throughout my university degree. Chemistry as an A-level displays precision and accuracy, and the hypothesis testing involved is a skill vital within a law degree. Furthermore, I keep abreast of current affairs by reading weekly newspapers.

Outside of my studies, my free time is divided between my part time job, music, golf and explorer scouting. I read regularly, and have recently read several autobiographies of influential characters of the twentieth century, such as Muhammad Ali and Nelson Mandela. I have a part time job as a lifeguard, after obtaining my National Pool Lifeguard Qualification in October 2007. Also, I have been part of the Scout movement since the age of six, and have been Chairman of the Gwent Scout Forum and a representative on the Scout Forum of Wales, both of which have employed communication and debating skills. These skills, along with my organisation skills, have formed the basis of my workings as a qualified Young Leader and I have been helping weekly with Goytre Cubs for 2 years, and also I am junior vice-captain at my local golf club. At school, I participated in a paired-numeracy scheme, in which I had to explain mathematical concepts to year 7 pupils who were struggling with key mathematics.

I believe I will succeed at a law degree because I am a highly motivated, tenacious individual who will persevere when challenged. My versatility of mind, natural time management and passion for learning are all key factors that will make me strive to achieve the highest level of success at university.

Commented [SM1]: Must be careful here as some academics don't regard a desire to practice law an adequate reason for wishing to study law in the academic depth covered by the course

Commented [SM2]: Should have expanded on what attracted me to the course

Commented [SM3]: Shows a passion for the subject by going to extra lengths to arrange work experience

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Commented [SM5]: Always difficult with law to explain academics as you don't study it before university

Commented [SM6]: The value of naming history books is questionable

Commented [SM7]: Not particularly relevant

Commented [SM8]: This should have been expanded upon – see below

Commented [SM9]: These skill should have been expanded upon

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