**Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom. (350 words)**

Ray Dalio’s “Economic Machine” video sparked my passion for economics. I was fascinated by how everything links together; the “cogs and gears” behind the economy such as how the low-interest rate and trade balance surplus affect the strength of Japan's currency. Thus prompted me to learn about how governments decide which policies to implement and which objectives to prioritize when making decisions. Ray Dalio’s video had me imagining the power and pressure policymakers have. Whether it is for better or worse, their single decisions result in a ripple effect on a country’s economy.

I wanted to answer the plethora of questions constantly running through my mind. Hence, when studying the economy of Castro’s Cuba, I saw how the economic and political decisions made by a leader are highly interdependent. I observed Castro’s economic decisions. Understating why he altered them to complement his political views: establishing social equality within a country inspired me. My whole life, shanty towns would backdrop my house and school gates; raised to think that this massive disparity was a norm. I now understand the value of economics in bettering society in history, something I hope to do in the future.

As I realized the size of impact I can contribute as a policymaker, I decided to intern at a microfinance firm “Amartha”. Whilst making social impact reports, I saw their success in increasing the income of small female-owned businesses. With the data I had, I recommended a scheme to the management to increase transparency between lender and borrower where the lenders can choose where their investment goes. As well as allowing partnerships between different borrowers to grow their business more effectively. Thus serving economic benefits for Amartha but also creating socioeconomic impact to these women. I admired their attempt to balance profit-making with their values to empower female entrepreneurs in the informal sector.

From here, I knew I wanted to better society through economics. During my experience at the UCs I hope to be able to study all aspects of economics to create a bigger impact on the welfare of society.

Overall comment:

Raissaaaaa, kok makin jelek O.O

Story nya yg bener ah, kok kyk ga ada storyline nyaaa. Skeleton nya yg jelass

1. Nonton Ray Dalio → liat bahwa even the smallest monetary/fiscal policy decision bisa move the needle (be specific)
2. Knowing that, you look at the history to prove such hypothesis kan. Juan peron, Musolini etc → and reveal what new things you learned from ur research? Maybe klo pas nonton Ray Dalio cuma liat that policy decision matters, tapi through history you can also see the logic and thought process behind certain policy making. Ternyata perhaps it’s not pure economic decision. Ternyata itu political play juga maybe?
3. You realized how big of an impact you can contribute as a policymaker -- someone who needs to understand economic theories and also politics. → then u decide to intern at this amartha -- paling ngga u can learn about economical situations of these women or sth kan klo ga salah, and u try to identify trends, issues, etc and make recommendations on policy blah3. Talk about whats your key takeaways here.
4. Baru closing