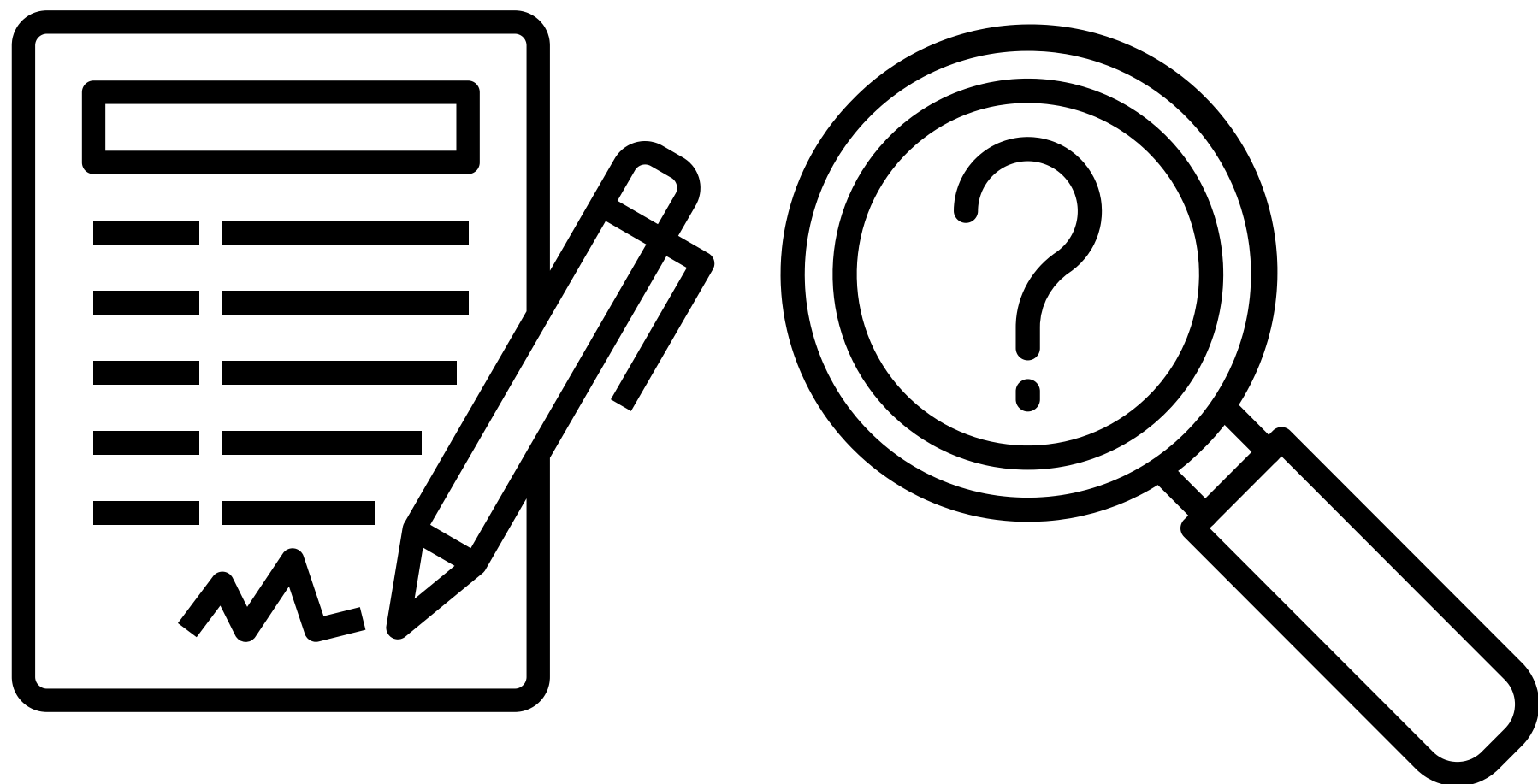


# St Mary's Catholic School

## Personal Statement Guide 2025-2026



UCAS

# What is a Personal Statement?

An undergraduate personal statement is a chance to get noticed for the unique talents and experiences you have. It's an important part of the application process as it's an opportunity to talk about yourself and your passions, outside of your grades.

## Personal Statement Questions

### Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

#### Examples of what you might talk about here are:

- Your motivations for studying this course(s)
- Have you been inspired by a key role model or moment in your life? Maybe it's a subject you love and want to pursue further. We're all driven by something and it's important to talk about how yours has led you to this course or subject area.
- Your knowledge of this subject area and interests
- Perhaps there's a particular subject area you've researched and can't wait to learn more about. A book or subject expert doing great things that have sparked your interest? Universities and colleges want to see you have done your research so they can be confident this is something you will enjoy and excel in. This is a great place to highlight super-curricular activities as evidence of curiosity and interest in the subject outside of the classroom.
- Your future plans and why this is a good fit for you
- If you already have a particular profession in mind you could talk about how you'll use this to launch your career. If you don't, think about what's important to you and your future, and how the knowledge gained from your chosen course(s) will help you achieve this.

### Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

#### Examples of what you might talk about here are:

- How your studies or training relate to your chosen course(s) or subject area
- This could be current or previous studies within a school, college, training provider, or even a short online university course – any form of formal education. The main thing here is to focus on what's most recent and relevant to your chosen course(s). If you are no longer in full-time education, use section three to talk about your experiences since leaving.
- What relevant or transferable skills you have that make you a great candidate
- Maybe there are a couple of subjects that have helped you develop a core set of skills required for your chosen course(s). Or, a particular module that helped you understand where your interests and strengths lie.
- Any relevant educational achievements
- Universities and colleges will see your grades elsewhere on your application so don't waste time talking about these. Consider accomplishments like winning a school or national competition, serving as a student ambassador or team captain, or landing the lead role in a play.

### Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

#### Examples of what you might talk about here are:

- Work experience, employment, or volunteering
- Whether it's in-person work experience at your local school or virtual work experience through [Springpod](#), or volunteering at a dog shelter, the key thing here is for you to reflect on your experiences and the skills gained relevant to your chosen course.
- Personal life experiences or responsibilities
- Is there a situation you've personally overcome that has influenced your decision? Are there responsibilities such as caring for a family member that has helped you develop essential qualities for the course like resilience and empathy?
- Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities
- Think sports, reading, community work, summer schools – any activities outside of your studies that help further showcase why you'd make a great student.
- Achievements outside of school or college
- This could be a position of responsibility such as captain for your local club, a musical achievement, competition you won, or a qualification you've attained outside of the classroom.

# What do admissions staff at universities and colleges want to see?

## Think about why you want to study the subject

1

- Have you been inspired by someone, a news story, a documentary, or a podcast?
- Do you have career aspirations in this area of study?
- What interests you about the subject – be specific; rather than saying you enjoy it or are good at it, try to explain the ‘why’ behind your reasoning.
- What do you already know about the subject and what are you looking forward to learning more about?

## What makes you suitable to study the subject?

2

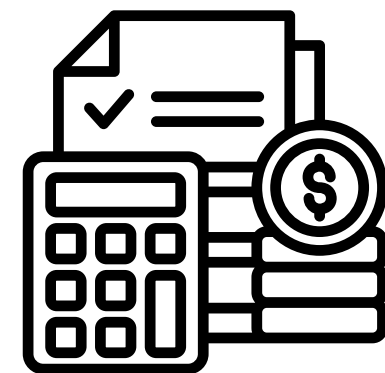
- Have you done projects or essays in this subject at school or college?
- Think about who you are as a person; your personality, your strengths, your experiences in life – how do these make you suited to study the subject?
- How have you shown an interest in the subject outside of school or college – have you done extra reading, online courses, been part of clubs or competitions?
- Your current subjects and grades will be included elsewhere in your application, so try to think about specific things you’ve learned during your studies that relate to the subject, rather than listing your grades and subjects.

## Look at the bigger picture

3

- Have you done any work experience, an internship or had a part-time job in this subject area or related? Most job or work experience will give you transferable skills, even if it’s in a different industry.
- Do you have any hobbies you can mention that might relate to your chosen subject? Many hobbies show that you can be motivated outside of school to achieve and succeed in something you’re interested in.
- Think about how your life and personal experiences have helped make you the person you are today, and how these challenges and experiences can support your application by evidencing essential qualities for certain subjects.
- If you’ve got ambitions and goals for your life and career, can you express how this subject will help you reach these goals?

# Accounting and finance



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Demonstrate what's sparked your interest in finance and accounting, and show it. If you were given a copy of *The Accounting Game* or *The Joy of Accounting* and something clicked, try and get that across. Or even if you've always had a head for numbers and want to apply these skills to a business setting.
- Back up your interest in studying with evidence of your relevant skills, knowledge or experiences and show you understand something about what's involved, whether that's the financial markets, taxation, or business ethics.
- The University of Bristol is looking for 'intellectual curiosity – reading or research beyond the A level (or equivalent) syllabus'. Mention any books, channels or podcasts you follow such as Bloomberg Surveillance or Money Box, and why.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Bristol is also looking for 'interest and commitment to the subject. Can you mention relevant topics you've touched on during your A level, BTEC or Higher course, such as business policies or corporate finance?'
- University of Bath admissions tutors are expecting students to have an interest and aptitude for 'quantitative analysis of business issues'. Demonstrate this with evidence showing your abilities for applying mathematical skills to the analysis of business problems.
- Have you had to give a presentation or lead a group project, which can illustrate your presentation and communication skills?
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

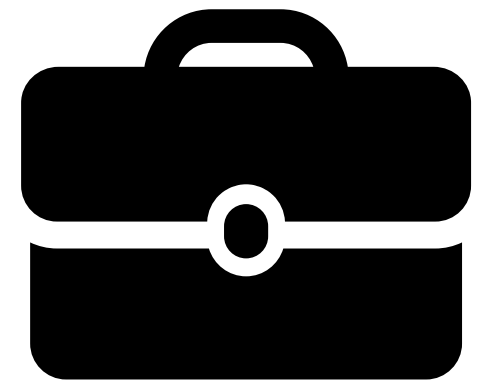
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Do you have a part-time job, or have you done work experience? It doesn't matter whether it's a couple of weeks spent shadowing an accountant, a few hours talking to one, a part-time job in a financial, retail or business environment, or a scheme like Young Enterprise. What does matter is that you write about something relevant and what you've learned from it. But, as Sheffield Hallam and LSE say on their websites, experience is not essential, so don't panic if you don't have any.
- What hobbies do you have that admissions tutors might want to hear about? Maybe you enjoy crochet or crafts, which demonstrate an attention to detail, or you play FM25 or AirwaySim, which can add to your accounting skills.
- Talk about other relevant skills you've gained from jobs or volunteering, such as looking after money whilst fundraising for a charity, time management through balancing your studies and extracurricular activities, or teamwork from a sport or other activity.

# Business and Management Studies



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Have you been inspired by business owners, maybe family members or people you follow online, e.g. Ben Francis of Gymshark? What about their business and how they have become successful do you admire?
- Podcasts and Youtube or entrepreneurs, e.g. Diary of a CEO. Give examples of what you found inspiring and what made you interested in business and management.
- Want to run your own business so you want to learn the skills to be successful? Talk about your career ambitions and goals.
- Are you interested in a particular strand of business? For example, human resources, finance, marketing?

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- How can you show you're a good communicator? Have you given presentations at school?
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?
- Talk about a project or coursework you've done that sparked an interest in an area of business or management.

## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Include some examples to show you're self-motivated and have a strong work ethic – things that you'll need if you are running your own business. Maybe you've been doing your own research, done work experience or volunteering, or have a side hustle with a business plan you created?
- Do you have a part-time job, or have you done work experience? You can talk about time management, teamwork, looking after money, interacting with the public; these are all transferable skills that are very relevant for a business and management course.
- You might even have saved up money for something like a games console or a phone, or budgeting for a trip with friends. These are great skills that show you understand how finances and budgets work, and you are self-motivated and driven.

# Economics



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- If you've already been studying economics at A level (or equivalent), talk about an area of the course you've found especially interesting. Try and show some understanding of economic theory.
- Reflect on something that has given you an insight into local, national, European or global economic issues, and explain what interests you about it. Maybe you were fascinated by the market's response to the UK's fast-changing political landscape over the last few years, or how the war in Ukraine affected the global economy.
- Demonstrate that you have a real interest in economic principles and concepts. You could relate it to modules you'd study during your degree. Mention what especially appeals to you about the course you've chosen.
- If you haven't studied economics before, explain what has inspired your interest in it.
- If you can, explain how your degree choice fits with your future ambitions and career aspirations. If you know you want to be a business analyst, for example, say so.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Show an appreciation of mathematical concepts. If you've studied maths, highlight what you enjoyed about probability, statistics, or a project involving qualitative data, and how that might relate to an economics degree.
- If you've undertaken an economics-related project, Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or summer school, reflect on any insights this has given you.
- Think of skills you've picked up during your studies and how they'll relate to being an economics student, such as self-motivation, teamwork, the ability to think logically, effective time management, good communication, or problem-solving skills.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

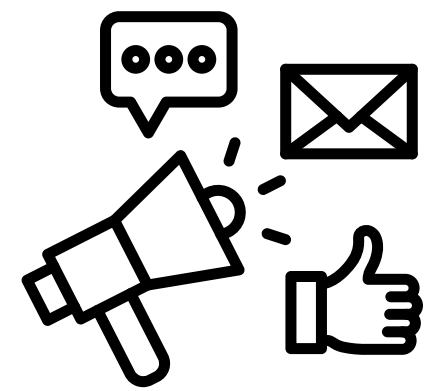
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- What things have you done that are relevant to economics or demonstrate the skills and qualities tutors are looking for? Maybe you've learned about financial analysis through helping a parent or guardian with their small business, or perhaps you've carried out some market research for an online side hustle.
- Talk about your wider reading and pick out one or two specific issues that had an impact on you – try and choose something slightly more obscure, such as Tom Chivers' *Everything Is Predictable*, rather than a book everybody will reference.
- What hobbies do you have that show you're motivated outside school, and prepared to succeed in something you're interested in? Whether that's progressing in a sport, music, chess or computer programming.

# Marketing



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Write about what specifically interests you about studying marketing – whether it's market research, decision science, psychology, or public relations – and why you want to investigate these topics further.
- Sheffield Hallam University expects you to demonstrate 'an interest in and awareness of business/marketing, or some level of practical experience'. Showcase things you've learned from reading about branding or watching TED talks from experts like Rory Sutherland or Jessica Apotheke, or if you admire the way a brand markets themselves, from their website to their social media, explore this and how it's inspired you.
- Mention any work experience you've had, for example doing some digital marketing for a company, and how that has made you want to study marketing further. Even better if you know where this degree might take you in your career.
- Leeds Metropolitan University's sport marketing degree tutors will be scanning your statement for evidence of the 'personal attributes, experience and/or commitment to the area of study that will stand you out from the crowd', so try and keep your answers unique to you.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Think of the skills you've picked up during your studies. University of Bath says its management with marketing degree applicants should be able to demonstrate experience of working with others and relevant transferable skills, but this could be achieved through things like your involvement in the running of a society or a position of responsibility at school or college if you haven't had direct work experience.
- Mention projects you've worked on where you had to work well in a team, such as a design technology or science project, and subjects that have allowed you to build your presentation and communication skills.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?
- What else about you would suit you to a degree like this? Are you interested in people? Are you particularly brand aware? Can you demonstrate you're a good planner, for example in the way you've planned for your A level or equivalent studies?

## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Mention any part-time or Saturday jobs that have given you good customer service or sales skills. How will these help you on this course?
- Write reflectively about any work experience. That could be what you've gained from your job at a supermarket, the book you've just read on branding, the charity event you recently helped to organise, a business project you just undertook on your BTEC or A level course, or why your Young Enterprise company didn't make a profit.
- York St John University flags the value of your reflections on any relevant workshops or seminars you've attended too, or how you've shown leadership and teamwork skills through project work or awards such as Duke of Edinburgh.
- What about your hobbies – do you play a team sport, or do you have an interest such as learning a language or teaching yourself guitar which shows you've got the commitment and perseverance to succeed in something you're interested in?

# PR and Communications

## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Explain why you want to study PR and communications, and where that passion comes from. You may already be a big consumer of digital communications and have opinions on how people receive information. Or you may have reflections on how the media landscape has changed in the last ten years, and what you want to do within that new framework.
- Mention blogs and articles you've read that have given you further inspiration. Maybe you follow Freuds Group on Instagram and LinkedIn – critique one of their campaigns and explain what you'd like to learn about effective communication. Or perhaps you're fascinated by influencer marketing and have ideas on how you would use it in public relations.
- Show you're across current affairs and you understand the impact the media has on culture and politics in the UK. You could give an example of how political parties communicated with the electorate during the last election, and why it has made you want to work in strategic communications.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Can you give examples of projects you've done at school, such as creating a magazine or digital campaign for an English project, writing an essay expressing your own opinions and thoughts, or a video you created to explain or market something?
- Mention critical thinking skills you've picked up in media studies or politics, for example, and research or management skills you've picked up in law or business.
- What other schoolwork or clubs have you done where you've shown good project management, interpersonal skills, and persistence?
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

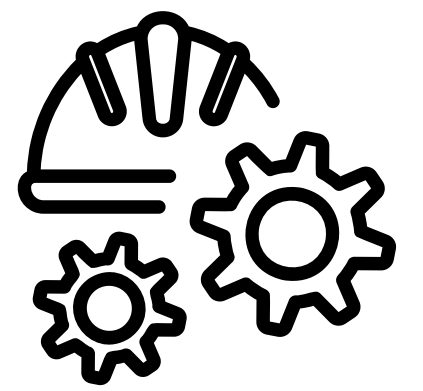
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Think of times when you've written for a particular audience, such as your own blog, a school magazine, or promotional material for an event. What did you learn about working to deadlines, capturing people's attention, and how to adjust your style depending on the intended audience?
- Similarly, if you've created content in another way, such as videos for TikTok and YouTube, or a podcast you host, what skills have you picked up, such as audio and video editing skills and writing for search engine optimisation (SEO)?
- What else do you enjoy doing that may be relevant? You'll have picked up good interpersonal and teamwork skills from being on a sports team or other group at school, as well as effective time management and working to deadlines from balancing schoolwork with outside activities.

# Building and Construction



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Tell admissions tutors what interests you about working with the built and natural environment. Would you like to shape the cities of the future, focus on regeneration, or sustainability?
- If you know, explain where you see yourself working once you've completed your degree. Do you want to be a quantity surveyor or construction project manager? How will this degree help you get there?
- Talk about something you've read on construction news or current affairs sites. If you're fascinated by how drones are being used in surveying, for example, reflect on why.
- Ensure you fit what you say in your statement with the course you're applying to. A quantity surveying admissions tutor doesn't need to hear you want to be the next Zaha Hadid!

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- What do you like doing and/or what have you done well in academically that you think is relevant to studying building and construction? Are you a good designer or good at model-making? If you studied maths, demonstrate how calculations and budgeting will be useful in your chosen subject.
- What about leadership skills or working well as part of a team? You may have taken the lead in a group project in geography, sciences or maths. Think about the relevant skills you can bring to this course.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

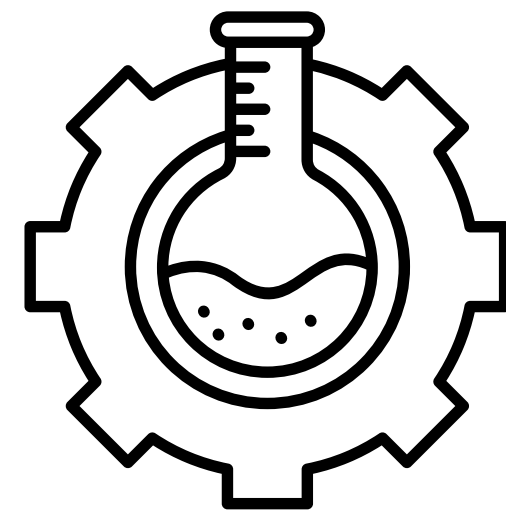
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- How can you demonstrate your planning and problem-solving skills?
- Maybe you were designated map reader on a Duke of Edinburgh or Scouts expedition. Were you the resident expert in building tents and shelter? How can you relate this to understanding the skills you'd need for the course, and, ultimately, a career in this field?
- Have you done any shadowing or work experience that shows you know a little about the industry? You don't need to have worked on a construction site, but maybe you've had work experience at a council and seen the town planning department or you've done the Institution of Civil Engineers' (ICE) virtual work experience programme. Reflect on what you learned.
- Think of a time when you've successfully managed a project, shown leadership skills, and/or done a presentation, whether in a work or school environment.

# Chemical Engineering



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Explain your motivation and why you're enthusiastic about the course, giving specific examples of what interests you and a glimpse of any specific knowledge you already have. Perhaps you've done your own research into sustainable food or clothing – reflect on what you've learned that's made you interested in a chemical engineering degree.
- Include examples of things you've read that have influenced your interest in chemical engineering. Don't just list them though – elaborate on one or two specific issues you read about recently and the impact they made on you. If you've read about circular solutions for water management, can you expand on what interests you about desalination technologies?
- If you have a particular goal in mind, mention what you plan to do with your chemical engineering degree, whether it's your long-term career aspirations as an environment professional or just your ambition to make the world a better place.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Explain how studying chemistry, physics or maths, for example, has helped with your critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Have you led a project in school, which can demonstrate both your project management and communication skills? Commenting on what you've learned from your EPQ would fit well here too, but it needs to be relevant.
- If you've also studied something like design technology or product design, you'll have picked up creative and design skills. Explain how these will be useful during your chemical engineering degree.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

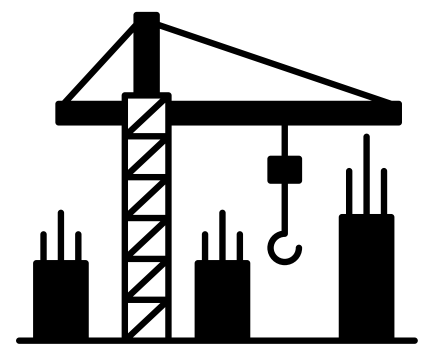
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Try and give examples of things you've done that highlight your technical aptitude, teamwork skills, leadership or problem-solving abilities, whether that's a part-time job at a bar or coaching a sports team.
- Similarly, reflect on any extracurricular achievements that demonstrate good time management and self-organisation, whether you're part of a sport or drama club, you do volunteering, or you've achieved a high grade in a musical instrument.
- Evidence what you've learned from any relevant experience, insights, interests, or achievements. This will be all the more impressive if it was outside of school or college, like relevant work experience, engineering taster days, or CREST Awards.

# Civil Engineering



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Explain your motivation and why you're enthusiastic about the course, giving specific examples of what interests you and a glimpse of any specific knowledge you already have. Perhaps you've studied bridges or buildings in your area – reflect on what you've learned that's made you interested in a civil engineering degree.
- Include examples of things you've read that have influenced your interest in this subject. Don't just list them though – elaborate on one or two specific issues you read about recently and the impact it made on you. If you've been following the Restoring Your Railway projects, expand on what you've learned so far or how you want to further your knowledge during your degree.
- If you have a particular goal in mind, mention what you plan to do with your civil engineering degree, whether it's your long-term career aspirations relating to urban planning or sustainability, or just your ambition to make the world a better place.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Explain how studying physics, maths or design technology, for example, has helped with your critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Have you led a project in school, or undertaken an EPQ, which can demonstrate both your project management and communication skills?
- Think about how you can show you've got good attention to detail, too – whether that's through your exam revision strategy, or specific subjects such as chemistry, music or history.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

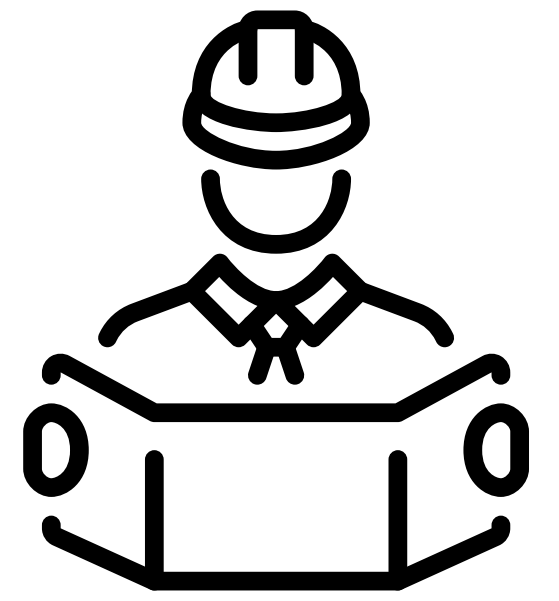
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Can you reflect on specific situations where you've used your problem-solving skills? Perhaps you had to react quickly in an emergency, or you had multiple projects due in on the same day. Think about how you tackled the problem head-on and the skills you learned that you can bring to your degree.
- Try and give examples of things you've done that highlight your technical aptitude, teamwork skills or leadership, whether that's a part-time job working at a bar, coaching a sports team, or being part of a coding club after school.
- Similarly, reflect on any extracurricular achievements that demonstrate good time management and self-organisation, whether you're part of a sport or drama club, you do volunteering, or you've achieved a high grade in a musical instrument.
- Evidence what you've learned from any relevant experience, insights, interests, or achievements. This will be all the more impressive if it was outside of school or college, like relevant work experience, engineering taster days, or CREST Awards.

# Materials science and Engineering



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Explain why you're interested in materials science and engineering. Whilst you may have first been inspired by a trip to the Science Museum as a child, try and focus on recent inspirations– such as how scientists are testing materials on the international space station or something you've seen in the news about carbon capture.
- Elaborate on one or two of these examples so you can relate them to the course you're applying to – if you've read an article about carbon capture, how did that make you want to understand more about it or conduct further experiments at uni?
- If you have a particular goal in mind, mention what you plan to do with your degree, whether it's your long-term career aspirations to become a materials, biomedical, or aerospace engineer, or just your ambition to make the world a better place. If you don't know yet, that's ok too.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- If you've done an EPQ that relates to materials science, explain how and what you learned. Think outside the box – you may have studied art or design technology and learned something new about plastics or textiles that inspired your interest in materials science and engineering.
- Explain how studying subjects like physics, maths, or chemistry has helped with your analytical and critical thinking skills, planning, and innovation.
- Give examples of when you've collaborated and worked well as part of a team too. That could be on a computing or science project, or while you were part of a supercurricular club or team at school.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

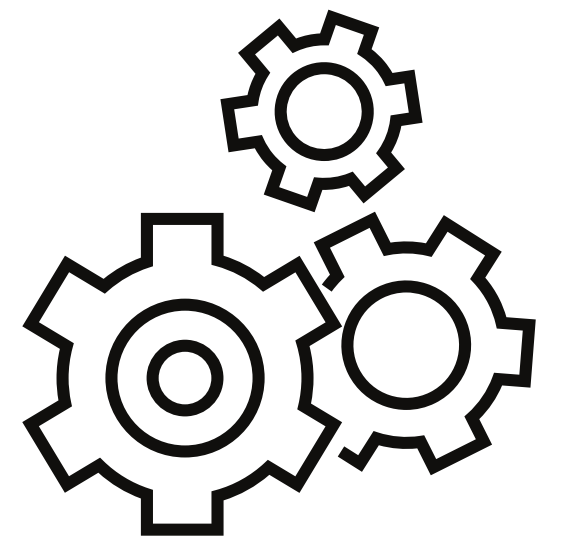
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Use any personal experiences, insights, interests, or achievements to highlight why you might be suited to this course. Maybe you fixed the wheel alignment on your bike or go-kart, or maybe you've experimented with different materials for wicking away sweat during sports games. Expand on what you've learned that's relevant to this degree.
- If you've had a part-time or weekend job or done some volunteering, reflect on the skills you've picked up that will help you during this degree, such as teamworking, leadership, and problem-solving skills.
- Similarly, reflect on any extracurricular achievements that demonstrate good time management and self-organisation, whether you're part of a sport or drama club, you're a volunteer, or you've achieved a high grade in a musical instrument.

# Mechanical Engineering



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Explain your motivation and why you're enthusiastic about the course, giving specific examples of what makes you curious about mechanical engineering. Whether you're fascinated by sustainable technologies or 3D modelling, get across why you want to study this at degree level.
- Include examples of things you've read that have influenced your interest in mechanical engineering. Don't just list them though – elaborate on one or two specific issues you read about recently and the impact it made on you, whether that's the latest development in Formula 1 or instruments used for space missions.
- If you have a particular goal in mind, mention what you plan to do with your mechanical engineering degree, whether it's your desire to become an aerospace or nuclear engineer, or just your ambition to make the world a better place.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Explain how studying physics, maths or design technology, for example, has helped with your critical thinking skills, patience, and persistence.
- Have you done a project in school which can demonstrate some of your project management or problem-solving skills? Commenting on what you've learned from your EPQ would fit well here too, but it needs to be relevant.
- Give examples of when you've collaborated and worked well as part of a team too. That could be on a computing or science project, or whilst you were part of a supercurricular club or team at school.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Use examples of when you've had a weekend job or done some volunteering that's enabled you to develop your teamworking skills, leadership, and problem-solving abilities.
- Similarly, reflect on any extracurricular achievements that demonstrate good time management and self-organisation, whether you're part of a sport or drama club, you do volunteering, or you've achieved a high grade in a musical instrument.
- Use any personal experiences, insights, interests, or achievements to highlight why you might be suited to this course. You might have fixed the wheel alignment on your bike, or maybe you've experimented with different materials for wicking away sweat during sports games. Expand on what you've learned that's relevant to this degree.

# Biomedical Sciences



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Can you explain where your interest in biomedical sciences comes from? Whether you were fascinated by how scientists dealt with the Covid-19 pandemic or you've done fundraising for a charity like Cancer Research UK and you'd love to work in genetic research.
- Mention relevant further reading you've done and expand on one or two things. Perhaps you've researched NHS Careers in biomedical science, and you want to focus on lab work, or perhaps you've learned about stem cell research from an episode of Health Matters, which inspired you to study this subject.
- Are there any ways you've engaged with biomedical sciences beyond your biology A level, or equivalent? Perhaps you follow the medical research section of the BBC News website, and you can elaborate on a recent medical breakthrough, and why you want to pursue work that can have a similar impact?
- Make sure you tailor your answer to the course you're applying for, as there is a difference between biomedical science and biomedical sciences.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Have you done an Extended Project that relates to this course? Or perhaps you can also expand on what you learned in microbiology during your biology A level, or equivalent, and why it fascinated you.
- Think about lab work you've done at school and some of the relevant skills you'll have picked up like handling equipment, quality control and assurance, data analysis, attention to detail, and problem-solving.
- Think about how preparing for exams has given you the relevant time management and critical thinking skills you'll need on your university course too.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Think about anything interesting or unusual you've done outside the curriculum, such as volunteering in a lab or research centre, or working part-time at a hospital or vet's, where you've maybe witnessed the direct impact biomedical sciences can have.
- What hobbies and extracurricular activities do you enjoy? If you play on a netball or basketball team, how has that developed your team working skills, time management, and commitment to something you enjoy?
- Have you joined any clubs or been on an interesting field trip? Maybe you've been to a STEM fair or STEM workshop on forensic science or DNA extraction? Expand on what you've learned from these experiences.

# Counselling, Psychotherapy, and Occupational Therapy



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Explain clearly why you want to study counselling, psychotherapy, and occupational therapy, and explain what you know already about the subject. Perhaps you've had counselling yourself, or you've seen adverts for an organisation like BetterHelp and it prompted you to explore the career further. Or maybe you watched BBC Three's Don't Call Me Crazy and you were interested in occupational therapist Vicki Ray's job.
- Give examples of articles you've read, programmes you've watched, or podcasts you've listened to that have given you further insight. Maybe your parent listens to Radio 4's Bringing up Britain and you now follow Dr Anjula Mutanda, which has helped you understand what psychotherapists do. Or if you follow Dr Nicole LePera or Dr Sara Kuburic, explain how that's given you an insight into particular types of counselling and psychotherapy.
- If you know, mention where you hope this degree will take you, whether you want to work in a hospital, corporation, or private practice. Don't worry if you don't know yet – you can still explain what it is about you as a person that makes you a good fit.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- If you have studied psychology, for example, focus on one aspect of your studies that resonated with you and why. If you loved developmental psychology, explain why that's made you want to work in child psychology, for example, and some of the knowledge you picked up – such as how trauma in the early years affects children.
- Think of skills you've gained from other subjects too, such as analysing data in maths or sciences, and good research, writing, and communication skills in English or drama.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

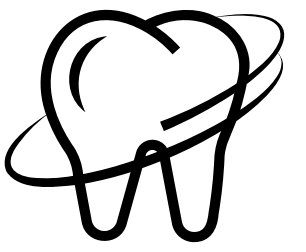
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Counsellors, psychotherapists, and occupational therapists all need to have a lot of empathy and good active listening skills. Mention if you've volunteered for a charity, especially someone like The Samaritans, and how you dealt with an emotional client. If you've had other jobs in a hospice, care home, or nursery, for example, explain how that has taught you to be patient and a good listener.
- Think about other skills you'll need, such as problem-solving, resilience, and persistence. You could write about personal situations where you've built up these skills – such as having a sick parent or sibling or dealing with a big disappointment – or think of part-time jobs or work experience where you had to develop these skills.
- Write about clubs you're part of, sports you play, and other hobbies you have and how they've helped you. For example, playing on a sports team will have enhanced your interpersonal and communication skills, resilience, and commitment.

# Dentistry



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Explain what first attracted you to dentistry and what, as the University of Manchester puts it, 'has sustained or confirmed this choice'. It could be a TV programme, work or personal experience that has led to your commitment to a career in dentistry. Maybe Operation Ouch! was your jumping off point when you were younger or you've always been curious at dentist check-ups, asking questions and looking at your X-rays. Be honest about what's fuelling your ambitions, particularly if you're driven by the impact you can have on society at large, rather than the earning potential.
- The Dental Schools Council says 'Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they are making an informed choice to study dentistry through career exploration'. Illustrate your knowledge of the dental profession through mentioning books and journals you've read, such as the British Dental Journal, careers sites you've looked at, and any work experience or shadowing opportunities you've had in a dental or healthcare environment, and why they made you want to become a dentist.
- The University of Sheffield's dental school also wants you to show you've researched the possible career opportunities, and how these compare to other healthcare professions. For example, you could write about how dentistry covers a cosmetic component, as well as pain relief, and how or why that's important.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- As well as evidence of your commitment to the profession, King's wants you to demonstrate a 'realistic appreciation of the academic, physical, and emotional demands of a dental degree programme and career'. Can you give examples of how you've already succeeded with rigorous academic study, and the relevant skills you've picked up such as self-motivation, resilience, and attention to detail?
- If there's a topic you particularly enjoyed at school, such as human anatomy, relate it to the course you're applying to and what you want to learn next.
- Use studying for your science exams as a way to show how you've developed skills such as goal-setting, problem-solving, organisation, and conscientiousness.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Almost all universities will expect you to have some work experience, or to have observed dentistry or another healthcare profession. Whatever experience you've had, make sure you write about the insights you've gained into the profession, and that you understand the demands of a dentistry degree and career. Even better if you can back up your reflections with examples of when you've picked up skills such as good customer service or working well under pressure.
- University of Sheffield expects your work experience to be in a general dental practice. Liverpool says it should ideally be in a dental practice or hospital 'and preferably in more than one establishment'. Bristol would like you to have experienced various fields of dentistry, such as general practice, hospital, community or laboratory. Always remember to relate what you've learned to your understanding of the dental profession.
- King's adds that if you've been unable to observe in a dental establishment then, at the very least, they want you to reflect on any work experience you've had in a caring environment or in another setting where you've interacted with the general public. Think about part-time jobs that reflect these skills, such as working in a cafe, hairdressers, or care home.
- Queen Mary, University of London says on its website 'Interviewers will consider your interests, talents, and the contribution you can make to the university. We look for applicants who have participated as fully as possible in school or college life, and who have also contributed in some way to the outside community'. Write about clubs and sports teams you've taken part in, inside or outside school, as well as any volunteering you've done, such as helping an elderly neighbour, or a community fundraising or gardening project.

# Pharmacy, Pharmacology, and Toxicology



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- The University of Manchester is looking for 'a creative statement that demonstrates enthusiasm and commitment for the subject'. Think about what's sparked your interest in your chosen subject through books you've read or TED talks you've enjoyed, such as Dr Jamie Dewitt talking about water pollution, and explain why you want to study it further.
- If you know, mention where you hope this career could take you, whether that's working as a community pharmacist, designing clinical trials or testing food supplies, and make sure it relates to the course you're applying for.
- Show you understand the profession you're applying to through any personal experience too – even if it was just talking to a pharmacist, or learning about pharmacology through visits to university open days or relevant events.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Think what skills and qualities will be required – both to study pharmacy, pharmacology, or toxicology, and to practise it as a profession – then mention things such as lab skills you've picked up at school or times you've demonstrated attention to detail during a science project.
- Relate how you've studied, both independently and as a team, to the skills you'll need during your degree. Perhaps you've also learned analytical skills from sciences, psychology or English literature.
- What projects or clubs have you been involved in, such as Young Enterprise or a drama production, which show your potential management and leadership skills? Think how these may benefit you on your course.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

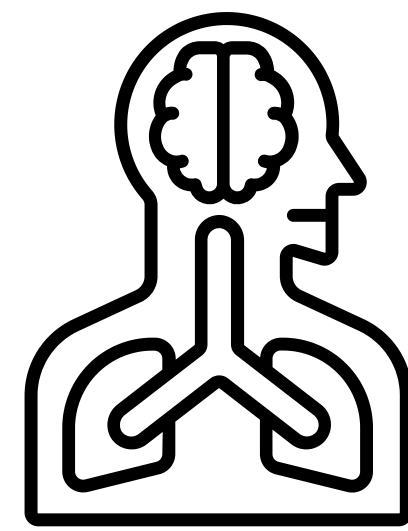
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Pharmacists need patience, empathy, and good customer service skills. If you've had part-time jobs in a cafe, leisure centre or on reception for a business, you'll have picked up a lot of these transferable skills. Mention any caring roles you've had too.
- As a pharmacologist or toxicologist, you'll focus a lot on laboratory work and scientific skills, so relate any experiences you've had conducting experiments at college or at home and what qualities you picked up from them, such as attention, focus, teamwork, and critical thinking.
- Your hobbies and interests will also have taught you things, whether it's adapting and going back over information when you're coding or gaming, or perseverance and commitment to something you enjoy such as learning a musical instrument or building up to a Crossfit handstand!
- Subject tasters
- Subject Spotlights give you the chance to try a university course before you apply. Delivered by the lecturers themselves you will gain insight into what it's like to study the course and give your personal statement a boost.

# Physiotherapy, Physiology, and Pathology



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Physiotherapy is a competitive field. To have a good chance of being selected, you'll need to demonstrate a realistic understanding of the role, and show you're 100% committed to it. It's important to show you've researched the career – the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy is a good starting point, for example.
- Why do you want to be a physiotherapist, physiologist or pathologist, specifically? How did you arrive at the decision that it's the right fit for you? Don't just say you want to be in a caring profession or work in a lab – be specific, and convey your enthusiasm and determination.
- Reference books you've read, TED Talks you've watched, or talk about your own views on, for example, the pros and cons of using artificial intelligence (AI) in pathology, or virtual reality in neurological rehabilitation, and how that relates to the course you're applying for.
- This isn't essential but, if you have a clear view of the direction you want your career to take, blend this into your statement too.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Write about anything you feel is especially relevant about your academic studies, or maybe a project you've undertaken. Perhaps you've done an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) on how a Mediterranean diet affects our physiology, or the impact of air pollution on respiratory diseases – reflect on how what you've learned will help you during your degree.
- Think of the skills you might need for your chosen subject and where you've picked them up, such as research and analytical skills in sciences or geography, modelling in maths, or collaborative teamwork in PE or drama.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

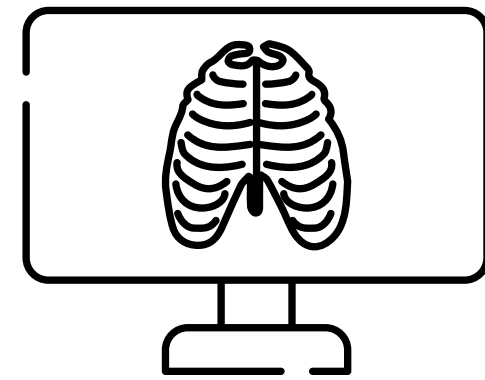
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Experience of observing or at least talking to physiotherapists, physiologists or pathologists is highly desirable. It's even better if you can do this in more than one setting, whether it's in hospitals, laboratories, private practice, GP surgeries, schools, residential homes, sport centres, clubs, or out in the community. Although it's increasingly difficult to obtain formal work experience, try to plan ahead and use your initiative to secure this in time.
- The next best thing is general experience or voluntary work in any health or care setting. Particularly for physiotherapy, take the opportunity to observe how staff communicate and interact with people, especially vulnerable individuals such as children, the elderly or people in distress. Describe how what you observed changed your perceptions or understanding.
- The final piece in the jigsaw is to provide evidence of how you've personally demonstrated some of the important qualities you've observed. Pick out your key observations and be explicit in explaining the links with your own skill set. For example, 'on placement I noticed that pathologists needed skill X... I demonstrated skill X myself when I...'. You could write about something like problem-solving, which you've done in a part-time job, or the ability to cope under pressure, which you've learned whilst doing your exams or during a busy Saturday job.
- Subject tasters
- Subject Spotlights give you the chance to try a university course before you apply. Delivered by the lecturers themselves you will gain insight into what it's like to study the course and give your personal statement a boost.

# Radiography and Medical Technology



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- What is it about radiography and medical technology that fascinates you and where does your interest come from? It may have first been sparked if you broke your arm and the radiographer showed you your X-rays, and then developed further when you studied human anatomy during your biology A level (or equivalent), for example.
- Mention books you've read or TV shows you've watched that have given you further insight, and show you understand the profession you wish to go into. If you were fascinated by Enzo Romero's TED Talk about 3D printing bionic limbs, can you relate that to what you wish to study during your degree? Or what is it about the science of medical technology that fascinates you the most?
- If you have personal experience of an X-ray or MRI scan, for example, this may have led to you researching how those technologies work, or how people's experiences can be improved.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- You'll need to have studied at least one science for this subject, so think about the skills you've picked up from chemistry, physics, biology, or psychology already – like technical skills, interpreting data, and conveying complex information clearly.
- Give examples of what experience you already have in exams, written assignments, and giving presentations.
- Are there any specific projects – perhaps in biology or a related subject – that relate to the course you're applying for? Maybe studying physiology, microbiology, or genetics has made you interested in learning more about oncology, children's medicine, or patient management?
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- If you've managed to get any work experience or visit a hospital or radiology department, make sure you write about it and what you learned. If not, how else can you show you've got the skills and knowledge needed for this degree? You or a family member may have been a patient yourselves, so you understand the significance of advancing medical technology and the importance of good patient care.
- You may have worked in a caring role or work-shadowed in a school, care home, hospice, or other clinical environment, and be able to highlight some of the skills you've picked up, such as good interpersonal skills, listening skills, and empathy.
- Show you can analyse and interpret data, and you've got an interest in the technical side too. Maybe you do an engineering club after school, you love gaming, or you enjoy playing Fantasy Premier League or FM 25. Highlight the relevant skills they've taught you.

# Social Work, Childhood, and Youth Studies



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Your statement should demonstrate an understanding of what social work, childhood, and youth studies as a profession is all about – along with the skills, knowledge, and experience you'll bring to it.
- Discuss what you've learned or what's inspired you from relevant books, magazines like Professional Social Work, websites, documentaries such as a particular episode of Panorama, or social issues reported in the media, but perhaps steer away from talking about popular literature.
- It's fine to talk about personal experiences that shaped your interest in the degree, especially if you're a mature applicant, but be prepared to talk openly about it at interview.
- Show a willingness to engage with issues that span the entire spectrum of social work, including the elderly. You can then also mention specific modules, or areas that interest you, as long as it's relevant to the course you're applying for.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Reflect on an aspect of your academic learning, whether from your psychology or sociology studies, or through art and design, and explain what it has taught you about social work, or any appropriate skills it has helped you develop. If it's relevant to you, perhaps mention barriers you've overcome yourself too.
- Think about solid illustrative examples of your skills in action, especially if those skills are relevant to social work – like the organisational skills, commitment, motivation, and the ability to work effectively with others that you'll have gained through your studies and revision.
- Relevant transferable skills from employment or extracurricular activities could also be worth mentioning.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

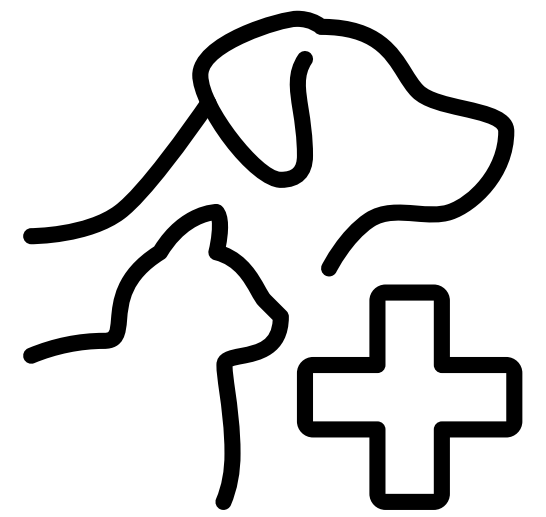
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Make the most of every opportunity to gain experience of supporting people: in care homes, community schemes, youth clubs, play schemes, holiday clubs, after-school clubs, nurseries, mentoring, anti-bullying schemes, or working with the elderly or people with a disability. Always demonstrate what you've learned from your experience, and how it has helped you develop appropriate skills or qualities.
- Demonstrate your resilience and the ability to analyse situations critically. Maybe you've had to intervene and stop a fight at school, or maybe you've failed a driving test or music exam several times but decided to keep trying until you passed. Reflect on what you learned from these situations and how it will help you in social work, childhood, or youth studies.
- Give examples of other hobbies or activities that show your other relevant attributes, whether that's empathy from childminding or working in a care home, working well under pressure due to taking part in maths, gymnastics, or singing competitions, or knowing how to switch off after a stressful day by baking, going to the gym, or listening to podcasts.

# Veterinary Science



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Show what has motivated you to follow this career path. Be specific, and make it current or recent. What aspects are of special interest to you? Where do you hope the degree will lead? Reflect on what it is that's driving you now, not something out-of-date or from when you were a much younger child.
- Reference books you read, programmes you watch, news you follow, or podcasts you listen to. Perhaps you've started listening to the Royal Veterinary College's Veterinary Clinical Podcast, or the Vet Times podcast. Illustrate how content you've consumed has given you knowledge on what to expect from this profession.
- Normally, you'll need to have a range of relevant work experience before you apply and to reflect on this in your statement. The quality of your insights into the profession is crucial. Try to get work experience at at least one veterinary practice, working with large domestic animals on a livestock farm, especially dairy or lambing, and other animal experience such as stables, kennels, catteries, zoos, wildlife, or rescue centres, pig or poultry farms, or something more unusual – then reflect on what you learned and how that's relevant to the course you're applying to.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Give admissions tutors a glimpse of your current academic and scientific interests, whether it's from your studies, a project or issues you've come across in journals, books, blogs, events you've attended, and so on. Perhaps you can elaborate on skills you've learned from lab work in biology, a conversation project you've done in geography, or an understanding of ethics from chemistry, English, or philosophy A level, or equivalent. Think about the transferable skills you've picked up from your studies too, such as time management, working well under pressure, decision-making, and adaptability.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

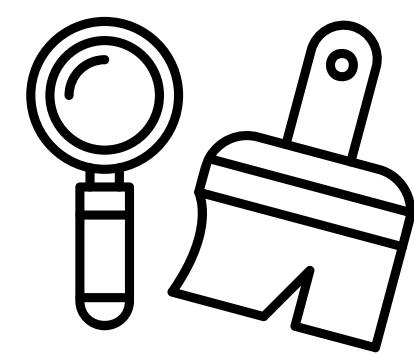
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Demonstrate your resilience, initiative, self-motivation, compassion, or other relevant transferable skills. This could be through the contribution you've made to school, college, or community activities, volunteering, your part-time work, or any wider interests, personal achievements, or responsibilities. Be specific! If you've worked in a busy bar or cafe, write about how that's taught you customer service skills, patience, working well under pressure, and prioritising your time.
- Alongside some of the other work experience with animals already mentioned, a day at an abattoir may be especially beneficial, and observing research in a veterinary or biomedical laboratory could be valuable too. Check out department websites to see what they recommend and, where possible, attend open days or events.

# Archaeology



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Explain why you're enthusiastic about archaeology, and where that interest comes from. Try not to focus too much on the fact you're an Indiana Jones fan, and refer to something recent as well, such as a trip you've taken to see Mayan ruins in Mexico, or an exhibition you've visited on Ancient Egypt. Link that back to the course you're applying for.
- Mention articles or books you've read that have influenced you, and elaborate on one or two of them. Perhaps you've watched a documentary about Stonehenge or read an article on how digital social science research is being used in archaeology.
- If you know you want to become a museum curator, work out in the field, or help with urban planning, write about that too. If you don't know yet, don't worry – you can still get across why your natural curiosity or analytical nature would make this degree a good fit for you.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Think about what you've learned from the subjects you've studied that you can use during an archaeology degree. For example, you may have done fieldwork in geography, learned about different societies and cultures in history, politics, or philosophy, or gained good research and analytical skills in sciences, maths, or economics.
- Think about other relevant skills you've picked up at school or college too, such as writing and presentation skills, good time management, and the ability to focus.
- You'll have also learned things from supercurricular or extracurricular activities, whether that's an awareness of different cultures, working well independently, or as part of a team.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

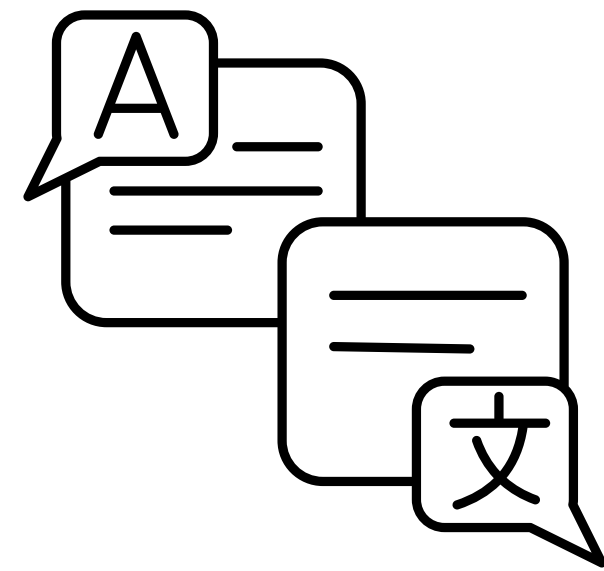
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Write about any sports teams or groups you're a part of and the relevant skills you've picked up, such as good communication and teamworking skills. You may have also picked these up in a part-time job in a cafe, restaurant, shop or supermarket.
- Think about your supercurricular and extracurricular activities too. For example, if you've learned a musical instrument or you enjoy creative writing, planting and growing vegetables, playing chess, or achieving a yoga handstand, you'll demonstrate you have patience and perseverance.
- Think of any personal experiences and attributes too. If you come from a multicultural family, or you have a parent who was raised in a different country, you'll have cultural understanding, and perhaps curiosity about another country's history or how other people live.

# English Language



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Try and articulate what it is that fascinates you about English language, whether it's how it's used in the media, in films, or in political speeches. Reference books or articles you've read that have ignited your desire to pursue this subject further.
- If there's an area of language or linguistics that interests you specifically (and you'll study it on your chosen degree course), try and explain why – whether it's how language has evolved in the digital age, or the ways Chaucerian English or Shakespeare's quotes have entered common parlance.
- If you know, describe where you see this degree taking you. Perhaps you're interested in a political career or the civil service, or you want to work in teaching or publishing. Make sure what you write correlates with the description of the courses you're applying for.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Think about how English you've studied at school has given you skills you can use on your course, such as analytical skills, enhanced writing skills, and a broader understanding of language and context.
- Think too about other subjects you've studied and what they've taught you about language. Whether it's history, RE, or PE, you'll have learned to use and manipulate language in different ways. In politics, you may have learned about persuasive writing or how language is used to communicate in different ways in media studies.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

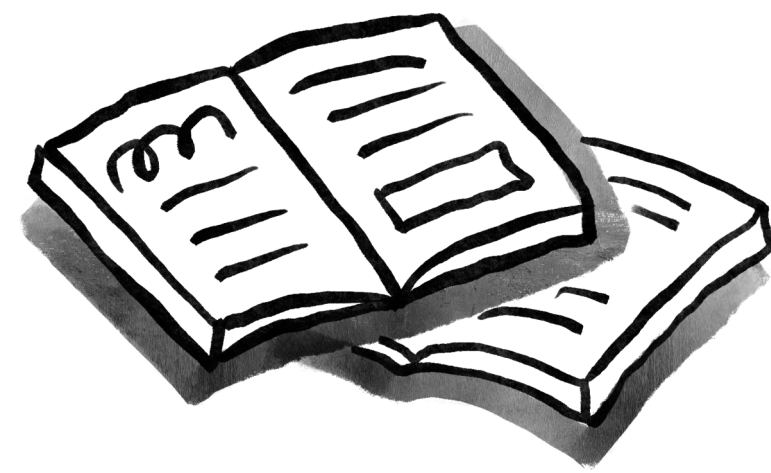
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- English language students need a broader understanding of society, politics, and culture, so reference any clubs you're part of, like debating club or the student newspaper or radio station, alongside any relevant hobbies. If you play football or hockey, for example, you'll use language to communicate with your teammates on and off the pitch.
- Think of what other interests you have: If you love music, lyrics and language are integral to that. Perhaps you've done a project where you analysed Stormzy or Taylor Swift lyrics, or perhaps you're learning a musical instrument, which has given you skills like self-motivation, commitment, and good time management.
- You'll need to be comfortable researching and working independently as well as in groups during your degree, so think of times you've picked up these skills, whether from a part-time job, hobby, or school work.
- Perhaps you can speak another language and it helped you to understand how the English language is put together, giving you a different perspective on how you communicate, and the influences and historical effects on how languages evolve.

# English literature and Creative Writing



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Start with what interests you about English literature and studying it. Discuss one or two specific writers you're interested in – and preferably one who isn't on the GCSE or A level (or equivalent) English syllabus. Admissions tutors say 'Be specific about the texts, contexts, and critical tendencies that really excite you. We read hundreds of statements each year, but genuine passion and detail will always catch our eye'.
- Think of different styles of texts you enjoy, whether novels, poetry, plays, or perhaps you can critique an essay or a critic's review of a book you've read. It's fine to talk about your wider cultural insights too, such as plays you've seen or pieces of journalism you've liked. Don't be tempted to mention obscure books just for the sake of it. An insightful, imaginative, and critical response to literature is what will impress.
- If you have a profession in mind, expand on this (warning: just saying you 'want to be a journalist' will make you sound like thousands of others). Explaining what you hope to achieve while studying English literature and creative writing, not just what you already know, will impress tutors – but if you don't know what you want to do yet, don't worry.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- English literature and creative writing are a multi-disciplinary subject. You can reference something you've learned in your history, politics or psychology studies if it's relevant, such as what you enjoyed about the writing of a particular philosopher or historian and what that taught you about, for example, essay writing.
- University of Bristol admissions tutors want to see some evidence of your analytical approach to the books you've read, and for you to express this in a way that shows clear thinking and understanding. If you mention a book you enjoyed at school or college, be sure to give reasons that relate to how it was written and any literary devices used.
- You may have also picked up analytical and critical thinking skills from studying things like film, sociology or politics. If you can, give specific examples. And mention other relevant attributes you have, such as good research skills or the ability to work well independently.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

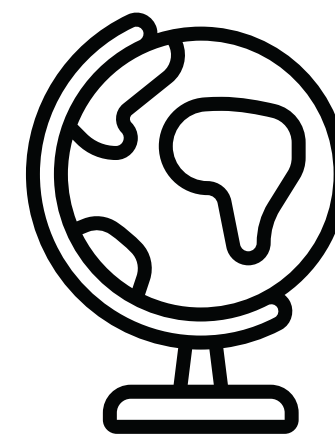
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Think about clubs you're part of, part-time jobs you've had, and what skills they taught you that will help you during your degree, such as working well with others on a school project or sports team, or good time management balancing your studies with a weekend job.
- Keep your supercurricular activities interesting and brief, and ask yourself why it's relevant. For example, your experience listening to or coaching readers in your local primary school will probably make more impact than playing badminton.
- How much you dedicate your statement to outside interests will also depend on the kind of English degree you're applying for, or whether you're combining it with another subject. You can mention things like book group membership, theatre attendance, cultural projects, or voluntary work in schools as examples of the kind of activities that would impress – along with anything that demonstrates inquisitiveness or critical thinking.

# Geography



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- The London School of Economics is looking for what's motivated you to apply for their course – including wider reading or activities and your interest in 'contemporary geographical problems and their alleviation'. Maybe you've joined a campaign group after learning about air pollution in your area, or you listened to Rob Beckett: Bees in a Pod and started planting wildflowers to encourage the wild bee population.
- Avoid obvious phrases like 'I've always enjoyed geography' – instead, if regeneration, GIS, tropical savannas, glaciology, coastal zones, tourism or geopolitics fascinate you, write about them in a specific way.
- If your UCAS choices include specialist areas such as development, population, marine or environmental aspects of geography, include evidence of relevant interests – maybe you've travelled somewhere and taken note of social conditions, read something interesting about migration or marine ecology, or contributed to an environmental debate which has sparked an interest to learn about environmental policy.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Write about something that excites you about geography, whether it's a particular aspect of the syllabus, your wider reading, a project (the EPQ would be relevant if you're doing one), fieldwork, your extracurricular interests – and the skills you've picked up. If you enjoyed your geography field trip, explain how you monitored or collected samples, or analysed data afterwards.
- If you're a curious person, or you want to understand more about our planet, demonstrate that in your statement. Perhaps you've done a geography or sociology project on green spaces in urban areas, which led you to start volunteering for a charity like Trees for Cities.
- If you studied maths, and enjoyed statistics, explain how those skills will help you when studying geography.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

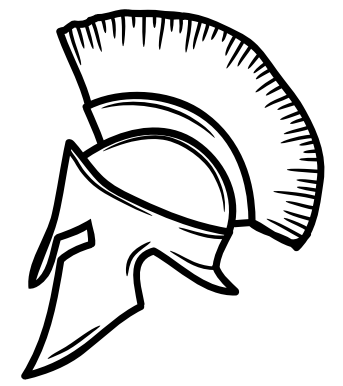
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- The University of Southampton is looking for 'A high quality piece of writing that outlines your interests in geography, your extracurricular pursuits, and something of what makes you distinctive as a person'.
- Write passionately about hiking, collecting maps or rocks, canoeing, or other outdoor activities you enjoy, and show how these might suit you to studying geography (through, for example, being curious about and comfortable in the natural world).
- Geography students need skills like project management, good communication and planning. Talk about a time you've led a school or extracurricular project, or part-time jobs in a cafe or a hairdresser's and how they've given you skills you'll use on this course.
- If you've overcome a challenge in your personal life, how will that resilience help you study for a degree?

# History



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Try and bring your love of history to life with evidence. The best statements are those that go straight into engaging with what currently inspires you about the subject, not simply 'as a child when my uncle took me to a castle...'. If you love David Olusoga documentaries or a particular character in Ghosts, use that as a jumping off point for something you love about history.
- Talk about an experience and – crucially – what it was you learned. This could be a museum or gallery visit, volunteering, wider reading you've undertaken – even a powerful documentary or insightful discussion with your grandparents. A tutor told us one of the best statements they've read opened with a short account of a conversation with a grandad about his experiences in the Second World War.
- If it's relevant, explain where you see yourself in future and how a history degree can help you get there. Don't forget to elaborate on why – many history students say they want to be teachers or journalists, for instance, so saying this alone won't help you to stand out. If you mention a blog you write, work experience you've had in a secondary school or a magazine you read such as The Week (and why that matters), your statement will look stronger.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- The University of Bristol is 'particularly eager to identify applicants whose interest in the subject extends beyond the A level syllabus and who are keen to engage in independent research'. For example, if you studied the French Revolution, maybe you did your own further reading on Marquis de Lafayette, which led you to become fascinated by the American Revolution, and subsequently a fan of Hamilton!
- Illustrate how studying history or other subjects like English or law have enabled you to think analytically and critically, as well as carry out independent research and writing. Mention specific projects, such as studying the European Union in politics, and how this will relate to your degree.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?
- Dr Pigney from Birkbeck, University of London, told us he's especially impressed with applicants whose statements engage with fundamental historiographical questions, such as the extent to which history is a collection of different stories told from different viewpoints, or whether there is a single true account of the past. Can you critique a documentary such as Hitler's Circle of Evil, or something you've watched at school, in terms of the sources it uses and stories it tells?

## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Dr Selina Todd from the University of Oxford told us she's looking for creative evidence of your engagement with history. That could be through work experience or creative writing, an interest in current affairs and how history helps us to understand them, or maybe something about how your hobbies and personal interests fit with history. For example, if you play in a band, are you also interested in music of the past?
- Think how your commitment to a weekend activity like a competitive sport or drama group helps with your time management, and communicate how you'll use this effectively during your degree.
- If you know you want to work in government, publishing or academia, what do you do outside of school, such as reading historical fiction or vlogging your research on women in Ancient Rome, that you can relate to your future career?
- Subject tasters
- Subject Spotlights give you the chance to try a university course before you apply. Delivered by the lecturers themselves you will gain insight into what it's like to study the course and give your personal statement a boost.

# Journalism



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- State clearly why you want to study journalism, and explain that you know something about the work of the central figure in journalism – the reporter. If there's a journalist you particularly admire, such as Mobeen Azhar or Pandora Sykes, explain why and what's inspired you to follow in their footsteps.
- Admissions tutors recommend you read quality broadsheet newspapers and follow major developing news stories. Show you're aware of current affairs – maybe explain what you noticed about how the reporting of a topical event differed depending on which publication you were reading, and the impact this may have had on shaping public perception.
- Show you understand the power the media has, and the importance of reporting facts clearly and concisely. If you've followed a case reported to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) or Ofcom, write about what you learned about how journalists work in the UK.
- Mention where you hope this degree will take you, whether you want to work in written or broadcast journalism, and if you want to focus on a particular area like financial, environmental or consumer journalism.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Can you give examples of projects you've done at school, such as creating a magazine for an English project, writing an essay expressing your own opinions and thoughts, or a video you created to explain a science concept?
- Use your personal statement to demonstrate creative writing ability, accurate spelling, correct grammar, and a sound grasp of the English language.
- What other schoolwork or clubs have you done where you've shown good interpersonal skills, persistence, and an ability to dig deep into a wide range of topics?
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

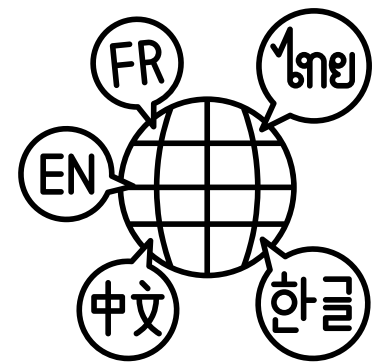
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- For practical journalism courses, some (though not all) unis will insist on work experience. If you can, try to gain some work experience within a media environment, ideally in a newsroom of a local newspaper office. Free newspapers, local or hospital radio, or a TV newsroom could also give you insights into the reporter's job.
- Write about what you learnt. What skills did you observe as being particularly important? How has the experience impacted on your motivation to further your studies in journalism? See our guide for how to make work experience count in your personal statement.
- Alternatively, are there any other settings where you've written for an audience, such as your own blog or your school newspaper? If so, what have you learned from this about working towards strict deadlines, or how writing pieces for an intended audience can alter the language and style you use?
- If you've already had journalistic work published or broadcast, produced a blog, vlog, or podcast yourself, had a great reference from some relevant work experience, or anything else that may be relevant, consider sending them a link or clip separately.

# Languages



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Explain where your passion for languages comes from, and what you hope to do with it. Whether you're a big Pedro Almodóvar fan and you want to become fluent in Spanish, or you've been following the political situation in Brazil and want to work as a translator there, give a sense of why you want to study languages at degree level.
- If you're applying for languages courses that involve studying cultural as well as linguistic elements, Dr Lucy Bell from University of Surrey says: 'We like to see evidence of your enthusiasm for, and immersion in, the language(s) outside of your A level studies. This might include time spent in the country, exchange activities, reading the press or books in the target language, watching films, etc'.
- Professor Swift at Oxford explains how your 'cultural engagement' can be demonstrated in various ways. 'Doing simple things that are readily available to you via the internet, like reading short stories, following a blog, watching a documentary, or listening to French radio can be extremely valuable if you show what you got out of them. Take advantage of any opportunities available to you. But what's crucial is what you got out of the experience'.
- Language courses often feature a wide variety of modules, covering many historical and political periods, literature and drama, sociological topics, and more. If you know what you're most interested in learning about further, mention it. It's not all grammar lessons and learning how to direct people to la bibliothèque.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- What have you done at school that's relevant to studying languages at degree level? That can include having done foreign exchanges or lived abroad for a period, excelled in your oral or listening exams, or building your presentation or communication skills via other subjects.
- If you're at a school or college that's diverse and mixed culturally, how has that helped you understand or be interested in different cultures? Show you're curious about the world and other people, whether through where you study, or what else you study, such as history, geography or sociology. Even reading books set in other cultures and countries can help grow your empathy and understanding in that language.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?
- If you're more into the linguistics side of things, think how studying languages, or even elements of maths or programming, have helped your critical thinking and attention to detail.

## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Mention films you watch, whether it's Society of the Snow or Das Lehrerzimmer, TED Talks you're into, or podcasts you listen to that reflect your interest in the language you're applying for, and its culture. Professor Swift advises to 'always be honest in your response to whatever you've read, watched, or listened to. If you didn't particularly enjoy Camus' L'Étranger, for instance, don't say that you did'.
- Think of relevant work experience you've had. Perhaps you've worked in tourism before, whether in a hotel, campsite, or working abroad, or maybe you've picked up good interpersonal, organisational, and communication skills in a customer services role. Admissions tutors want you to explain how this has expanded your personal experience. What matters isn't so much what or how much you've done, but what you learned from it and how you present this evidence in your statement.
- Include mentions of voluntary work, how you help younger pupils, or what you're learning from the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) if you're doing one.

# Criminology



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- State clearly why you want to study criminology, and explain what you know already about the subject. Perhaps you're a fan of Tim Newburn and his book *Criminology*. Elaborate on why that's made you want to study this topic at degree level. Try and make it unique to you.
- Give examples of articles you've read, or podcasts you've listened to, that have given you further insights. You may have read about how social media can be used to spread criminal behaviour during riots, or how social media shapes our perceptions about crime. Reflect on what you think about that theory.
- Mention where you hope this degree will take you, whether you want to work in the police, the broader criminal justice system, or focus on rehabilitation. If you don't know yet, that's ok too.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Can you give examples of projects you've done at school, such as researching an aspect of human behaviour in sociology or psychology, analysing data in maths or geography, or understanding the British legal system in law?
- What other schoolwork or clubs have you done where you've shown good critical thinking skills, and been able to evaluate and interpret evidence? That could be through history or a history club, or through playing chess, for example.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Write about any part-time jobs or volunteering you do, and what you've got out of them. For example, if you work in retail or customer service, you'll have picked up good interpersonal skills and some knowledge of different human behaviours. You may also have learned how to collaborate with people from different backgrounds.
- If you do have any work experience with the police, probation service, social services, a magistrate's, or at a law firm, tell admissions tutors what you learned from it.
- Can you give any examples of your empathy and cultural awareness? That could be from work you've done at a charity, care home or hospital, or from the neighbourhood you live in, like helping an elderly neighbour. Explain why these attributes might help you during a career in criminology.

# Law



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Focus in on aspects of law that are of particular interest to you, whether that's criminal, contract or international human rights law, how it relates to your current studies, and what additional reading you've embarked on.
- If you haven't studied law at A level or equivalent, demonstrate your engagement with law through a book you've read that had a legal dimension to it, such as *In Your Defence*, *The Sentence*, or *In Black and White*.
- The University of Cambridge (and many other universities) like applicants who keep up-to-date with current affairs and who are interested in the legal implications of the latest news stories. Maybe you've been following changes to employment law or the rights of consumers when their personal details are stolen. How did that make you want to study law further?
- Don't forget, if you're applying for law in combination with a different subject, make sure you demonstrate something relevant to the other subject too.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- What projects or coursework have you done that's relevant, such as analytical essays or a critique of something? If you have the opportunity to conduct a personal project or the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), consider giving it a legal focus.
- If you've studied English, drama, or sciences, explain how they've helped you with public speaking, persuasive writing, or attention to detail.
- What have you done outside school to learn more about law? Maybe you got work experience at a law firm or visited your local magistrates' court. Explain how those experiences informed your decision to study this subject.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Whether you've done a mini-pupillage, or shadowed at your local Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), mention any relevant work experience and what you gained from it.
- Think laterally too – if you do shifts in a supermarket or a Saturday job in a shop, you'll have picked up communications and sales skills, which can be important as a solicitor.
- What have you drawn from your extracurricular activities? Maybe teaching yourself to code or crochet has taught you attention to detail. Maybe you're an avid cook or reader of fiction and you can scan texts and take information in quickly.

# Policing



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- State clearly why you want to study policing – have you always wanted to help people, did you have an inspiring school visit from a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), or maybe watching *The Met* made you want to join the profession?
- Explain what you already know about the kind of work involved. Perhaps you've been reading about Policing in the UK, you've spoken to police officers in your area or you've listened to podcast *Tango Juliet Foxtrot*, and you can reflect on where you see yourself fitting in?
- Write about the impact you hope to make and, if you know, where you want to go – whether that's working your way up to detective, improving diversity and inclusion, working within communities, or focusing on crime prevention.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Give examples of projects you've done at school that show you have good written and communication skills, which you'll need in policing. That could be writing essays, giving presentations, or working on a group project.
- What other schoolwork or clubs have you done where you've shown good interpersonal skills, persistence, and resilience? You may have persevered to get to a certain level in a sport for physical education (PE) A level, or equivalent, or worked well as part of a team on a geography field trip, for example.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

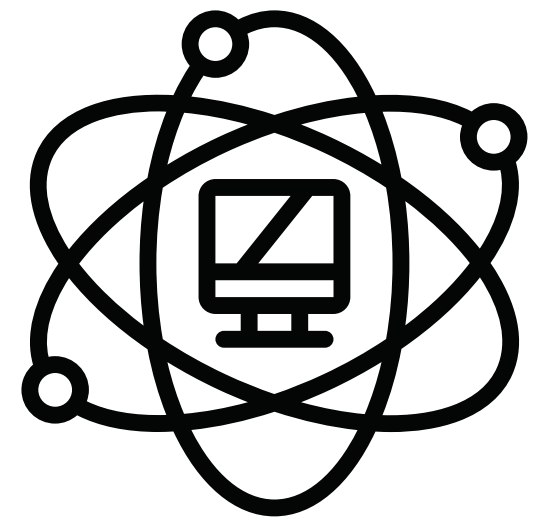
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- You'll need to be physically and mentally fit for policing, so give examples of sports you play or fitness classes you go to. Think of how you've built up good listening skills and empathy too, whether through volunteering for a charity like *The Samaritans* or helping a friend or sibling who was struggling in school.
- Think how you can show your emotional resilience. Maybe you've had your own struggles with anxiety or bullying that you've overcome, or maybe you can reference literature you've read that has given you a greater understanding of the human psyche or the challenges some people face in their lives.
- How can you demonstrate your critical thinking and problem-solving skills? Perhaps you enjoy Sudoku, puzzles or crosswords? Give a specific example of a situation you resolved, whether that was de-escalating a fight at school or figuring out a way to submit your coursework when your computer crashed.

# Computer Science



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Explain where your enthusiasm for computer science comes from, and why – but avoid the temptation to include a potted history describing when you got your first computer!
- Talk about what's inspiring you or motivating you to study it, whether it's a relevant book or news articles you've read, or maybe a bit of programming you've done.
- Show you understand what computer science as a discipline is all about, it could be through examples of programming you admire, or algorithms you've worked on in school.
- If you know, explain what your personal goals are and what you hope to achieve by studying this subject. You could reference modules on the course you're applying to, if relevant.
- Professor Lowe from the University of Oxford says that lots of the personal statements he sees 'are similar, bland, impersonal and don't stand out – so make it personal, specific, and concrete'.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Explain how studying maths, for example, has helped you to think logically and problem solve.
- Talk about a program you wrote in information technology (IT) or a side project you've been working on and how it's helped you prepare for studying computer science at degree level.
- Reflect on how your studies or wider reading have boosted your understanding or sparked your curiosity. Maybe you've been listening to Unconfuse Me with Bill Gates, and you want to learn from tutors on this course in a similar way.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?
- If there's an area or module you're particularly looking forward to studying, say so.

## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Show you're a team player: according to the engineering and computer science department at Durham University: 'Try to write about how you work with others. Have you been part of a team or led a team? Have you had to organise something complex such as an event, a play or a football league?'
- If you've done an internship or work experience, what did you learn from it and how will it help you on this course?
- Mention transferable skills you've picked up from extracurricular activities, such as perseverance and trust if you're a rock climber, or attention to detail and working to deadlines if you've created your own YouTube channel.

# Mathematics and Statistics



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Admissions tutors love to see anything that shows the depth or breadth of your interest in maths and statistics, and especially your interests in the subject beyond the A level (or equivalent) syllabus – like any books you've read, clubs you're part of, or especially any maths challenges you've been involved in.
- The University of Bristol looks for applicants who can show participation and success in mathematical competitions: 'There are many of these competitions, whether local, national, or international, and the more recent your participation and the greater the success you attained, the more weight it carries'.
- Tutors also like to see a bit of spark and originality. For example, what first inspired your interest in maths and statistics, or better still, what currently inspires it? Whether you're a Rubik's cube whizz, you love SimCity or you're into programming, try and get your unique interest across.
- Also, give a sense of which aspects of maths you especially like and why. Is it algebra, calculus, statistics or something else?

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Think about subjects or projects you've done that show attributes such as logic and reason. Maybe you carried out a chemistry experiment or a statistical modelling project in geography which required those skills.
- Mention anything specific you've learned that you can reference, and how it may help you during your degree, such as learning a programming language in information technology (IT) or managing a project in physics.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?
- You could also demonstrate your self-motivation and ability to focus through describing your study and revision techniques or extracurricular activities, such as learning a musical instrument.

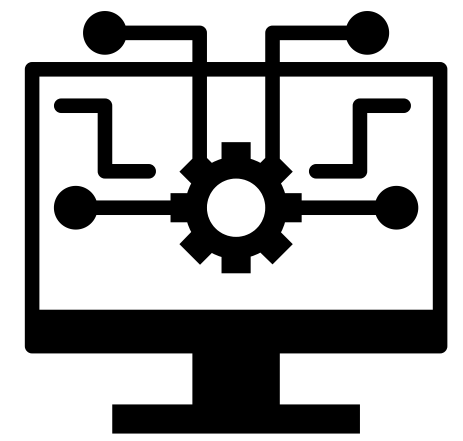
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- What hobbies do you have that require problem-solving, analytical, and technical skills? Perhaps you enjoy playing Minecraft, The Talos Principle or Zachtronics games, or maybe you enjoy puzzles, chess or sudoku.
- Think of any jobs or work experience you have and what relevant skills you've picked up. If you've worked in a fast-food restaurant or a busy bar, you'll have learned great teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills – even better if you had responsibilities involving financial transactions or cashing up.
- If you play a sport, do community work, or enjoy singing or acting in your spare time, demonstrate how these interests illustrate your drive, commitment, enthusiasm, and your potential to excel.
- Also, show some evidence of knowledge you've gained beyond the A level (or equivalent) syllabus. For example, maybe talk about something you've seen or heard in the media that struck you as an example of good (or bad!) statistical analysis or reporting.

# Software Engineering



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Explain where your enthusiasm for software engineering comes from and why – but try and keep it to recent experiences, rather than when you got your first computer! Maybe you follow Angie Jones and you're learning about Java. Or maybe your information technology (IT) A level, or equivalent, has made you want to focus on programming websites.
- Reference recent articles or books you've read that have furthered your desire to study this subject. Perhaps you've been reading about emerging technologies, and you want to learn about how you can use them in software development, or maybe you can expand on something you've read about database design.
- What is it about you that makes you a good fit for a career in software engineering? Maybe you've already built a website, or taught yourself basic programming and you're looking to enhance your skills? Or maybe there's a particular industry you want to work in, such as banking or the third sector. Make your statement answers as unique to you as you can.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Talk about a programme you wrote in IT or a side project you've been working on and how it's helped you prepare for studying software engineering at degree level. Describe what skills you learned around designing and testing software, and around patience and perseverance, for example.
- What competencies have you picked up in maths or physics that you can use during your studies, like analysing and interpreting data, and problem-solving?
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Have you been involved in any extracurricular activities like hackathons, gaming events, or competitions? What did you learn from the experience?
- Mention if you've done any volunteering or work-shadowing too with the IT department in a company, or with a specific software engineering team. Reflect on what you learned that you can apply during your degree.
- How else can you show you're analytical, can think logically, and you're good at problem-solving? Write about computer games you enjoy that challenge you in this way, or other relevant games and activities like being part of a chess or coding club at school.
- Use sports and extracurricular activities to illustrate you're a team player and you have strong motivation and organisational skills.
- Subject tasters
- Subject Spotlights give you the chance to try a university course before you apply. Delivered by the lecturers themselves you will gain insight into what it's like to study the course and give your personal statement a boost.

# Digital Media, Production, and Technology



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- What is it that's made you want to work in digital media, production, and technology? Have you already been following social media campaigns by companies or influencers you like? If so, could you critique what you like about the script or production on one of their digital marketing campaigns?
- Is there anything else you've done that's made you want to learn more about this subject? Perhaps you already post YouTube videos and you'd like to become a professional content creator. Or maybe you've been managing the social media account for a charity and you'd like to expand your video production or technical skills.
- Mention books, forums or blogs you read, or people you follow that have influenced you. Elaborate on one or two things – for example, perhaps you learned something on production techniques from reading Digital Media Production for Beginners, or you've got an opinion on how the Diary of a CEO podcast uses video on social media.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Elaborate on specific skills you've picked up, such as digital drawing or Photoshop in your art, graphic design or photography A level or equivalent. Think about other skills too, like creativity, innovation, thinking outside the box, project management, and teamwork.
- What else have you learned during your studies? You may have discovered a great mind-mapping technique for revision that you can also use for coming up with creative ideas. Maybe you've learned scriptwriting skills from being in a drama group, or content writing skills from contributing to a section of the school website or magazine.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

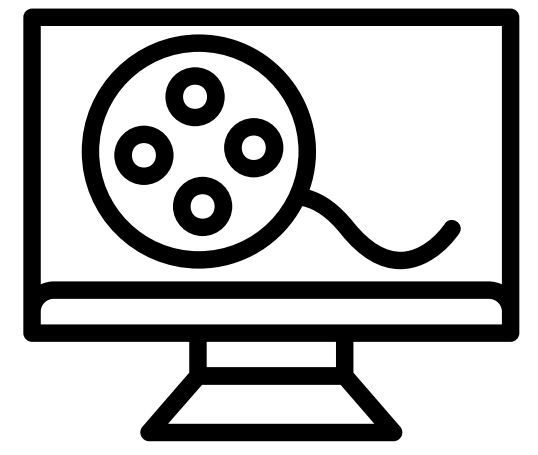
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- You'll have learned things from supercurricular or extracurricular activities, whether that's good communication skills and teamwork from playing a team sport or using audio editing software for music.
- Mention any volunteering, work-shadowing, or part-time jobs you've done. It's great if you've got experience at a digital media or marketing company, or managing social media for an organisation, but if not you'll have picked up useful skills working in a restaurant, shop or supermarket – like customer service, communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.
- Think of any personal experiences and attributes too. You may have taught yourself basic programming, which shows initiative as well as technical skills, and maybe you've created a vlog about your hobby or home environment, which has taught you some digital storytelling techniques.

# Film Studies



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Whether your interest was sparked by Marvel movies, filming on your iPad at home, or your first trip to the IMAX, get across how your enthusiasm for film studies has translated into wanting to pursue it at degree level. Even better if you know where you want it to take you: producer, director, critic, scriptwriter, cameraperson, editor?
- Pick one or two films, or elements of film, and critique them. If you love musical films, can you compare how *Wonka* was made, compared to *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*? Or if you love action adventure films, can you comment on how some of the toughest action scenes are scripted and shot?
- Mention books, forums or blogs you read, or people you follow that have taught you more about the industry. Maybe you're a fan of director Greta Gerwig or Alex Garland and you follow them on social media, or maybe you've read something about black and white films in *Sight and Sound*, or about women in independent film in *Filmmaker Magazine*. Make sure you relate it to the course you're applying for.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Elaborate on specific skills you've picked up, such as video and image editing, scriptwriting, and project management in your art, English, or photography A level or equivalent. Think about other skills too, like creativity, innovation, thinking outside the box, and teamwork.
- Some courses require essay-based subjects at A level or equivalent, so make sure you check the course entry requirements, then give an example of when you've argued a point or critiqued something in writing.
- Think about what else you've learned during your studies too. You may have discovered a great mind-mapping technique for revision that you can also use for coming up with creative ideas. Or you may have learned script-writing skills from being in a drama group, or content writing skills from contributing to a section of the school website or magazine.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Mention any volunteering, work-shadowing, or part-time jobs you've done. It's great if you've got experience at a cinema, film production company, theatre, or at the Young Film Academy, but if not, you could have picked up useful knowledge working in a restaurant, shop, or supermarket – like good communication and teamwork, as well as the opportunity to observe people.
- You'll need to be analytical and good at structure and planning when doing film studies, so give examples if you play things like chess, sudoku or challenge games in your spare time, or give examples of when you've carefully crafted and planned something.
- Show you've got broader cultural knowledge which you can apply to your film studies, whether through listening to and reading current affairs, travelling, or enjoying literature and theatre. Maybe you've also started a blog, vlog, or podcast in relation to your interest.

# Media Studies



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- If you're interested in media, you're interested in culture, so give examples of websites, social accounts, videos, and technology that have inspired your interest in media studies. If you're a fan of YouTuber Emma Chamberlain or Mr Beast, can you explain what it is about the way they make videos or connect with their audiences that appeals to you?
- There's a wide span of media courses, ranging from the theoretical to the practical, and your statement should focus on the specific type of course you've chosen to apply for. For example, if you're applying for a fashion, media, and marketing course, focus on fashion vloggers you love, rather than nature documentaries you watch!
- Tell admissions tutors where you hope your degree will take you – do you want to be a journalist, work in content creation or media production? Relate your career aspirations to the course you're applying for.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- What projects or coursework have you done that's relevant? Perhaps you filmed and edited a video for a sociology project, or did a critique of British print media for an English project.
- Mention the skills you've picked up during your A levels or equivalent that would suit you to a media studies course, such as digital editing and tech skills in information technology (IT), presentation skills or creativity in art or design technology.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

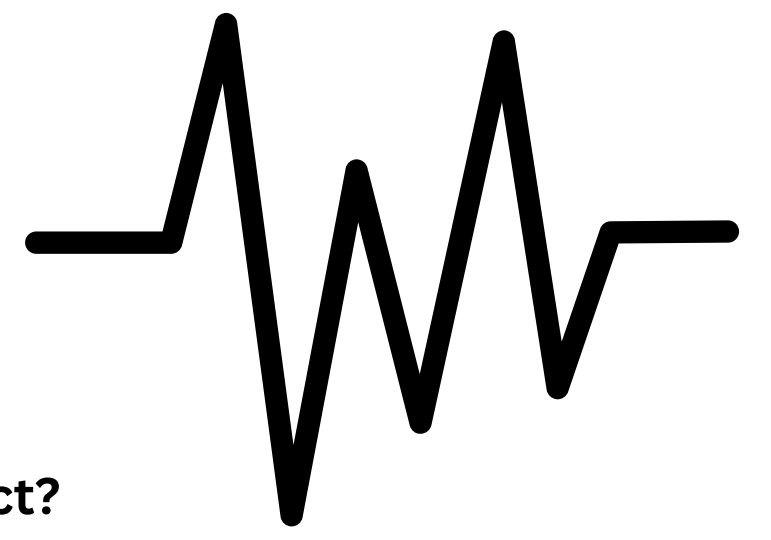
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- If you've been involved in any creative or media-related projects at school, reference those. Maybe you created the posters for a school play and shared them in physical form and on social media, or maybe you've been involved with a school magazine or radio project.
- What do you enjoy doing outside of school, such as a team sport, creative writing, or going to the cinema with friends, and how do they relate to this degree? For example sport will give you good teamworking skills, or being knowledgeable about film will give you good analytical and critiquing skills, as well as an insight into one aspect of media.
- Think how media studies might help you achieve your goals. For example, if you feel you don't see people from your background reflected in the media you consume, how do you hope to change this by pursuing this career?
- Mention the skills you've picked up from any part-time jobs too, such as good communications skills and adaptability from working in a shop, cafe, or babysitting.
- Subject tasters
- Subject Spotlights give you the chance to try a university course before you apply. Delivered by the lecturers themselves you will gain insight into what it's like to study the course and give your personal statement a boost.

# Medicine



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- What is it about medicine that fascinates you and where does your passion and interest come from? Whether it was a chat with your GP, volunteering in a care home, or having a sick parent or sibling, whatever it is that's given you the passion and determination to see through a medical degree, make sure you get that across. Bangor University says 'You must demonstrate an awareness of the healthcare system in the UK and the nature of the medical training in your personal statement'. Reference books and other literature about medicine that has widened your insights and understanding. Keep an eye out for current medical issues and ethical dilemmas being widely discussed. Some applicants can find it harder at the interview stage if they don't follow the news or these happenings.
- If you know, mention what kind of medicine you hope to work in, such as cardiology, dermatology, immunology, or geriatric medicine. Try to explain what it is that fascinates you about these areas. If you don't know yet, that's ok – but try and give a sense of where your interests lie.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Medical students need to be focused, diligent, and hard-working, so give examples of how you've managed to study for exams and coursework during your A levels or equivalent. Be specific if you want – explain how you've used Trello, Monday, or note-taking to successfully manage your workload.
- Give examples of how else you've got involved in school life, whether through lunchtime clubs, being a class representative, or joining the school council. Your sense of commitment and responsibility can be evidenced through your active involvement in school or college life, your local community or other clubs, societies, or organisations.
- Are there any specific biology or chemistry projects that relate to the course you're applying for? Maybe studying disease has made you interested in infectious diseases, oncology, or public health.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Most medical schools are very open about the difficulty of securing clinical experience, like work-shadowing or volunteering in a hospital while still at school or college. University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine says: 'We would want to see that candidates have a good understanding of the role of the medic, and a realistic and informed view of what the profession entails. Work experience is a great way to gain this. Work experience is strongly advised but is not a requirement for a Cambridge medicine application'. It's great if you can get some experience, as it will give you the perfect insight into what it means to be a doctor – just make sure you take full advantage of the opportunity, observe carefully, and ask searching questions. However, your work experience doesn't have to be in a hospital. Most medical schools state that observing or working alongside people in a caring or service role is just as valuable (especially with people who are ill, disabled, disadvantaged, or vulnerable). Mention any opportunities you've had like this, and what you learned from them that will help you during your degree, such as patience, empathy, or an understanding of different individuals' needs
- Most medical schools expect you to have experienced some of the realities of providing care, support, or services to others, and understand somewhat the physical, organisational, and emotional demands of a medical career. Think what experiences you've had that mean you're equipped for the rigours of a medical degree and job – whether that's overcoming adversity in your own life, or doing a part-time job in a fast-paced environment like a busy cafe or factory assembly line.

# Midwifery



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Write about why you want to become a midwife. Whether it runs in the family, or you've been inspired by a documentary or your own birthing experience, show your knowledge of the role and why you may be suited to it.
- You're likely to be interviewed for a midwifery place, so make sure your personality shines through in your statement – and you can back up claims you've made with evidence.
- The University of Cumbria asks applicants to 'demonstrate that they have thought carefully about the influences on women's health and the nature of midwifery in the UK in the 21st century'. Can you reference what you've learned from watching the news or reading about maternity care, and how you see your role within the industry?

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Midwifery requires good communication and listening skills. Demonstrate this through your studies, whether that's been learning a modern foreign language, or giving a presentation.
- Write about something you've enjoyed on your biology or another science course. Maybe you enjoyed anatomy or you're good at scientific drawings from observation – how will this help you on a midwifery course?
- Midwives need to work well under pressure, manage their time well, and be able to prioritise their workload. Give examples of how you've done this during your studies, or in a part-time job or hobby.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

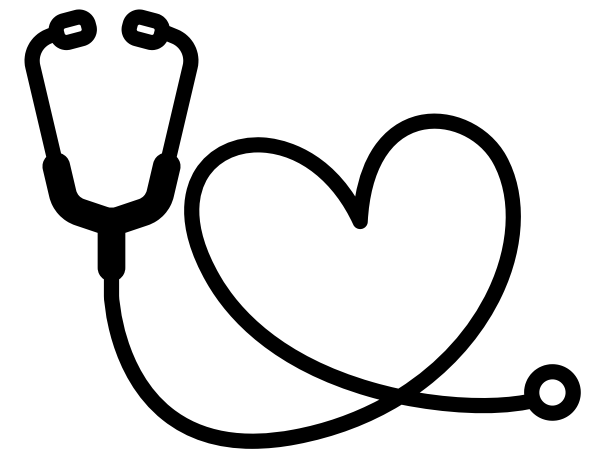
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Think about transferable skills you have that would apply to midwifery situations. These could be demonstrated in lots of ways – whether it's the diplomacy you've needed as a customer service assistant, the empathy you've shown through volunteering, the teamwork that got you through your Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition, or the way you've balanced the demands of being a parent yourself.
- You'll be dealing with people from the whole spectrum of society, so show you have an understanding of diversity and a capacity for being non-judgmental. Maybe you've worked in charity fundraising, which meant you came across people from all walks of life, and perhaps had to deal with more difficult people, or you're neurodiverse and can bring your own experiences to the role.
- Midwives also need to be good at writing and record keeping. Whether you've helped out in a library or an accountancy firm, or you've categorised your book collection, show you're organised and have good attention to detail.
- If you play sport, are part of a film or book club, or you love sudoku, describe what these interests will bring to your degree studies, such as building your interpersonal and communication skills, or giving you the ability to switch off after a difficult day.

# Nursing



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Try to write clearly and reflectively about how you arrived at your decision to go into nursing and why, specifically, you want to be an adult, children's, mental health, or learning disability nurse. Some universities will score your personal statement against their specific selection criteria – take a look at individual university websites, as these criteria may be listed. Look for nursing courses in our search tool.
- Most nursing admissions tutors expect you to apply for one specific field only (although some courses allow you to apply for two, called 'dual field'). You'll need to demonstrate a realistic understanding of the field(s) you've chosen. For example, if you're applying specifically for mental health nursing, you might want to reflect on your ability to understand other people's perspectives or to advocate on their behalf. Or, if you feel it's appropriate to reflect on your own experience of mental health then, as one admissions tutor told us, the key is to explain how this has motivated you to become a nurse yourself.
- For children's nursing, you might wish to demonstrate your awareness of the diverse range of children you'll nurse and the kind of challenges you expect to face. Reference books, documentaries, or TEDx Talks, such as paediatrician Nick Holekamp's *The Road to OZ*, that have given you an insight into nursing, as long as they're relevant to your course.

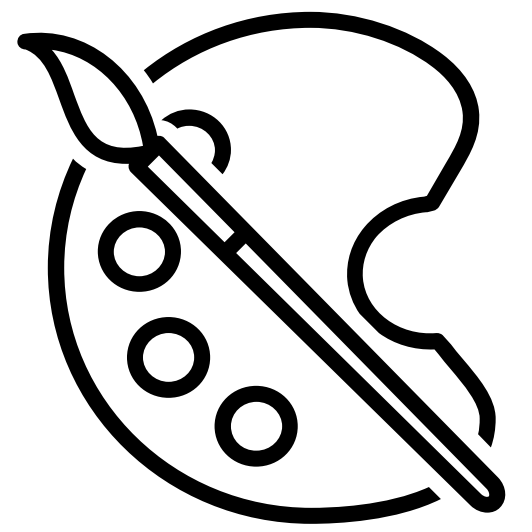
## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

- This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.
- Examples:
- Write about anything you feel is especially relevant about your academic studies, or maybe a project you've undertaken. Perhaps you've done an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) on the genetic or social factors that affect addiction, or the use of complementary therapies in NHS cancer patients – reflect on how what you've learned will help you during your nursing degree.
- Show you've understood the skills and qualities nurses need, and how you've acquired them. Maybe you can reference exam study, a busy Saturday job, an Access to HE course, or relevant on-the-job training in a healthcare role which shows you can work well under pressure, or a time you've shown empathy and patience when helping a friend who's going through a tough time.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

- This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.
- Examples:
- Try to build up as much experience or observation as you can. Ideally this should be in a care environment, such as a hospital, clinic, GP practice, school, residential care, or the voluntary sector. Any other experience of working with people is helpful too.
- If you know you want to be an adult or learning disability nurse, for example, you could reflect on what you've learned from your interactions with elderly people, or how you've supported someone with a learning disability yourself. The key words are 'demonstrate' and 'reflect'. It's not enough just to say you understand something – you need to show what it was that led to your understanding. Then, write about the transferable skills that are relevant to your particular field of nursing.
- Expand on how you've demonstrated some of those skills, qualities, and values yourself through your experience, extracurricular activities, personal interests, or achievements. The latter could include the responsibility and commitment you've shown through voluntary work etc

# Art



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- What interests you about this subject, and is there a particular area of art you want to focus on, like digital or virtual art? How does your portfolio work support that ambition?
- Have you been inspired by a particular artist or designer you follow, or whose work you've been to see? What is it about their work you admire, and how has it informed your own?
- What have you learned through reading or listening to podcasts like Talk Art or The Great Women Artists that you'd like to develop further on this course?
- Mention where you might like to take this subject as a career, whether you want to become a book or games illustrator, a curator, or develop your own form of physical art.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Can you highlight any projects or coursework you've done – whether a piece of textiles or a study of a contemporary artist – relevant to your chosen course? Describe what you learned from carrying out that piece of work.
- Showcase your creative thinking and originality. Think about what you've done differently, whether that's using an unusual medium or subverting a genre somehow. You could reference something you're showcasing in your portfolio.
- David Baldry is fine art course leader at University Campus Suffolk. He adds: 'We want to know how you respond to the world creatively, so talk about your experiences or projects you've developed independently'. Have you been involved in any exhibitions or done any voluntary work that's further developed your understanding of your art or that of others?
- Talk about skills you've gained from studying art (or other subjects) already, such as independent thought, critical thinking or challenging perceptions.

## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- What part-time jobs have you done and what transferable skills did you pick up, such as time management, coping under pressure or working independently? How will they help you whilst studying art?
- What hobbies do you enjoy and what do they say about you? They may relate to art, for example designing a poster for a local event, or they may show other attributes such as perseverance when completing a project, whether on Minecraft or when learning a musical instrument.
- What personal experiences have you had which might suit you to a subject like art? Perhaps you've faced a personal challenge you were later able to express or process through your drawing? Or maybe you moved schools or countries as a child, which enabled you to see and reflect different cultures.
- Think of when you've originated ideas, such as incorporating your old Barbies or baby dolls into a piece of art, or designing and building a hedgehog home in your garden. Anything unique is good!

# Drama and Theatre Studies



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities, colleges, and conservatoires why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Professor Anna Furse, Head of Theatre and Performance at Goldsmiths, University of London, advises applicants for her course to avoid saying things like 'I simply love to perform and want to be a musical star'. 'It's fine to have a passion to perform', she says, 'but think also about why you want a university degree and tell us about this'.
- Admissions tutors also ask for 'Genuine enthusiasm for drama, along with evidence that you've studied or read beyond the curriculum'. Whether you've enjoyed *Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner* by Jasmine Lee-Jones, or the original one-woman play of *Fleabag*, think about plays you've seen or read and explain how they've ignited your passion for drama and theatre studies.
- If you can, articulate your career aspirations and how your degree will help you gain the experience, knowledge, and skills to help you prepare for it.
- Professor Furse also advises applicants to be clear about whether they're looking for a course with a practice-theory ethos at an interdisciplinary university like hers, or a more practical course at a conservatoire or drama school. 'It's fine to apply to both,' she says, 'but simply be aware and don't write too generically'.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Focus on your most recent and relevant creative experiences. If you're applying for a practical course, can you reference work you've done in your theatres studies or performing arts at school and the skills you picked up?
- Think how studying English or law, for example, has helped develop your analytical and critical skills, and how these will help you on your course.
- Talk about the skills gained from your critical and creative experiences, both within and outside your studies, or how you feel you've benefited from them. Think outside the box if you need to – giving presentations in any subject and receiving feedback can inform future acting work you do.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

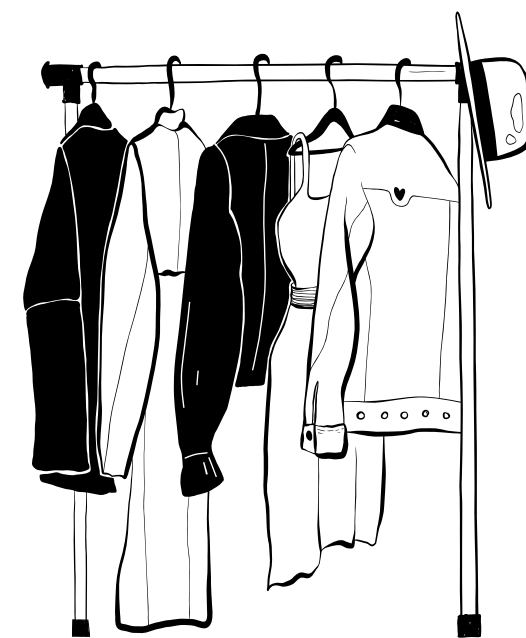
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Think how any positions of authority, charity work, employment, hobbies or other relevant activities have benefited your development, or their relationship to drama and theatre studies.
- Talk about any amateur productions you've been involved in outside of school and what you learned from them, including the technical aspects of a production.
- Maybe you enjoy writing short stories or scripts, or you've sent an idea to a producer you love, and received a written reply. How can you show you have a flair for storytelling or the audacity to put yourself forward for things?
- Don't forget about things like sports, school councils, or even coming from a large family – you can use all of these to demonstrate your teamwork and communications skills.

# Fashion, Textiles, and Jewellery



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Give evidence of what's sparked your interest in fashion, textiles, and jewellery. Do you follow a particular fashion designer or brand? If so, what is it about the way they create clothes, textiles, or jewellery that's made you want to work in this industry?
- Why would studying this subject suit you? Maybe you enjoy customising clothes or upcycling metals into jewellery and you want to turn that into a career or perhaps you've always been creative and good at fashion drawing, and that's where your interests lie.
- Show you've done some research of your own too – whether that's insight you've gained into how the fashion industry works, and what makes certain brands or businesses successful. Elaborate on where you see yourself fitting in the industry, whether it's as a designer, business manager, or in sales.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Check the course entry requirements, as they may ask for certain subjects at A level or equivalent, but regardless think about the creative and technical skills you'll have picked up from studying subjects like art, design technology, and IT, for example, and how they'll help you during a fashion, textiles, and jewellery degree.
- You'll have also gained other relevant skills during your studies, such as good time management, project management, independence, and group working skills.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

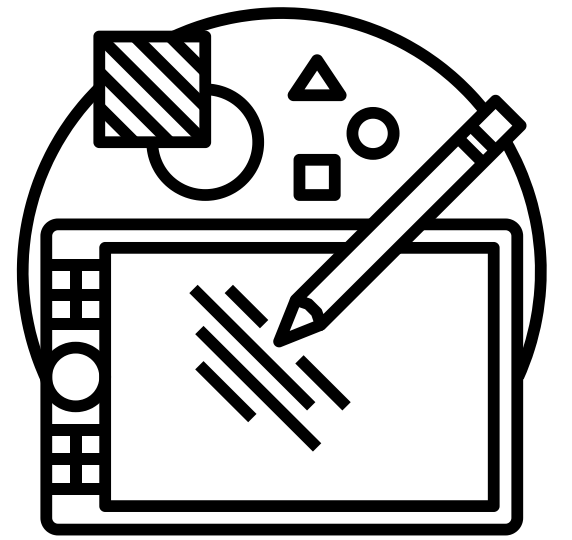
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Showcase any relevant hobbies or skills you enjoy, whether that's sewing, using computer-aided design (CAD), life drawing, or jewellery design. You may also have other interests like creative writing, crochet, or model-making, which show you have imagination and a commitment to seeing things through to completion.
- If you've had part-time or weekend jobs, think about the skills you've picked up. For example, if you've worked at a garden centre, shop or restaurant, you'll have learned some sales skills, as well as interpersonal skills and good time management.
- Think what else makes you suited to a course like this. You may read fashion magazines, and be up-to-date with the latest trends, and challenges. You may have already started your own business selling jewellery or textiles on Etsy or eBay. If you have managed to get any work experience at a jeweller's, textiles firm, or fashion designer's, make sure you write about that too.

# Graphic Design



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- What interests you about graphic design, and is there an area you're particularly fascinated by, such as script typography or virtual reality (VR) design? Can you explain where that interest comes from, such as marketing you've seen on social media, or a VR exhibition you've been to?
- Have you been inspired by a designer you follow, a book you've read, or an exhibition you've seen? Perhaps you've been to a graphic design exhibition or attended an event because of the clever way the poster was designed. Critique what you liked about it.
- Mention where you might like to take this subject as a career, whether you want to work in education, marketing, business, or the charity sector. There are many opportunities to choose from!

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Can you highlight any projects or coursework you've done that's relevant to your course, whether a piece of art, design or photography? Describe what you learned from carrying out that piece of work.
- Showcase your creative thinking and originality. Perhaps you designed the cover for a school magazine or show – was there anything you did differently with the font, texture or layout? Think of the skills you've gained too, like independent thought, critical thinking or challenging perceptions.
- Have you been involved in exhibitions or done any voluntary work that's further developed your understanding of graphic design? You might have designed a poster for a charity or community event, or overseen social media graphics for an organisation. Expand on what you learned.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Think how you can show you're 'culturally, ethically and historically aware', perhaps through a film or book club you're part of, newspapers you read, evening classes you attend, or volunteering you do within the community.
- What hobbies do you enjoy and what do they say about you? They may relate to graphic design, for example designing a poster for a local event, or they may show other attributes such as perseverance when completing a project, whether on Minecraft or when learning a musical instrument.
- Can you demonstrate your flexibility and openness to new ideas and ways of working? That might come from part-time jobs you've done or a change in personal circumstances such as moving schools. How will this help you think in an innovative way on a graphic design course?

# Music



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities, colleges, and conservatoires why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Professor Kirsten Gibson, Music Admissions Tutor and Programme Leader at Newcastle University, is looking for detailed, engaging examples of your musical experiences, interests, and your academic and musical aspirations. These could lie in performance, composition, music history, analysis, ethnomusicology, or elsewhere.
- Show an awareness of what different music courses cover; practical or academic, your statement should engage directly with the actual courses you're applying for. If you're applying to a conservatoire, do refer to the relevant advice on our website.
- For academic courses, in particular, mention additional reading you've done around the subject – whether that's something like *The Creation of Beethoven's Nine Symphonies* or Rick Rubin's *The Creative Act: A Way of Being* – and include what you've learned from it. You should also be prepared to expand on this during an interview.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- What skills have you learned from different aspects of music you've studied so far? Maybe you've learned about preparation and practice for performance, creativity for composition or attention to detail for theory.
- Think about how revising has helped with your procedural memory (useful when learning an instrument), or how maths or science has developed your analytical skills and why they'll be useful on your chosen course.
- If you're interested in music production or technology, are there any projects you can reference from information technology (IT) or other studies? Or maybe you've already been editing music on software at home.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

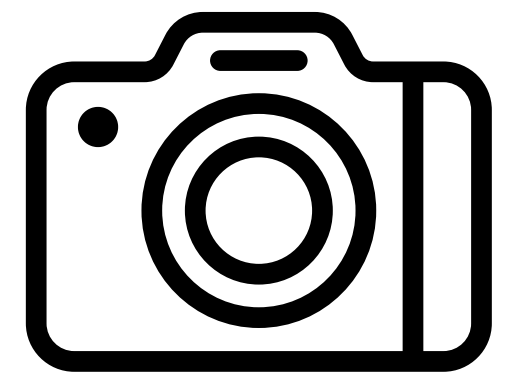
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Rather than reeling off a list of what you've done, try and write reflectively about the insights, skills, and knowledge you've gained from a select few experiences. For example, is there a type of musical theatre you're passionate about and shows or composers you can critique?
- Write about any clubs you're involved in, whether it's a drama or theatre group, enterprise club or a film club, and how they relate to your chosen course. For example, maybe your film club has led you to want to be the next generation's Hans Zimmer.
- The University of Bristol is also keen to see examples inside or outside of your studies where you've demonstrated your abilities to work well as part of a team. This could be through a sports team, Duke of Edinburgh award or part-time jobs working in a bar or restaurant, for example.
- Subject tasters
- Subject Spotlights give you the chance to try a university course before you apply. Delivered by the lecturers themselves you will gain insight into what it's like to study the course and give your personal statement a boost.

# Photography



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Admissions tutors want to understand what really fires your interest in photography, including wider cultural influences. Think about who inspires you – artists or writers as well as photographers like Sarah Van Rij or Steve McCurry – and how this has influenced your photographic choices and approach.
- Dr Paul Cabuts, professional photographer and previous admissions tutor at University of South Wales, says photography is about communication, and that he looked for students who had something to say about the subjects in their photographs, and could also use photography to express ideas.
- Talk about the ways in which you engage with the visual arts outside your studies – such as a gallery visit, or a particular exhibition that inspired you and why. Keep information you include about your interests relevant to the application.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- What projects or coursework have you done that's relevant? Talk about what you learned from a specific school photography project or, for example, Photoshop skills you've picked up studying graphic design or how you've learned about composition in art, and how these relate to your course.
- Think what other skills you've picked up from your studies. For example, many photographers will need to be good with people. Give examples of when you've worked well as part of a team or demonstrated good interpersonal skills.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

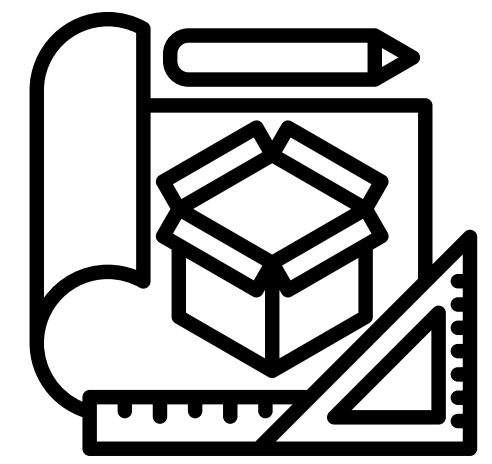
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- It's important to demonstrate an awareness that being successful in photography isn't just about taking a good picture. Admissions tutors are looking for a range of skills, including those gained outside of the photography world, for example through volunteering or undertaking work experience. Perhaps you can mention what you've learned from watching the news or reading about current affairs, or a time when you've taken photographs for a family event or a charity website.
- What life experiences have you had that might lend themselves to this subject? You may have moved area and had to start college with no friends – communication skills and being able to talk to people you don't know can be useful in photography, as can sales skills which you might have picked up from working in a shop or call centre.
- Have you created an online portfolio of your work or taken part in an exhibition? Not only does this show off your photography but it also shows initiative and motivation.

# Product Design



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Think of what first sparked your interest in product design. Perhaps an upgraded version of a toy or tablet you own was released and you saw first-hand how effective product design can improve user experience. Or maybe you've always enjoyed tinkering with things, and you've created and improved a storage system or electronic item at home.
- Mention articles you've read or products you've experienced and elaborate on what's inspired you. Perhaps you can critique the user interface (UI) on an Apple iPhone compared to an Android? Or maybe you've read about how electric vehicle (EV) design has evolved and it's made you want to get involved.
- If you have a particular goal in mind, mention what you plan to do with your degree, whether you want to work on sustainable design, energy-saving devices, or products for space exploration!

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Explain how studying subjects like engineering, maths, design technology, or sciences has helped with your analytical and critical thinking skills, planning, and innovation.
- If you've done an EPQ that relates to product design, explain how and what you learned. You may have studied art or design technology, for example, and learned something new about plastics or electronics that has inspired your interest in product design.
- Give examples of your design, drawing, and sketching skills too – whether through a hobby you do at home, your studies, or an extracurricular or supercurricular club you're part of.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

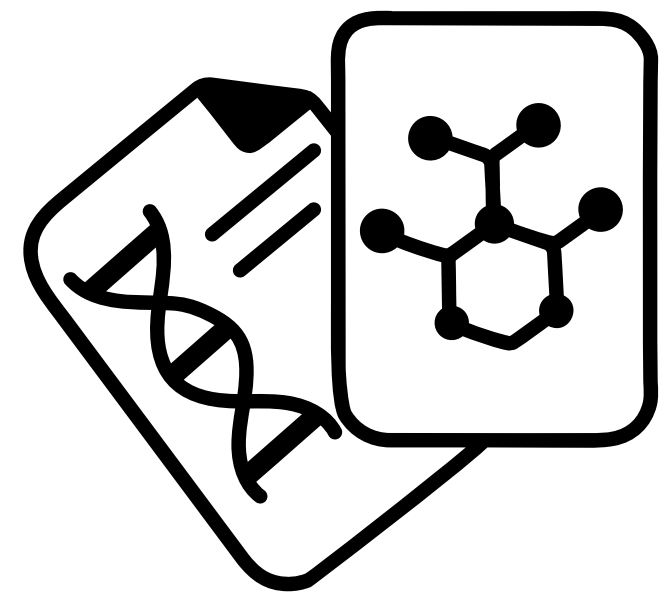
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Write about any product design you've already done – from designing a hamster run to a skate ramp! If you've workshadowed an engineer, designer or manufacturer, write about what you got from that experience.
- Mention any exhibitions or shows you've been to. For example, you may have learned more about user experience (UX) at Product Design Week, or prototypes at the Design Museum.
- If you've had a part-time or weekend job, reflect on the skills you've picked up that will help you during this degree, such as client and customer service skills, quality control, problem-solving, and negotiation.
- Similarly, reflect on any extracurricular achievements that demonstrate good teamwork, time management, and motivation – that could be through a sport or drama club, volunteering, or achieving a high grade in a musical instrument.

# Biology



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- What topics do you find particularly intriguing? Whether it's human health or disease, the machinery of the cell or the natural environment, reflect on one or two of these interests in your statement.
- Have you been on an interesting field trip, whether to a zoo, rock pool or museum and what did you take away from it that you want to learn more about?
- Try and get your enthusiasm across. Think about documentaries or YouTube channels you watch that have inspired your passion for biology.
- Think of specific things you like and find interesting about the course you're applying to, whether it's field trips, or modules on human biology or infection, immunity and public health.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Explain how preparing for biology exams has given you the relevant time management and critical thinking skills you'll need on your university course.
- Think about lab work you did at school and what you learned, such as investigating water potential or understanding the effect of environmental variables.
- If you went on a field trip what did you learn from it, including things like collecting samples and conducting observations. How will this help you on your university course?
- Biology students need to have attention to detail, patience, and perseverance – demonstrate how your studies have taught you these skills.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

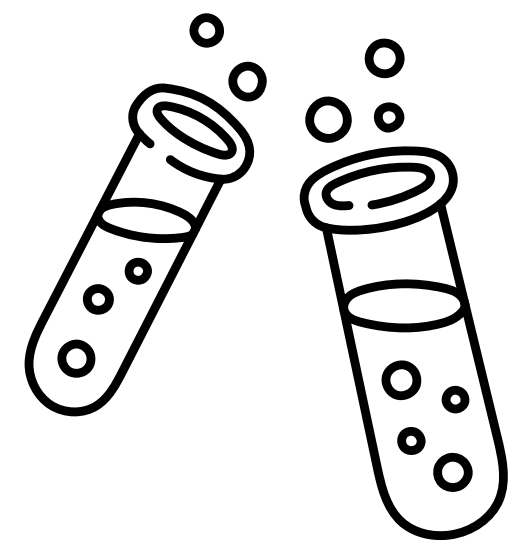
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Think about anything interesting or unusual you've done outside the curriculum, such as volunteering in a lab or working at a garden centre or botanical gardens where you learned about plant biology.
- Mention part-time jobs you've had where you picked up skills such as good communication, organisation, teamwork, and even data analysis.
- If you can, reflect on your general reading, debating, contributing to community life, or any cultural or sporting interests, as many universities are keen for you to continue this at uni. However, don't worry if your home or personal circumstances mean it has been difficult to extend your knowledge or experiences outside of school or college. Universities will usually be sympathetic to this.
- Relate your statement to your career aspirations, whether you want to work in research, healthcare or environmental conservation. Have you done any volunteering or extra research at home that relates to these topics?

# Chemistry



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Write about things that have genuinely impacted on your knowledge, understanding or enthusiasm, or on you as a person. Andrew Pike at Newcastle University says: 'Avoid generalisations. You need to make this personal. It is about you, so you don't need to tell me how a detailed theory works or make a political or environmental point unless you actually did something about it'.
- Dr Simon Gerrard, Principal Teaching Fellow (Organic & Medicinal Chemistry) and UG Admissions Tutor for the Department of Chemistry at Imperial College London, wants evidence of your motivation: 'It doesn't matter if you don't know what you want to do after university, what I really like to see is enthusiasm and a passion for the subject'. Give an example or two of how you have applied your learning to real life – through work experience, a lecture you attended, a documentary you saw, a podcast you heard, or something specific you've discovered through your wider reading.
- Think too about any experiences you've had that made you want to explore chemistry further – perhaps you've enjoyed lab work, or you've experimented with inks and dyes at home. Or maybe you want to create more sustainable packaging because you're passionate about protecting the environment.
- If you know what you want to focus on, for example, investigating environmental issues, then mention that too – you can relate it to your career aspirations, and make sure it's relevant to the course you're applying for.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- Think about skills you've learned from the chemistry lab at school or college, such as working with acids, analytical techniques, sample and data collection, all of which will help you during your degree.
- Write about the skills you've picked up from studying other subjects that may be relevant to chemistry, such as attention to detail, independent research, presentation and communication skills.
- How is your personality suited to studying chemistry? Maybe you've always been curious or wanted to make a difference in the world. Give examples that illustrate this, whether it's supercurricular activities or charity fundraising.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

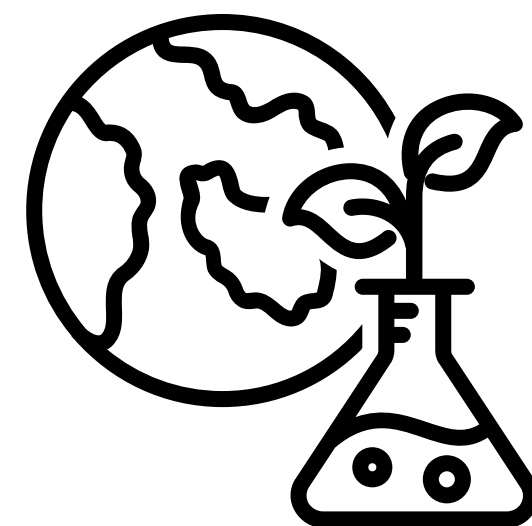
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Think about your hobbies and interests. You may have learned teamwork from playing sports, problem-solving skills from playing computer or board games, etc.
- Part-time jobs also teach us lots of transferable skills such as good verbal communication and time management. If you've worked in a restaurant, factory or construction site, you may even have learned how to dispose of chemicals safely.
- Mention any work experience you've had or volunteering you've done that suits you to the course you're applying for, whether you've worked in a chemist, or for an environmental charity and you now want to learn how to analyse soil.
- Maybe you've had a personal or family experience with a disease such as cancer and it has made you want to work in clinical research or medicinal chemistry.

# Environmental & Earth Sciences



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- What interested you about environmental and earth sciences in the first place, and what does that also reveal about you as a person and what makes you tick? Mention people you follow on social media, like Greta Thunberg or Tori Tsui, or trips you've been on that sparked your interest.
- Environmental and earth sciences divide into pathways which means you can specialise in topics that interest you while still gaining a broad overview. So, be clear about where your environmental interests lie if you have an idea already, whether that's the climate, geology, volcanoes or the ocean, for example.
- Talk about your future career aspirations if you're clear about these goals, and where you hope your degree could take you. Explain why you want to work in conservation, energy solutions, engineering or horticulture, and how that relates to the course you're applying for.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Admissions tutors will be interested to hear more about your personal scientific interests, based on your studies. Reflect on what you've enjoyed about physics, chemistry or biology, and things you've done in addition to schoolwork, such as visiting geological sites.
- Think of the relevant skills you've picked up from studying things like maths, sciences or geography, such as field work, data analysis, lab work and project management. How will these help you study for this degree?
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- What field work or work experience have you done that's inspired you to explore this subject further? Maybe you've visited National Trust properties or local landmarks with your family and it's ignited a desire to work in conservation, or maybe you've been involved in a community dig project.
- What part-time work do you do that involves communication and teamwork? Working in a cafe, shop or your local library all involve using these skills.
- What hobbies do you have that have helped with your writing and presentation skills? Perhaps you're in the school debating club or you've spoken at a school or local event, or maybe you enjoy creative writing at school or in your spare time.
- Do you also volunteer for or donate to any charities which show your passion and dedication towards environmental and earth sciences?

# Forensic Science



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Explain your motivation and why you're enthusiastic about forensic science, giving specific examples of what interests you and any specific knowledge you already have. If you've watched true crime programmes, what did you learn about the role of forensic scientists? Think about what skills they need – resilience, attention to detail, lab techniques – and why you might have what it takes.
- Include one or two examples of things you've read that have influenced your interest in this subject. You may follow the news and have learned about roadside drug tests for drivers, or you may have done your own research on The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences and read more about the use of drones in forensic investigations.
- If you know what you want to do with your degree, write about your desire to become a crime scene investigator, expert witness, or ballistics expert. If you don't know yet, don't worry – you can still get across why forensic science fascinates you.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- You'll need some scientific knowledge for this subject, so give examples of skills you've learned during your chemistry, biology, or physics studies, such as lab work, analytical skills, and time management.
- If you've done a related EPQ, explain what you learned from it, how it applies to this degree, and also any skills you picked up like critical thinking, project management, and communication.
- Computer skills and data management will also be useful during your degree – you may have already learnt some skills in IT, geography, or maths. You'll also need to be resilient, so think of an example of when you've failed at something, or something went wrong, and how you coped.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

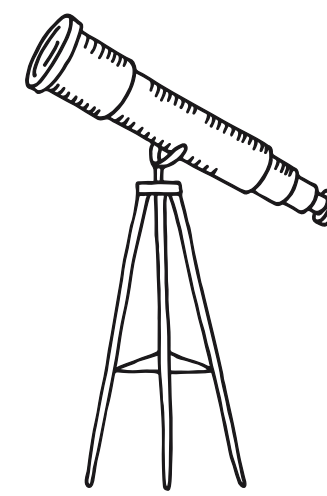
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- It's difficult to get work experience directly in forensic science, but mention if you've done any jobs or volunteering in a medical or lab environment at a hospital, chemicals firm, or similar. You might have also gained some relevant experience volunteering or work-shadowing with your local police force.
- Write about transferable skills you've picked up in part-time jobs or extracurricular activities too. If you're part of a drama, literature, or debating club you'll have gained good presentation skills. If you work part-time in an office, call centre, or data centre, you'll have IT and data handling skills, as well as project and time management skills.
- Think about your personal attributes too. We've mentioned resilience – what else do you think a forensic scientist needs? Perhaps you have good attention to detail and can show this through your crafting, music or coding, hobbies, or perhaps you love anatomy and have already dissected animals or human parts in biology, proving you're not squeamish either.
- Subject tasters
- Subject Spotlights give you the chance to try a university course before you apply. Delivered by the lecturers themselves you will gain insight into what it's like to study the course and give your personal statement a boost.

# Physics and Astronomy



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- As an admissions tutor from Lancaster University puts it: 'If the Big Bang theory sparked your interest in physics, explain why'. Likewise, guidance on the University of St Andrews website says: 'We do expect you to know clearly why you wish to follow a degree programme in physics (and astronomy)... use your personal statement to tell us'. Remember to explain why any existing passions make you a good fit for the course you're applying for.
- Give an example of an interest in physics or astronomy that you've explored for yourself outside your school or college syllabus, and especially any wider reading you've done. Admissions tutors often read about the same books over and over again, so try and either give your own personal take on a science book or article in a popular magazine like The New Scientist or choose something slightly more obscure.
- Roddy Vann, Professor in the School of Physics at University of York, says he's unimpressed by applicants who just say things like 'I have read A Brief History of Time'. He would prefer you to express your opinion on a contemporary issue, like your views on whether we should build more nuclear power stations. It's not so much what you read, it's what you think that matters.
- If you know where you want your physics and astronomy degree to take you, talk about your future career and aspirations too.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- What projects or coursework have you done that's relevant? Durham University website says it looks for 'a genuine interest in science and technology'. If you designed a water bottle rocket-launcher, and subsequently learned it was Newton's second and third laws that made it work, then evidence that in a short, reflective paragraph.
- The University of Bristol is looking for evidence you appreciate the importance of maths in a physics degree, as well as explaining why you want to pursue study in physics or astronomy. Can you give examples of something relevant you studied, or a particular area of maths you enjoy and how it will help you – such as calculus, linear algebra or differential equations?
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

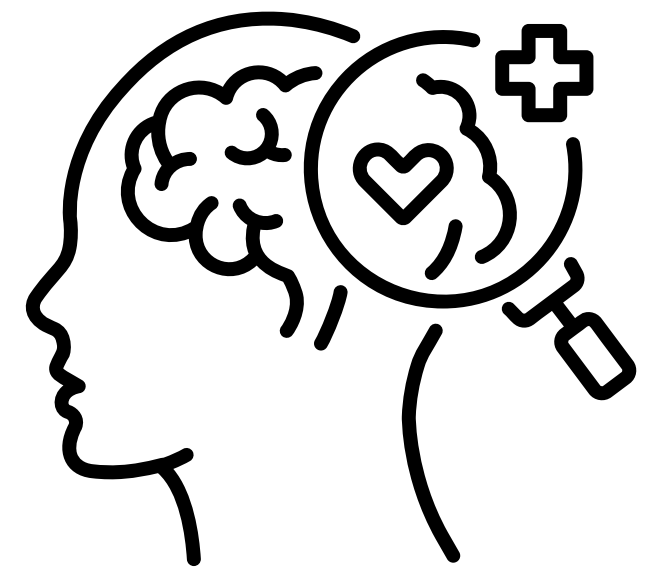
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- Think about what relevant skills you've picked up from outside your studies, such as analytical skills, critical thinking, and attention to detail through things like chess, puzzles or programming. Think about practical skills too, like visiting observatories, or experience in labs.
- What other skills have you picked up from either your schoolwork or jobs you've had, such as problem-solving when your printer broke the night before an assignment was due, or when a customer complained and your manager wasn't there.
- What other skills or attributes do you have that you can bring to this degree? Perhaps you can illustrate your curiosity through hobbies you have such as going to contemporary art exhibitions or reading about how the Ancient Egyptians used astronomy. Or maybe you can demonstrate your willingness to work hard and complete something, through your commitment to a sport or activity throughout your school years.

# Psychology



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Write about what's inspired you to want to study for a psychology degree. You may have done A level (or equivalent) psychology and want to study specific elements further. Or you may be fascinated by influencers on social media and want to explore the use of reciprocity and other forms of psychological persuasion further.
- Mention books you've read, such as Man's Search for Meaning, Thinking, Fast and Slow, or The Body Keeps The Score, or people you follow, and what you've learned from them.
- The University of Bristol wants you to 'demonstrate your enthusiasm for psychological research as a focus for academic study'. Think of a time when you've studied human behaviour – for example, if that's through a particular reality TV show you enjoy, expand on how you'd monitor and analyse the contestants if you were researching it as part of your degree.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- What projects or coursework have you done that are relevant? You may have already studied human behaviours or thinking patterns in psychology, sociology or geography. Think about the skills you acquired such as making hypotheses, and collecting and analysing data.
- What other skills have you picked up from studying sciences, maths, or economics, such as statistical analysis, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills?
- You're going to train in psychology – try and explain what attributes of your own you've become aware of through your formal education, such as good attention to detail, empathy and people skills, or being a thorough researcher. Give examples to illustrate this.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Give examples of extracurricular activities you're involved in that indicate the contribution you're likely to make to university life. Perhaps you're part of a running club, or love playing squash or tennis, or maybe you were involved with your school radio station and you're keen to continue that hobby at uni.
- Any relevant work experience you have under your belt is also worth talking about. But if you haven't gained experience in the field directly, think creatively – there might be ways to link observations from your part-time job, voluntary work, or extracurricular activities to psychology.
- Include examples where you can demonstrate good interpersonal and communication skills through part-time jobs you've had in a cafe or shop, or volunteering you've done. You can also mention personal experiences you've been through and what applicable skills that's given you – but only if it's relevant to your future studies.

# Sport & Exercise Science



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Durham University's website has a really handy checklist for students applying for its sport, exercise, and physical activity degree, with some helpful questions. Tell admissions tutors why you want to study this subject and what specifically interests or excites you about the subject or the course – whether you're interested in the body's cardiovascular response to exercise or the use of exercise during cancer treatment.
- What have you read, seen, or heard about recently that intrigues you about the subject? You may have followed Team GB at the Olympics and studied how their 'performance services' team works, or you've been reading about how sport and exercise science can be used in the workplace.
- What current issues do you want to learn more about? Maybe you're fascinated by how Novak Djokovic embraced sports nutrition to keep him at the top of his tennis game for so long, or you want to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) is being used to understand the biomechanics of the hand. Whatever it is, keep it relevant to the course you're applying for.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- The British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences says the qualities graduates find most helpful in their subsequent careers are time management, communication, organisation, negotiation, and presentation skills – so, if you can demonstrate any of those, all the better. You could mention revising for exams, handing in coursework on time, or write about a specific presentation you gave in biology or psychology and what you learned from doing it.
- If there's also a relevant project you've done at school, for example around anatomy, that taught you some science skills alongside how to work well as a team and manage your time, write a bit about that too.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- What are your own achievements and ambitions? If you know you want to work with a premier league football team, then describe how studying sport and exercise science will get you there, and make sure the course you're applying to is appropriate.
- Think about part-time jobs or hobbies you have and what you've learned from them, such as patience and time management in a busy cafe or restaurant, teaching skills from tutoring or teamwork, resilience, and perseverance from a sport you love playing.
- Write about what experience of sport you have, what part sport plays in your life, and why it's important to you. But don't forget the science bit too, depending on what course you're applying for. You could write about scientific issues that relate to your own performance, such as how you analysed your own running style to improve your performance, and avoid a repetitive hamstring strain you've been dealing with.

# Philosophy



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

Examples:

- Some philosophy degree applicants will already be studying the subject, but many won't have studied it before. If you're in that position, then Professor Christopher Janaway at University of Southampton has some simple but clear advice to offer: 'We want you to show us that you have a genuine interest in the subject, so tell us about the reading you've done, lectures you've been to, or any other ways you have engaged with philosophy'.
- London School of Economics admissions tutors are also interested in your views and opinions on 'questions such as morality, free will, or consciousness', as well as experiences you've had that led to your desire to study philosophy. For example, maybe something you've seen on a history documentary, or a book or monument you came across on holiday sparked an interest in Greek or Roman philosophy.
- Or have you been inspired by a particular philosopher you follow, or whose work you admire? Reference books or articles you've read, programmes you've watched, or podcasts you listen to, such as The Daily Stoic, and be clear what's inspired you to want to take this subject to degree level.
- Where do you see your degree taking you? If you've already thought about becoming a journalist, lawyer, or teacher, how will studying philosophy help you? But don't worry if you don't know yet what your future career might be; admissions tutors want to hear mainly about why you want to study the subject at degree level.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Write about what you've studied already that relates to a philosophy course, whether it's questioning the concept of good and evil in religious studies, philosophic literature in English, or critiquing the works of a philosopher you came across during history projects.
- What skills have you picked up from these studies that will help you during your degree, such as analytical skills, critical thinking, or questions around morality or existence?
- Mention if you're part of a debating club, book club, or other hobbies in or out of school and relate it to the course you're applying for. For example, reason, argument, and analysis will likely form part of your degree studies, so demonstrate how you've picked these up.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

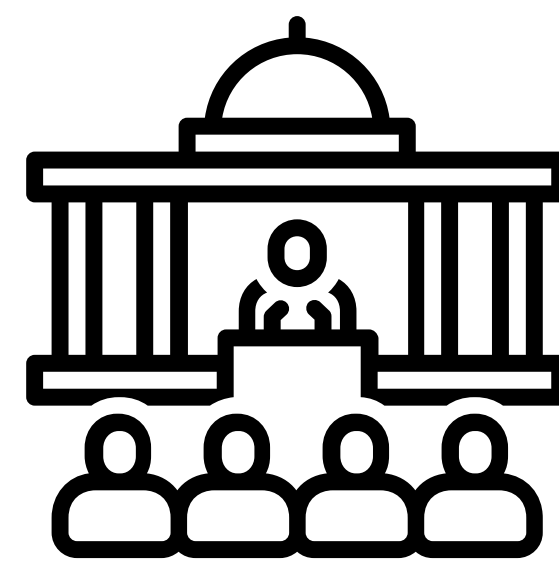
## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- Reference jobs or hobbies you have and how they relate to skills you'll use on the course you're applying to. For example, as a bartender or barista, you'll use good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Whether you enjoy visiting castles, historic homes or art museums, what do your pastimes say about you, your historical understanding, and your cultural awareness?
- Think how you can demonstrate your critical thinking skills and intellectual curiosity, whether through a hobby like art, reading, listening to podcasts, or going to talks. Elaborate on how you'll use these skills at uni.
- What personal experiences have led you to become a flexible thinker, or to question existence or morality? You don't need to go too deep, but reflecting on your own life experiences may help you hone your philosophy skills.
- Subject tasters
- Subject Spotlights give you the chance to try a university course before you apply. Delivered by the lecturers themselves you will gain insight into what it's like to study the course and give your personal statement a boost.

# Politics



## Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### Examples:

- Get your interest in a politics degree across. Whether you're fascinated by the Nordic model of social welfare, or how the UK would work under proportional representation, describe what debates you engage with, books you read, ideas you discuss, and what excites you specifically about them and the degree you're applying for.
- Could you talk enthusiastically about a particular module you're excited about on the course you're applying to, and why? For example, if you're keen to learn more about global history, or data analysis in politics, elaborate on that. Take care not to talk in detail about a module that's only available at one of your options, and rather pick something broader that most universities will offer in your first year.
- Write about your future ambitions, whether it's the next step after you graduate, such as an internship in an MP's office, or your longer-term goals working at a think tank or in the civil service.

## Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### Examples:

- If you've already studied politics, or you've studied subjects like humanities, you'll have picked up knowledge about how the world works, as well as analytical skills and the ability to, for example, question a source – all of which will be useful on a politics degree.
- Can you mention any specific projects or coursework you've done that's relevant? Perhaps you've done a project on economic sociology, or about the history of the Middle East, both of which will have given you skills and insights you can use.
- Think about clubs you've been part of too, whether that's the school magazine, radio station or a basketball club. What relevant skills have you picked up, such as good written and communication skills, listening skills, and leadership?
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

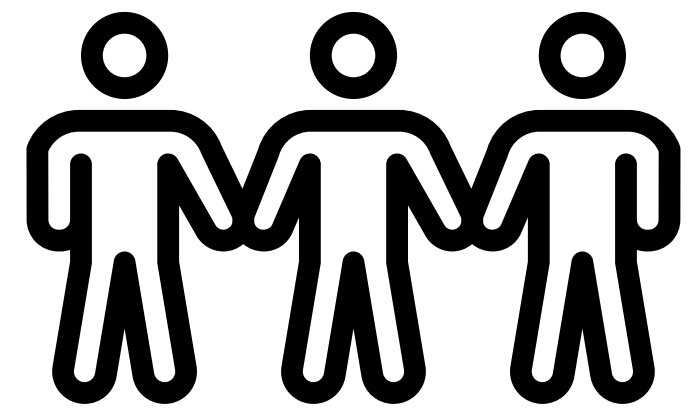
## Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### Examples:

- On its website, the University of Bristol explains its politics admissions tutors are looking for you to show evidence of your engagement with the subject beyond the A level (or equivalent) syllabus, so mention podcasts you listen to, such as The News Agents or The Rest Is Politics, or specific articles you've read in The Spectator or The New Statesman, and what you gleaned from them.
- Tutors would also be very interested in your reflections on any relevant volunteering or campaigning you might have done. Do mention if you've shadowed your local MP or councillor or been out canvassing, and reflect on what you learned. But don't worry if you haven't – it's you as an individual and your intellectual engagement with ideas they most want to get a feel for.
- Politics students also need to demonstrate empathy, logic, and reasoning. Write about times you've worked well with others, or even volunteered somewhere like The Samaritans, and if you have hobbies such as Minecraft, chess, or programming, these can all demonstrate the use of logic.
- Subject tasters
- Subject Spotlights give you the chance to try a university course before you apply. Delivered by the lecturers themselves you will gain insight into what it's like to study the course and give your personal statement a boost.

# Sociology



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- London School of Economics want to see an original statement that gives a sense of your enthusiasm and motivation for studying sociology, and to see something of your interest in 'relationships between peoples and society'. Maybe you can reference something you've seen in the news recently, such as how people have reacted to a recent war or refugee crisis, or a community that's banded together over a particular issue.
- Tutors like the majority of your statement to be based around your subject interest and for you to reflect on why you wish to study sociology, any aspects that are of special interest to you, and how it relates to your current academic programme and your additional reading or other experiences. Perhaps you've witnessed or taken part in a social movement – explain what you learned from that and how it has informed your understanding of an aspect of sociology.
- Can you write reflectively about a piece of research you've read by a think tank you follow, such as DEMOS or the Centre for Social Justice, and how that has inspired you to take your sociology studies further?

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Make it clear you're academically interested in sociology, add any relevant supercurricular experiences, and show you've done your homework. If you've done sociology or psychology at A level (or equivalent) can you mention a project you took part in, such as culture and identity, racism or educational policies, and what you took from it?
- Amongst other attributes, Bournemouth University likes to see that you can work independently as well as in groups, so mention times when you've worked well with classmates on a project.
- Think of subjects you've done, or hobbies you have, that show you've got skills in things like data interpretation, problem-solving, writing, and presentations.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- University of Birmingham tutors would like to get a glimpse of the relevant knowledge, skills, and experiences you've gained, an appreciation of what a degree in sociology involves, and the interests and enthusiasm you would bring to it.
- Think of ways you can show your interest in people and human behaviour outside of school, whether that's through a community group you're part of, content you watch and analyse, or family relationships you've dissected. Always reflect on what you've learned.
- Write about any work experience or part-time jobs you've had, and what you got from them. If you worked in a call centre, or bar, you'll have gained active listening skills and potentially interviewing techniques. You may have shadowed at a think tank, newspaper, radio station, or academic organisation – if so, expand on what you got out of it and why it's relevant to the sociology course you want to do.
- Subject tasters
- Subject Spotlights give you the chance to try a university course before you apply. Delivered by the lecturers themselves you will gain insight into what it's like to study the course and give your personal statement a boost.

# Education



## **Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

### **Examples:**

- Explain why you want to study education – include insights like why you want to explore what education means, how it's used around the world, and the different forms education can take.
- Reflect on topical issues such as how education is portrayed in the media, and reference recent news stories you've seen or articles you've read that expand on this – whether it's to do with education and social change, teacher retention, or teaching children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- If you know where your interests lie beyond your degree, then mention those too – for example a career in curriculum development, education management, further research, or higher education teaching.

## **Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

### **Examples:**

- Write about subjects you've studied and reflect on how they were taught. For example, if you studied history, how is the way you were taught to analyse sources and question whose viewpoint a text is being told from potentially useful in wider society?
- Describe what skills you've picked up from other studies, such as research methods in humanities or sciences, written and communication skills in English, or analytical skills in law or economics.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try Subject Spotlights or Virtual Work Experiences from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

## **Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

### **Examples:**

- If you haven't already, try and get some experience observing in a classroom or other educational setting, and reflect on what you see. Can you write about a particular teaching method, such as phonics, and how you feel it did or didn't help pupils engage with the topic?
- Mention any other relevant work experience you have, whether that's spending a few weeks teaching yourself or tutoring young people locally, and what you've learned about how children learn, or educational techniques you feel are effective.
- Mention any personal accomplishments or extracurricular activities that show your broader interests and skillset, whether that's a drama or book club, learning a musical instrument or picking up sports skills.
- Expand on any relevant skills or qualities you've demonstrated in a part-time job, such as good communication skills, empathy, and organisation.
- Subject tasters
- Subject Spotlights give you the chance to try a university course before you apply. Delivered by the lecturers themselves you will gain insight into what it's like to study the course and give your personal statement a boost.

