

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

My drive to read law is exemplified by my constant need to challenge existing norms. My interest in the complex nature of the judicial system continued to grow when my paternal grandfather received the highest honour for law in Sri Lanka, President's Counsel. Through the invigorating dialogue we shared, he taught me the importance of the rule of law within any society or political system. This inspired my curiosity on the formation and application of law. Following in my grandfather's footsteps and my own curiosity of ethical implications influenced my academic choices and extra-curricular commitments. A particular case I was drawn to: De Silva v MoL involved the unfair acquisition of land by the government. My grandfather argued (successfully) that the discretion of the Minister was not used reasonably, and was therefore unconstitutional, resulting in the containment of government officials within the limits of the law. This illustrated to me the importance of justice which I emulated in my work in a simulation of the ICJ. My aim is to pursue higher learning in the hope that it will provide me with the tools to explore the applicability of justice on a local and global scale.

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

I was fortunate enough to harness and develop this trait through obtaining an annual scholarship to study the IB Diploma Programme. Being awarded the Outstanding Student Award in my first year only spurred me on further. The practice of reading law encompasses the ability to write persuasively and argumentatively. I really enjoyed honing these skills when writing my IB Extended Essay. I learnt the value of writing concisely and accurately when exploring complex concepts such as the relationship between musical communication and authoritarian rule (USSR 1932-45; Syria 2011-present). Furthermore, I enjoyed practicing my argumentative skills in my Theory of Knowledge classes. In my summative assessment, I presented the argument: to what extent is it ethical to change biological outcomes? I explored the ethical implications of 'designer babies' in society and the integral roles of normative ethics and faith in this argument. Through these endeavours, I have learnt to challenge existing beliefs through critical thinking and to explore different perspectives by analyzing knowledge claims from varied points of view.

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

My roles as Chief Justice and an award-winning Justice in a model ICJ led me to see the complex differences between states being governed as opposed to citizens being governed in a state. Therefore, I was particularly drawn to the issue of the jurisdiction of the ICJ. The existing mechanism requires that nations give their consent for them to be under ICJ jurisdiction;

however, for there to be justice, I believe all states should be obligated to accept the courts jurisdiction. The inability for universal jurisdiction to happen in International Law makes me question the effectiveness of the ICJ and whether justice is ever attainable in the international spectrum. Music and Tennis have been passions in my life. I was 9 years old when I first played the trombone and I immediately fell in love with the sound. My talent and expertise grew as I developed as a musician, leading to my performance of Gustav Mahler's lengthy trombone solo (Symphony No.3), the height of accomplishment for a trombonist. This dedication led me to become the principal trombonist of the Sri Lankan Junior Symphony Orchestra. My appetite for tennis and my ability to fight back when I am losing has taught me the value of an active work ethic. My sustained efforts in this sport eventually led to my placement in the top 16 for Under 18 tennis players in the country. These passions have developed into a way of life for me. I hope to apply the same approach to my academic work, in order to change a passion for law into a lifetime purpose.

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I strive to be a changemaker in life - working to bring about real improvement to lives and therein lies my motivation to study and practice law - affecting change through the legal system to help those who cannot help themselves. I believe that a law degree will allow me to continue to realise changes of a similar nature through legal practice, where one takes complex problems, breaks them down and then does everything in their power to solve them. The diverse and challenging nature of legal work, which I experienced first hand on placement at Bond Dickinson's employment law team, draws me to the profession. Lawyers are held in high regard by society, with all possessing a drive and ambition not seen in any other profession. I am keen to join their ranks and develop these traits myself.

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Currently, while studying Philosophy, I find that the questions posed are not grounded enough in reality for me - questions like "what is knowledge" may sound profound and interesting but in practice providing an answer probably won't change much in society. Conversely, the question of whether companies like Littlewoods are owed compound interest on VAT overpayments does have a significant effect on people's lives - having implications for the entire economy. Though I do understand that reading law is much different to actually practising it, and through mooting, I have gained an insight into the sorts of work a law student does- having to learn elements of contract law in preparation for my latest moot. The experience of learning it independently in such a short space of time was challenging but ultimately rewarding, and the content itself was interesting - to such an extent that I continue to read on the subject even after the moot. This and my reading of "Letters to a Law Student" by Nicholas McBride - which also supplies insight into the daily life of a law student- has affirmed my belief that an L.L.B. is a degree I will both enjoy and excel in.

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

As soon as I arrived at university I began this by spearheading a campaign to change assessment regulations at King's, taking over as campaign manager and gathering over 100 signatures for a petition in one night to have it enshrined as a student union campaign. Another example of this is mediation - which, through KCL's Pro Bono Society, I will be undertaking a training course to become qualified in the field as a Civil and Commercial Mediator. Doing so will allow me to take pro-bono cases on behalf of the society and gaining more practical insight and experience in the field. This prepares me for legal studies by introducing me to points of law in

an applied context. It also enables me to make a difference in people's lives. To this end, alternative dispute resolution is where I intend to specialise after qualifying because of my experiences so far and its potential to be a force for good. In my spare time, I write as a hobby and have developed a flair for it, with some of my pieces winning awards. I am able to paint vivid pictures and nurture emotions throughout a text to elicit the response I desire. This is useful in an academic context as regularly writing extended prose keeps general writing skills sharp and the skills developed in fiction writing such as deploying tone and paying close attention to structure are largely transferable to academic writing. As well as in study, it will also be incredibly useful when it comes to practice - as again the skills are largely transferable, particularly in disputes where written correspondence is a significant part of the day to day work for a solicitor.

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As India's commercial fortunes rise, the field of Corporate Social Responsibility presents an opportunity for the betterment of the individuals and the nation as a whole. It is one of the key components in today's business environment and has the potential of having a prominent impact on the Indian social fabric. Having an administrative and protective nature, this field combines my interests of managing people and resources and making a positive impact on society. It also opens a window for working in a challenging and creative line. Therefore, I wish to apply for a law and business degree which will provide a base for a career in Corporate Social Responsibility. The British educational, legal and financial organisations have been the cornerstones of all premium institutions globally and are highly valued and recognised. Not only are they deep-rooted in culture and tradition, but they have also been a beacon of prosperity and upliftment for the rest of the world. In addition, the Indian legal system has been inherited from the British colonisation and various legislations introduced by them are still in force. Thus, an education from a university in the UK will ensure a sound foundation that will not only help build my future but also help me build a better future for my country; a peaceful and equal society that is void of any prejudice or intolerance.

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I have been fortunate enough to have received an education in one of the top schools in the country and have grown up with the belief that education is the only way to understand and fight the problems plaguing our society. The ethos of my school is reflected in its motto of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", which means that 'the world is a family'. This guiding principle of international brotherhood has instilled in me a sense of justice and tolerance with a global and inclusive approach towards life. My accomplishments have been special in their own right - a 'Prefect', a house captain, an awardee of 'Excellence in English and International Understanding' and a member of the Model United Nations, these are a few that I mention here. I have participated in debates and discussions over the 'Drachma Dilemma' and gender equality from an economic, psychological and business point of view at various forums. All the above-mentioned feats and accomplishments might seem modest when viewed in the larger scheme of things, but they have given me a strong appreciation for policy and polity. They have also provided me with the determination to lead and achieve things and the ability to solve problems, to take charge, and most of all to be imaginative and innovative.

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I come from a big family where I have been encouraged to express myself creatively and maturely. My father is my greatest inspiration. He has taught me to be bold and fearless, yet be compassionate and caring. I have been a member of two cultural exchange programmes – one to Spain and France and the other to Japan. I have also been a part of various non-government organisations to help educate the handicapped, write examinations for the blind and organise blood donation camps. These experiences have given me a strong appreciation for policy and polity. They have also provided me with the determination to lead and achieve things and the ability to solve problems, to take charge, and most of all to be imaginative and innovative. It is with this experience that I now choose the direction that my life should take. As a diligent and determined individual, I feel I will be capable and ready to work as a force for greater good in building a just, fair and equitable society for the succeeding generations to come.

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Considering law as a closely woven network preserving society's safety, protection and continuity is a construct I think is built upon effective communication and application of legislation. Witnessing a consultation between a solicitor and counsel is what kindled my interest in law and the legal system. The whole system captivated me and I instantly wanted to know more about the procedures. I have seen the impact that legal professionals have on the lives of others and the difference they can make to a person's life. It is this sense of ensuring justice is impartial, and the ability to change people's lives, that has inspired me to pursue a career as a barrister. I am especially interested in the law of litigation and tort and hope to follow this into my career. It is my interest in these areas that leads me towards a degree in Law. The theoretical aspect of the law interests me deeply. From Albert Venn Dicey's constitutional theory to the Hart-Devlin debate on law and morality, the theory and debate of the law is continuously evolving. I feel this is important because it ensures that law suitably serves its purpose in society. My aspiration is to become a barrister and, eventually, a judge or Queen's Counsel. This is driven by my desire to ensure justice is impartial through careful, consistent application of the law, ensuring it does not discriminate and serves everybody equally. Studying law will enable me to progress towards achieving this goal.

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Further to my GCSE law studies, I have engaged with a range of scholarly material to feed my curiosity of the English Legal System. The traditions upheld in the profession, combined with a modern approach, make the legal system an intriguing and unique concept. My Religious Studies course has instigated my interest in the relationship between the law and religion. The relationship between religious rules and law can be turbulent or harmonious, and it is the question of which should persevere and what people should do when their faith clashes with law that interests me. For example, Sharia Law often clashes with British law due to their opposing roots. During my reading, I have found the arguments for and against Sharia Law compelling as the ambiguity of whether the law of the land must stand above the law of the religion of a minority is frequently contested. I indulge my interest of law and ethics through my independent reading, and have found ethical theories such as utilitarianism are present in our country's law by ensuring that the majority are served by the law in line with the utility principle.

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During a six-week work experience placement at an established law firm, I was shown cases ranging from unfair dismissals to conveyances. This improved my analytical and problem-solving skills. In this placement, I explored forms of law such as family law, corporate law, conveyancing, personal injury, probate and employment law. Due to my performance, I was invited to volunteer at the same law firm on a more regular basis. I have also sat in the public gallery at Chester Crown Court and witnessed an array of criminal cases. I think these experiences have suitably acquainted me with the life of a legal professional. As Head Boy, I have developed strong teamwork skills by liaising with my peers to solve problems and introduce new ideas. My interpersonal skills have also been enriched through public speaking including presenting to an audience at open evenings and in assemblies. I have also further developed these skills through the debating team which has enhanced my oracy and research skills. I feel that these skills put me on the right path towards becoming a skilled barrister. I engage in this debate with other critical thinkers on points of law such as jury service, discussing the level of social representation in juries. I take particular pleasure in engaging with articles in The Guardian's Law section and the Law Society Gazette.

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As a working-class woman and an ethnic minority, I want to prosper despite the prejudices of society through the ultimate core of civilisation: law. Growing up, I was ignorant of my relative freedom and affluence until after I returned from my homeland in Pakistan this summer. More so than a holiday, this experience abroad served as my initial exposure to human rights in context and eventually inspired my pursuit of a law degree. Having visited single-sex schools of each gender, I noticed the quality of teaching was much more satisfactory at the boys' school. To know patriarchy still exists and seeing women suffer for such trivial reasons means that law and order is still fragmented. Although there are laws in Pakistan protecting women's educational rights, they are not consistently enforced. I was reminded that justice is not given nor served, and strong advocates are needed to help give voice and strength to those who are so often silenced and ignored. I want to be the person to better people's lives to the extent where it's recognised how law establishes humanity, as well as our rights.

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My journey into law began after I attended a summer school at UCL where I learned how to debate controversial issues such as 'should there be restrictions on freedom of speech?'. As a proposition speaker, I emphasised the importance of human rights law in society. I became aware of the relationship between society and law, understanding that each are interdependent. Studying history A-level has matured my ability to challenge judgements, think critically and structure logical arguments. Having learnt about historical cases such as the 1954 'Brown v Board of Education of Topeka' case and knowing they have shaped modern law, excites me to know I will be learning the law in a historical context while undertaking a law degree.

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I went on to feed my curiosity by shadowing a law undergraduate at LSE. Whilst learning different types of laws, immigration law stood out to me most. Crises such as the Calais migrant crisis made me question the role of the law in deciding the future of refugees and asylum seekers. I became emotionally invested in the subject, leading me to apply to the Oxford Freshfields Law Summer School where I researched the case 'Asmussen v Filtrona United Kingdom Ltd'. The defendant was diagnosed with mesothelioma, which evidence confirmed, had been caused by exposure to asbestos while at her workplace. The judge found in favour of the employer due to the issue of "foreseeability" as public knowledge about the risk of asbestos at the time was still developing. In cases such as this, I find that objective judgements are most important when coming to a verdict. The law was put above personal morals and it was understood that hindsight cannot attach liability where there cannot have been knowledge. I

disagree with the outcome of this case as the claimant failed due to none of her own negligence but merely due the period of time. However, as a future lawyer, I am enthused to study the analytical thinking process that is required to reach such conclusions. With this mindset, I visited the Royal Courts of Justice where such cases would play out. This experience enhanced my determination to ensure that one day I will stand there as an official member. In my spare time, I volunteered at a foodbank in my local community and carried out charity work at school raising over £300 for homeless people in my borough. As well as developing communication and teamwork skills, while working in retail, I recognised various instances where contract law was in place. Such as the simple act of selling an item. It fascinates me that law is the origin of our whole being, making it an even more captivating subject. Law plays a pivotal, though underlying, part in our lives. Through studying it, I awaken myself and others to its secrets in keeping peace and order.