

Politics and Philosophy

A thirst for knowledge and understanding of the society in which we live first drove me to explore philosophy and politics. Politics is a living subject, ever changing and influencing different aspects of our lives. A multi-disciplinary degree will allow me to develop a broader understanding of wider issues. Politics and philosophy is a diverse discipline, and the links between the two subjects generate a broad basis on which to study, as they both have a great influence on each other.

A level politics has fascinated me, and I was lucky enough to go to America and visit various political institutions. The political climate in America regarding Iraq engendered an interest in war, its causes and effects and the philosophies surrounding it. My ambition is to work for the UN following a guided tour in New York, and after work experience at a German primary school I would love to take language modules whilst studying. Critical thinking has developed my skills to structure a formal argument and criticise flaws effectively, and reading Kant and Russell has generated an interest in wider philosophical thinking. I enjoy analysis and debate, and in particular I look forward to considering Locke's theories on freedom and governance. There are many aspects of philosophy that interest me: ethics and metaphysics have particularly caught my attention. My mix of science and arts subjects at AS level equipped me with a variety of analytical and interpretational skills that I feel make me particularly suitable for this degree. AS level biology means that in addition to arts skills such as interpretation, personal response and articulation, I am able to approach ideas in a scientific, analytical manner. I feel that this objective outlook will aid my progress on the course, and further to this critical thinking has introduced me to the formulation of reasoned arguments and logical structure to justify statements. With a view to keeping myself abreast of current affairs I read the Times regularly. I feel that Critical Thinking and English have enabled me to form my own views on information objectively, and I would relish the chance to develop articulation of opinions through reasoned logic. The eternal human curiosities we come across in English literature have encouraged debate and consideration, developing deeper empathy for other people's views and opinions.

Voluntary work involving Sunday School and conservation desire to engage and contribute to community caring and considerate individual. I am completing the gold Duke of Edinburgh's award, already it has developed my interpersonal and team working skills and the challenge of something so new and different is one that I feel I have risen to, and taken advantage of the prospects it has presented. In addition to this I am a sexual health peer educator and was Artistic Director of Young Enterprise. Having served as a form representative, a prefect and a mentor for the lower sixth I have experience of responsibility for others, representing their views and speaking in front of my peers and superiors, which has improved my confidence and diplomacy. Two years of voluntary work at Shelter charity shop and a part-time job in a supermarket have given me with oral communication skills and a sense of responsibility, discipline and time management, as well as allowing me to show commitment and motivation.

Politics and philosophy presents great opportunity to immerse myself in society, to enhance empathy and comprehension of system and convention, ideas and theories. I am a keen swimmer and tennis player, and I fully intend to take an active role in university life while studying. It is because of my motivation and enthusiasm for the world around me that I feel I am truly suited to reading politics and philosophy, and I thoroughly look forward to my time at university.