**Applied for:** Criminology/Policing

**Offers received:**

University of Gloucestershire – 120 points

University of Derby – 112 points

University of Leicester – BB Distinction

At first glance, it may appear that I have an unusual combination of A-levels for my degree  
choices. This is because I had a different idea for my career path before taking the Spartan  
Test as part of my Year 12 career research. The results came up with a range of options and  
the more I researched the idea of criminology or policing, the greater my interest became in  
this as a career. I became fascinated reading about what drives people to commit crimes and how to prevent them. Studying the theory in much more detail before applying for a career in the police force seemed like an excellent preparation to me.

At school, I chose to do Applied Science as I wanted to continue my interest in all the  
sciences beyond GCSE. The course has an emphasis on individual research as it is  
coursework-based and required meeting regular deadlines without the intervention of a teacher; this is excellent preparation for university study. I have enjoyed researching, planning and carrying out the investigation work but the accurate recording and analysing of data to come to conclusions have been strengths of mine. These will be essential on a course like this when analysing a crime scene. The regular report writing will be similar to what is required when bringing the evidence together for use in court. These skills have been developed further by my independent investigation in Geography, as I was required to do my own individual research to measure the amounts of pollution on Croyde beach and how factors could affect how much pollution is on the beach. Within DT, I get great satisfaction from having the freedom to design and develop my own ideas using practical skills. It also requires me to be accurate and precise with both designs and manufacturing my prototypes, whilst continually checking and refining my work.

One of my many extracurricular commitments has been completing Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Gold Awards. These have developed critical skills necessary for a career in policing or criminology. They have tested my physical and mental strength especially when trekking through the Black Mountains after a snowy winter last year. Teamwork and individual perseverance were paramount for us to succeed in our expedition especially when we were all exhausted. As part of the award, I did rock climbing developing strong bonds with my team as our lives were literally in each other's hands!

As my voluntary work, I spent Thursdays doing intensive 1:1 reading with struggling Y7  
students developing communication skills using strategies to keep them engaged. I spent a year with Barnardo's working locally fundraising and helping in the store meeting and communicating with a diverse range of people. I also took part in the summer reading challenge at my local library, monitoring and discussing the books they had read. I had to encourage and motivate youngsters of a range of backgrounds and ages developing communications skills and character judgment. I gained first aid skills through St John's Ambulance at 13 and have regularly updated them through both my Bronze and Gold DofE; these will be essential skills in the police force. I'm helping my friends raise money for a school in Africa; we are building two new classrooms for the school. As a fundraiser, I'm cycling from Gloucester to the Brecon Beacons and back; we have currently raised £7,000 but our goal is £10,000.

From the age of four, I have played football. I played weekly in an 11-a-side for Y10 to Y12,  
where I showed my teamwork skills and was voted Player of the Year. Currently, I captain a  
Sunday League 6-a-side team where I haven't missed a single game.

After university, I see myself specialising law enforcement such as international crime and  
drug smuggling due to the impact they have on society as a whole. I feel my sixth form studies and extracurricular interests have built strong people, teamwork and management skills that would help me be successful on this course.