|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Sample essays 2023**

**Cambridge University**

**Personal Statement Alessia Mortara**

**Personal Statement**

My academic life has represented a process of acquaintance with my talents, values, and flaws. I have strived to fulfill my potential and now wish to pursue a future in the field of Political Science. I have cultivated an interest in languages (bilingual in English/Italian, proficient in French and able in Sanskrit), in the Humanities, in the Arts and in Mathematics and Physics (Young Scientist Award), developing a varied spectrum of skills and abilities.

Living in Italy, the UK and the United States has given me multi-cultural exposure and a broad range of influences from which to expand my knowledge. However, I have also been fortunate enough to travel, exploring the essential similarities and points of divergence of different customs which form humans with a common nature, but different nurture, due to the influence of different environments. I have always been curious about people; their ideals, hopes and dreams, both as individuals and as entities and the reflection of these shared values in aspects of society such as politics.

Through the study of Islam in my History course, I was able to elaborate on a topic that I found particularly stimulating, giving me an insight into the origins of modern relations with the Arabic World. I also took the opportunity to examine the birth of the state of Israel. I particularly enjoyed this activity as it gave me a view on the impact of a cultural ideology such as Zionism on the global community and specifically on territorial partitions. I subsequently took summer courses in Boston in International Relations and Mass Communication and in Modern History at the University of Cambridge, attaining a better understanding of the causes and effects of political action.

Hence, I have been able to elaborate on personal views and values, making use of more balanced debating skills which I applied at Model United Nations. I learnt to embrace the values of nations and groups of people not necessarily similar to my own, interacting with an assembly to create partnerships and mutual co-operation.

Through my Extended Essay, I explored the recent implementation of Free Primary Education in Malindi, Kenya, where I had recently undertaken an individual project volunteering in an orphanage (CAS prize 2009). The essay allowed me to tackle empirical analysis of sociological issues such as gender disparity, and to discuss the effects of education, evaluating the role and structure of Government Ministries and International NGOs. I have recently gained the COBIS award for international students, for "outstanding academic achievement and significant contributions to the school".

High school has been a journey of great personal growth through extracurricular activities such as being an Amnesty International representative, taking on important roles within the School Community as Deputy Head Student and Prefect, engaging in creative, mind-broadening experiences such as composing, studying dance, participating in both school choirs and performing in Drama productions. These activities have stimulated my morals and sensitivity and enhanced my sense of responsibility. Sport has also enabled me to develop collaborative skills as captain of the lacrosse team, and as a member of the volleyball and basketball teams; attaining the Sports Leaders Award. Working as a part time model, I learnt to balance my time between school and my job, which helped me learn to prioritise, ultimately choosing an academic path. Time management also enhanced my work ethics, independence and tenacity.

My aim in undertaking higher education is to fuel my knowledge through study and research, working in a stimulating and richly diverse environment, fully supportive of my growing interest in people and in the effects of their interaction as the collective human population. I will be searching for new experiences, contributing thoroughly and enthusiastically to University life.