I'm passionate about every aspect of Geography, I always have been. From my first secondary school lesson all the way through to A-level Geography. I wouldn't say I prefer either the physical or human side of Geography, I am interested in both, and am fascinated by how they relate and compare. I want to continue to deepen and expand my knowledge of Geography, and the world around us. I see a Geography degree as the ideal way of doing this.

During GSCE and AS/A Level Geography I have covered a wide range of topics, all of which I have been really interested in. One particular topic I have a real passion for is rivers - for both GCSE and AS Level Geography my school took us to study the Long Mynd in Shropshire. We looked at many aspects of the river, including its gradient, width, depth and hydraulic radius. For both my GCSE coursework and AS Level fieldwork I collected results on the river, I then analysed and explained the results I found. This was the basis for both pieces of work. My other A Level choices include English Literature/Language, I completed this A-level at the end of year 12, having started it in year 11, when I was fast-tracked by my secondary school. My English A-Level has helped me to improve my analytical, essay and additional research skills.

During year 10, I volunteered to take part in a school run Duke of Edinburgh scheme. This involved me gaining many valuable skills, such as working well as part of a team. It also taught me a lot about myself, and helped me mature. During the main expedition the group of four I was part of actually broke a school record for finishing in the quickest time. I personally was praised for my map-reading and navigational skills and was said to work “superbly as part of a team”. Other aspects of my Duke of Edinburgh award involved me improving my swimming skills, gaining my gold swimming award, volunteering at a local scout group, which I also attended between the ages of 7 and 16, from Beavers to Explorers. Finally, I took part in extra curricula Spanish lessons, through my school, this helped me to attain a Spanish GCSE grade B.

Through my school’s sixth form I also volunteered and was part of a Young Enterprise Scheme, which was based around a printing company, and raised considerable funds for our sixth form. During latter KS4 I also took part in extra curricula GCSE Statistics, which was only offered to the top Maths set, I feel it helped me in many ways to collect and analyse date, which aided me in many GCSE and AS/A Level Geography lessons. I hope these skills gained will also help me in completing a Geography degree.

Outside of school, my main interests involve many different sports. I played for Woodrush Rugby Club for 11 years and captained my age group for the majority of this time. Recently, I have also competed in an open age 6-a-side football competition. I have also represented my school in hockey, rugby and cross- country tournaments.

I am completely focused on attaining the grades to be accepted to undertake a Geography degree. I am extremely confident I will exceed my predicted grades. I realise a Geography degree will challenge me in many ways. Once completing my Geography degree I hope to get a job in either teaching or research.

What do you want to be when you grow up? I have been asked this question numerous times, and
honestly, I cannot answer. I know my heart lies in the media and creative industry, whether
that be performing on a stage, writing a novel, directing a film, editing a magazine or teaching
Drama/English; the list goes on...

Personally, I enjoy writing informative and creative pieces of writing, as well as exploring different interpretations of language, by considering the thought process of the author when devising the characters, themes etc; a skill also particularly useful when portraying a character from a script. Furthermore, when I take on a role, it acts as a release and enables me to take my emotions, and adapt them, to create
someone and something deeper than what a script informs. I believe a Drama/English Joint Honours Degree is the perfect combination that compliments me.

In terms of extra-curricular activities I am a dedicated member of the Library Committee, which involves co-operating and working within a team to organise numerous events that encourage young people to take up reading. One such event that I helped to organise was an 'Alice in Wonderland' tea party. Using my skills as a
public speaker, I had to engage and captivate children of the local primary schools. Also, as
a writer, I had to consider making the assembly not only comprehendible, through simple
lexical choices, but also animated and interactive, by getting Committee members to dress up
as characters and question children about the novel. Moreover, having undertaken work
experience at my former primary school; volunteered at Rainbows as part of the Duke of
Edinburgh Bronze Award scheme, and currently working part-time at Build-A-Bear Workshop,
particularly leading birthday parties, I feel I have a strong and varied background working
with young people. Therefore, I am also considering applying for a PGCE course once I have completed my degree. I have also participated in a unique Arts and Heritage Project, 'Slave to Fashion', which
explored how the Slave Trade linked to today's fashion industry. As a devoted and enthusiastic
Sixth Form Committee member and Performing Arts student, I was hand-picked to help film the
documentary; interview the students; take professional photographs on the accompanying
residential trips, and devise the lighting for the final showcase event. To date, I feel this
experience has been the most valuable, for not only has it opened my eyes to the wide range of
occupations available behind the scenes/stage, but it has also taught me how to utilise highly
technical filming and lighting equipment. Moreover, as a volunteer at Woodrush Youth Centre, I
have compèred the annual competition, 'Youth Got Talent', at the Artrix Theatre for the past
three consecutive years. This experience has personally challenged me as a performer, as
presenting requires a new skill: addressing the audience through a confident persona which is
not scripted, like the fictional roles and characters that I have executed in school
productions and GCSE/BTEC Level 3 projects. Moreover, when compèring, I also constructed my
own script; this tested me as a writer, as the target audience was vast. Therefore, my
material had to relate to a wide age range, and still have the light humour and charm to
entertain the audience in between the different acts.

I am excited about the prospect of continuing into Higher Education. The University experience
will give me the qualifications, independence and social skills to sculpt me into a
more-rounded figure, ready to face the world of work. In the words of Jane Austen, 'An artist
cannot do anything slovenly'. I intend to approach my university studies with rigor and an unremitting drive; an approach, I am sure, that will lead me towards acquiring a strong degree in two subject areas I am passionate about.

Law has often been the subject of discussion at home. My mother is a partner in a law firm. We
have always discussed facts and legal principles that have emerged from various cases and the way the
legal system operates. I also follow interesting cases on the news to see how these are
developed or were concluded and we would discuss why various decisions might have been made
or why there might be room to challenge some of them.

I am also studying Biology and Psychology. Psychology sits nicely with Law because this helps
me to understand why people act in the way they do and gives an insight into what pushes a
person to commit a crime. I chose Biology as my final option because I had always done well
with this subject. All of these subjects require an analytical approach and attention to detail.
I have always been able to study independently, motivating myself to complete tasks and I
think that this will have a positive impact on my studies over the next three years when a
large amount of studying will have to be undertaken independently.

I have already familiarised myself with the general principles of the English legal system and
have applied knowledge in the classroom to the cases that we have seen in the news to improve
our understanding of the legal system and its approach in real life scenarios. I am able to
read, review, analyse and apply what I have learned to arrive at reasoned solutions. Good
presentation skills are also required and I can produce work to a high standard and work to
deadlines. If I have the opportunity to take part in mock trials then this will provide me
with the opportunity to experience what it is like to work as a lawyer.

I have had several work experience placements. The first involved the provision of IT services
and electronic equipment to local businesses. I stripped down and installed software on
equipment, made deliveries and I learned how to build the internal workings of a computer from
scratch. Being conversant with IT will help me with my studies in terms of research and also
presentation of my subjects. Case management systems are widely used in legal practices and
good background knowledge of IT is essential. My second work experience placement was at a city centre printing business where I made deliveries across Birmingham and undertook general office administration. I had to learn quickly to find my way around the city for the first time and also how to work with people whom I had never met before. Working in different subject areas for Law will require flexibility and I am sure that I will be able to adapt to changes of subjects quickly, just as I adapted to working with different people in
different environments over these two periods. Over the summer, I also had two weeks paid work experience at a city centre law firm. My work there included doing administrative duties such as faxing, running errands, photocopying, dealing with post and filing. I had to listen to instructions and then work on my own initiative to
complete various tasks. I adapted easily to the systems there. I had the opportunity of talking to other solicitors, including those who had only recently qualified. Working alongside these people, strengthened my decision to study this subject.

In my spare time, a passion of mine is drumming. I have been drumming for over six years,
attending lessons on a regular basis, which requires commitment and dedication. Also, I have
volunteered to mentor year 7 pupils at my school in music. I teach them the basics of drumming
and I am also helping young bands develop and improve. This requires patience and a relaxed
but firm approach. I think that these are all attributes that will help me with my further
studies.

If I am accepted on this course, I am determined to make the most of my time at university and work towards obtaining a degree which will ultimately enable me to achieve my ambition of becoming a solicitor.

My love of History has stemmed from childhood. On our family holidays to Wales I was
fascinated by the Welsh castles and their origins in how they shaped Britain as a whole and
consequently built our country into what it is today. After taking up further reading, my
historical knowledge has continued to flourish, inspiring me to look into many other areas of
history such as the Napoleonic Wars in Europe, which, in turn, has led me to delve further into historical
areas not as well popularised, such as The War of 1812 in America. What interests me most is
how history has influenced the lives we live in from both a sociological and historical
context. Moreover, numerous visits to the English Heritage Festival of History has given me an
even greater understanding and knowledge of a variety of past civilisations. This has also given me
an opportunity to attend talks from a number of historians as well as the opportunity to speak
to Julian Richards and discuss his work. The history course interests me so much as it gives
me the prospect to further enhance my knowledge and understanding of a wide choice of
historical periods, from the medieval era up to more modern history, as well as develop my
independent study skills.

I work well independently, as shown though coursework I have completed in numerous subjects,
including History. My ability to work independently has also been developed through wider reading and research across all of my A level subjects. Through my Sociology studies I have developed an interest in not only the history of a civilisation, but also the sociological aspects and why certain changes took place as a consequence. Studying Film Studies has also enabled me to gain further contextual knowledge of different historical periods. For example, studying Soviet montage in films like 'The Battleship Potemkin' has developed my understanding of the Russian revolutions against the Tsarist regime in the early twentieth century. My interest in History has also helped me in English Literature, offering me a more developed understanding of the contextual influences on literature written at different stages throughout history.

I have taken part in a variety of extracurricular activities outside of school and college. I
was a member of the Scouts for many years, which gave me the chance to take part in a wide
range of practical activities, thus improving my leadership skills as well as learning new
ones. These skills helped when I volunteered to help at a number of sporting events within
school and on open days. These experiences have also proved useful when taking part in the
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. I have also been part of a number of amateur dramatic
performances such as 'The Arabian Nights' and 'Mulan'. These performances have helped to
develop my dedication, confidence and commitment when it comes to meeting personal targets and goals.

I have also worked at a Kennels and Cattery for four years, showing my dedication to my job and
those I work for, while also giving me the opportunity to learn new skills and gain an
overview of a business. Finally, I briefly volunteered at a garden centre for disabled people,
which was a fantastic opportunity and a rewarding experience as I was able to spend time with them and support them with their needs. I believe these experiences further serve to
emphasise my dedication, commitment, drive and enthusiasm.

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