

AMERICAN STUDIES

My interest in America began on a family holiday to Florida where I was given the opportunity to experience the culture and its people. American literature, music and film has led my fascination with the country to grow. I am particularly intrigued by Tupac Shakur and how the government and media reacted to his work. I am also interested by how terrorism such as the Oklahoma bombing or the twin tower attacks affected the nation.

I have the ambition, dedication and motivation to be well suited to study American Studies at degree level. My A Level choices reflect my interest in American history and society. My favourite subject, history has broadened my particular knowledge on American foreign policy. The subject has also enhanced my analytical skills. English increased my awareness and interest of American novels such as *The Great Gatsby*. English has also helped me develop my own individual opinions and ideas and has taught me how to express them in a mature manner. Psychology has helped me become an un-biased thinker and it has helped me learn how to use case studies as evidence. The subject has also taught me to make connections between causes and effects.

Currently, I am volunteering in a Cancer Research UK charity shop. This involves me working in a team to sort out donated items and organising the shop. Volunteering offered me the opportunity to operate the tills, which helped me, communicate with the public regularly and work independently, improving my communication skills. Over the summer, I worked in a local nursery, where I cared for and entertained the children.

Being a school prefect has led to me having an active part in the sixth form. My duties involve helping to organise fundraisers and liaise with staff and students.

As well as my A Levels, I am taking a Spanish course. After several holidays to Spain I decided it's a beautiful language. I also think learning Spanish is important for me as around 12% of the United States population can speak the language. In 2003 I became a PADI qualified scuba driver. I enjoy this activity as it allows me to explore the ocean environment and witness different species in their natural habitat. I am very self-motivated and regularly attend the gym. Through hard work and a lot of practice, I have recently passed my driving test. I still drive anytime I can as I enjoy the freedom it provides me with.

My interest with American culture, history and politics has led me to my decision to study American Studies. I believe it's an ideal choice for me as I am hard working, enthusiastic and committed. I look forward to the academic challenges and opportunities American studies can offer me. I also look forward to the new and exciting experiences university will offer me and how this degree will aid my personal development and skills