Example 1

My interest in Law was sparked when I attended a talk by Richard Dawkins at the Cheltenham Literature Festival where he spoke about a case relating to teaching creationism as a science in America. My interest grew. I decided to do my Extended Project Qualification on this topic. This enabled me to study the American legal system and compare it to Britain’s. I also researched trials like the Scopes Trial which initiated the change needed and the Butler Act was abolished in 1967. I wrote a structured, balanced argument and enhanced my analytical skills. When I examined the Bentham v. Regina case I was able to analyse the rulings on this and agreed with the Court of Appeal.

As my interest grew, I decided to study online courses during lockdown. Firstly, “The Modern Judiciary System” where I learnt the order cases go through the courts’ and how judges judge a case; following the common law and looking into precedent cases to see if they’re applicable. I found the medical law course very appealing, especially “The Law, Medicine, and Ethics of Reproductive Technologies and Genetics”. This sharpened my critical thinking skills as I found looking into different arguments surrounding surrogacy, like undue inducement, coercion, exploitation and corruption, fascinating. I weighed up questions like “Does surrogacy exploit poorer women?” After this, I then read “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” which raises the question of who owns the human cells? Its these types of issues that draw me into wanting to study law as I love weighing up all the different arguments.

My interest in medical law is reinforced by my subject choice especially Biology, supremely the ethics of genetic engineering. The most interesting case to me is the three parent baby case as the human germline is modified when no one knows the future impact. However, the benefits outweigh the negatives. The data analysis skills I gained from Biology and Chemistry can be applied to law by ensuring all facts in arguments are accurate. In maths, I relish working methodically which is essential to a well-structured argument.

Current affairs really interest me. During the General Election in 2019 I attended a local debate with the leaders from each party. I witnessed a trial of assault and theft at the Crown Court where I saw how proceedings take place and confirmed my ambition to become lawyer. My interest in Criminal Law increased, so I enrolled in more online courses, my favourite being “Incarceration: Are Prisons Suitable Punishments?” It opened my mind to different style of prisons especially the Norwegian system as the reoffending rate is significantly lower compared to UK’s. To verify my ambition I arranged work experience at Steven Young Solicitors Cheltenham but it has been postponed to January due to COVID.

My communication skills have continuously improved through many activities like World Challenge. A group of us trekked around Malaysia and Borneo for a month and volunteered in a rural village. We arranged the accommodation, food and travel. I completed my Gold Duke of Edinburgh which further enhanced my communication and teamwork skills. For my voluntary section I assisted in a local junior school enabling me to learn to communicate with people of all ages. Working in Molton Brown, I ensure a good customer service. Through these experiences, l learnt that good communication is what you say, how you say it along with body language.

As a member of the school’s hockey team, teamwork was vital. I enjoy many sports recreationally like tennis and running which will help to deal with the pressure of a law course. I am also a keen musician and am currently working towards my Grade 8 piano and Grade 6 violin emphasising my dedication.

I am looking forward to exploring all areas of the degree before settling on a specialism. I am confident that I have the logical skills needed to further study this intriguing subject bringing a different perspective from my scientific background.

Example 2

Law is the predominant overarching factor in defining the stability of our society. My fervent interest in Law developed when I discovered that I thrive on analysing problems and questioning to what extent Law can confront these issues. My interest in the application of Law and its integral role in governing society led me to start my Law blog, thelinksoflaw.tumblr.com. In my EPQ, I proposed the question “Can money buy justice in American legal systems?” to which I argued that justice cannot ultimately be bought, relishing the challenge of constructing an outwardly indefensible argument. Reading Reasonable Doubts by Dershowitz sparked my interest in analysing how race, financial background and social climate influence case outcomes. Having grown up in both England and Germany, I have noticed that in Germany, citizens are more bound by the literal and precise terms of Law, even to the extent of crossing the road, whereas in England, interpretations of Law are more flexible. I have learnt that Law is malleable and dynamic, as it continues to evolve throughout history.

Reading Friedman’s A History of American Law interested me as to the flexibility of imported statutes into a federal system. Reading Morestein’s Know your consumer Law and Twining and Miers How to do things with rules encouraged me to consider the disparity between the way in which law is written, and the way in which Law is interpreted. The Times Everyday Law and Law’s Strangest Cases has helped me to appreciate how Law pervades every aspect of daily life, and the vital importance of distinguishing between Law, morality and emotion when reaching a conclusion. Reading Raymond Wacks’ A Very Short Introduction to Law and A Philosophy of Law interested me as to the nature of jurisprudence. Tom Bingham’s The Rule of Law enlightened me as to the global disparity of the rule of law.

In my studies, the analytical approach required to study history appeals to me due to the surgical attention to detail it requires. Drawing links between seemingly disparate periods has particularly interested me, after linking The Holocaust with US Westward Expansion and Tudor Irish Rebellions. German has broadened my understanding of approaching a subject with rigorous discipline and applying existing knowledge to a new situation. In English Literature, studying Danby’s thesis of the definition of ‘nature’ in King Lear provoked me to delve deeper into natural law, comparing the notion with Sharia Law. Geography has taught me that similarities in law is what unites countries together, but differences in law can drive transnational communities apart.

Outside of the curriculum, I am an avid debater and was awarded the prize for best individual speaker at the regional finals. As part of the school’s Law Society, discussing when law should override religious objections to health care has particularly interested me. I enjoyed dissecting cases meticulously to draw conclusive judgements on work experience at a local solicitor’s office, confirming my decision to study law. I have also followed debates online at the House of Commons, where I witnessed the Brexit debates, deepening my appreciation of the scrupulous approach required when considering law in principle and in practice. I enjoyed cataloguing archives at the Town Hall over the summer. Being on my school rugby team and charity committee have both respectively developed my negotiation skills. I have hugely enjoyed the responsibilities of being a Head of House and Senior Prefect.

Law is what has defined our histories, law is what will define our futures

Example 3

My interest in law sparked when I was a young boy. My father’s company, Abbey Loos, needed the assistance of a lawyer to help return his stolen portable toilets after 3 men had trespassed onto his property and stolen them. That was the first time I had been exposed to the world of law, the penalisation of trespassing and the offense of stealing. I spent a lot of my childhood in my father’s office listening to work conversations. It was here that I learnt of the laws that businesses have to follow in order to the run a company in the UK. Lastly, when I was old enough to be employed there, I had to sort and comply with the data laws, GDPR, handling credit/debit card information and the responsibility of keeping personal data safe through secure filing of resources.

As my interest grew, so did my research. Throughout lockdown I studied several online courses. “Introduction to Studying Law” developed my ability to note take efficiently, use the RADAR method to help question a text, the importance of sampling and questionnaires. “Exploring Law” by Cambridge University was a particular interest, especially private law. This sharpened my critical thinking skills when looking into different viewpoints and arguments surrounding the protection of trespassers. I weighed up questions over the type of trespassing such as squatting in residential areas to decide whether the squatter should be prosecuted for attempting to seek a basic human right of shelter? I followed this with my own research into The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

My interest into law is reinforced by my subject choices particularly English and History. The most interesting topic for me was life under apartheid in South Africa, I read “Disgrace” by J.M Coetzee which follows the story of David Lurie, a white man struggling to adapt to post-apartheid society after his apartheid upbringing. We see his now archaic behaviour that was once legalised under apartheid throughout the novel. The concept of laws changing as society progresses fascinates me. I based my English coursework on the book, from this I gained better balanced argumentative essay writing skills which can be applied to law, ensuring I am able to write a cohesive and coherent argument.

I am passionate about environmental affairs; I travelled to COP26 in Glasgow taking part in the protests to raise awareness. I witnessed a lot of great promises such as the demand for world leaders to aim for 1.5 0C, reversing deforestation by 2030 and curbing methane emissions. However, it was also ironic that the parent company of the sponsor, Dettol, have history with palm oil. They had vowed to ‘protect, heal and nurture’ for a ‘cleaner, healthier world’ but, quoting their own website figures, I found that Reckitt used 134,414 tonnes of palm oil or palm oil products in 2019. Furthermore, following the WWF’s 24-point system based on practises in palm oil Reckitt was ranked 11.4, below average for the 227 surveyed companies.

As a member of my school’s athletics team, teamwork was vital. I also enjoy many other sports recreationally such as tennis, however I think it is my unwavering determination cultivated from over 9 years of working as a gymnast that will help deal with the pressure of a law course. I have a competitive spirit developed since the age of 6. I went on to volunteer at a local secondary school to help coach gymnastics. As one of the few male gymnasts in the club, I had a group of energetic boys that helped improve my communication skills and confidence in my abilities, especially at adapting activities, due to very short attention spans.

I am looking forward to exploring all areas of the degree before settling on specialism. I am confident in myself that I have the logistical skills needed to further study this fascinating subject and with the help of learning another language to become a versatile solicitor able to pursue my dream of working in an international law firm.

Example 4

The fulfilment I gain from problem solving fuels my determination to study Law. Passionate to help others, this degree will equip me with skills & knowledge to systematically work through issues and resolve them through legal practices. FutureLearn’s course ‘Exploring Law: Studying Law at University’ has given a taste for the law and that, whether progressing in a career as a lawyer or pursuing roles in a wider corporate environment, this degree will be of great benefit.

‘About Law’ by renowned legal academic Tony Honoré has given me an introduction to studying and practicing Law, informing me on the pathways into the legal profession, as well as further igniting my passion for the subject. Furthermore, ‘Letters to a Law Student’ [Nicholas McBride] was a beneficial read, presenting fictional letters to a student undertaking this degree and discussing methods to aid success. Attending numerous talks & lectures in Law from various universities, I have obtained an insight into studying Law and how much I would enjoy it. I find the wide spectrum of Law modules fascinating and am looking forward to exploring which most suit my interests.

I was invited to attend Gloucester Crown Court and experienced a court case first hand, seeing both the prosecution and defence in action. I was also selected to represent my school in a mock trial competition, in conjunction with the local magistrates’ court, further confirming my interest in the subject.

My A Levels have given me relevant skills for university: History provides analytical skills to form and evaluate arguments, Geography gives an appreciation of environmental factors impacting us and Sociology provides insight into how background and surroundings affect behaviour. Also the emphasis on strong written communication in these subjects will be valuable for future studies.

As Deputy Head Girl, I am a trusted membership of the School Leadership. Being Head of School Council, I have learnt to communicate effectively, taking ideas from stakeholders within the school and sharing with senior decision-making bodies. As Stage Manager of the School’s Production Crew, I successfully manage a group of five people to ensure school productions run smoothly. I have recently become a Mental Fitness Ambassador supporting young people in their journeys with mental health and offering guidance. With this role, I have demonstrated commitment & responsibility by organising fundraising events and promoting our activities. While holding these great responsibilities in school, I have learned to juggle my time and ambitions. At university I will use this skill as I throw myself into new opportunities.

As a result of my Higher Project, ‘Helping the elderly combat loneliness in the community’, I set up a ‘Connection Service’ for young people to connect with the elderly at a local Residential Care Home. This demonstrates empathy and an ability to communicate with various demographics.

I represented my county at swimming galas and am part of a local running club. In my job, I was recognised for excellence in training, whilst it has helped develop patience when dealing with challenging circumstances and helping customers get the best experience. Achieving DofE Gold Award has given valuable experiences particularly through volunteering and the expeditions in the Brecon Beacons.

I am exceptionally proud to represent Cheltenham in a global peace conference (Peace Camp 2021) bringing together just 20 Student Ambassadors from UK, France, Germany, Poland and China, sharing voices of young people in discussion for a more sustainable world. It is an honour to have been selected for this exciting event.

Example 5

My interest in law was sparked by my grandfather, a serving judge for over 20 years. As a result, from a young age I was able to learn the intricacies and fundamental accepts of law which have inspired me to pursue a career within it. Law is a respectable and honourable career, however I am also very aware that it is a challenging and demanding. Despite this, I am confident that I have the will and determination to persevere and excel in the field of law. My initial thoughts after researching law on The Lawyer Portal were to specialise in contract, commercial or company law as, I have a great interest in business and would like to establish my own in the future; my current ideas being the development of my own law firm or property business.

In order to help develop skills needed for law, I studied a Future Learn course “Introduction to Law” which emphasised the importance critical thinking and analysis. Using the expansion of Heathrow Airport as an example, I used the RADAR technique to formulate a judgement on whether the benefits of the extra runway outweigh the negative issues. The skills to assess the reliability of information and arguments to formulate an opinion will all be transferrable to my university course.

As part of the school’s Debating Club, I enjoyed being given one side of a complex issue to debate and it improved my confidence in public speaking. Arguing for abortion to be legal and for the reintroduction of capital punishment were particular highlights. This gave me insight into arguments and counter arguments that could take place in a Court of Law.

My A-levels have all developed my written communication, especially essays. All my subjects require essay writing and English, in particular, has improved my critical analysis. In History, I enjoyed studying Russia and looking at Stalin’s 5 year plan which helped the country economically but was socially very detrimental to the country. Sociology has been fascinating, especially when studying the crime and deviance topic. Discussing moral and ethical issues surrounding the law gave more insight into the many reasons people commit crime and made me look at issues from a wide range of perspectives. All three subjects have helped me to be able to evaluate an argument and pick out its strengths and weaknesses to come to an overall conclusion, which is a key skill in law.

Outside of my studies, I have also been exposed to law through my regular volunteering with Amy and Friends, a charity for people suffering from Cockayne Syndrome. I then gained work experience with them looking at employment law and completing online courses. Completing risk assessments and gaining insight into the implementation of H&S in all the events taking place made me realise the importance of being up to date with all the relevant legislation.

I have been attending Arabic school from the age of 6, travelling to Leicester every Saturday to study. I have the equivalent of GCSE qualifications and am currently studying A-level equivalent. This shows my desire to learn, determination and perseverance. Being fluent in both written and spoken Arabic will be an advantage when representing clients.

I enjoy cycling and running long distances in order to maintain my fitness levels. I like to push myself to continually improve showing my commitment and perseverance. I read to relax and novels like Bleak House by Charles Dickens relate to my History studies through issues with poverty and public health. This has shown me how legislation develops and its impact, via either permissive or compulsive acts of law brought in to alleviate the social and economic issues of Britain at the time.

To conclude, this course will enable me to fulfil my ambition of specialising in law. I am looking forward to studying the system which governs and affects our day-to-day life, as well as furthering my knowledge of law associated with business in particular.