

Personal Statement 4

Growing up in politically tumultuous times, I developed an interest in politics from an early age: through the election and presidency of Donald Trump; the EU referendum, and three general elections. I have become fascinated with the political intricacies both macro and micro of this country and how countries engage with others.

Six years of Model United Nations has helped me learn about nations and to model being a part of the process of foreign policy. As Secretary General for our team, one of my first debates was on the environment and the impact of fishing markets, which swiftly became economical as the challenge of trying to weigh up both morally and politically the cost to the economy with the cost of the environment.

To further my learning in politics I studied the elections of 2021 such as: the Netherlands, Japan, Hong Kong, Germany, and the Haitian referendum. The different ways nations apply democracy and voting and the affect that has on both their Overton window and the shape of their government is fascinating to me.

Cause and effect analysis of both individual actors and game theory political strategies came to the forefront in my EPQ on the 2017 to 2019 peace negotiations in Korea. The impact of sanctions and the nuclear threat both nationally and internationally as well as the impact of individuals such as Kim Jong Un, Donald Trump, and Mike Pompeo were fascinating to research. The thought processes behind the DPRK refusing denuclearisation or how they have dealt with their failing economy and sanctions while trying to maintain a dictatorship while also trying to secure international recognition. The book "A Dictators Handbook," by Bueno de Mesquita and Smith impressed me with the explanation of the almost mathematical strategy that is applied to maintain power.

Over lockdown I engaged in virtual work experiences in both law and politics. I enjoyed the challenge of reading contracts in the light of potential disputes. I hope in the future to work in the Foreign Office because I find the interactions between two nations fascinating as in every facet of the engagement: the markets, their geographical location; the culture of the people; internal and external threats; all play major parts in negotiations. Seeing how each element interacts with the other is fascinating. In this way it is easy to see how economics and international relations feed into domestic politics.

From my History A-level, I enjoyed probing how Henry VII consolidated power and gained both national and international recognition as ruler. The delicate balance of power that is always at play in both democratic and autocratic systems is a key part to understand for Henry VII's rule. The tense dynamic of keeping a state in balance is one of the fundamental themes of his reign and his impacts on the economy and the structure of the state makes his regency incredibly interesting. I am interested in modern Chinese history and I am probing the centrality of Mao to the success of the communist revolution in my coursework.

Mathematics has also contributed to my interest in politics. Understanding systems and applying logic is a large part of Mathematics and goes hand-in-hand with my interest in Politics.

My interest in Philosophy stems from my yearning to understand the why's and the how's of the world. What's interesting about the philosophy of politics is that there is no fixed answer so different interpretations, and ideas can directly oppose each other.

In my free time I learn Spanish and take part in sports such as fencing, croquet, clay pigeon shooting, and I am soon to begin sailing. I am also undertaking Gold DofE and as part of that have done volunteering work with Amnesty International, as part of their decode surveillance campaign, and I tutor students in mathematics. I am also Head of House and Deputy Head Boy for my school.