

What first got you interested in the subject? Why is this subject important to you and to the world we live in?

Which aspect are you particularly interested in? Why? What would you like to study in more detail?

Current studies – if they relate to your course or you can use examples to show your study skills e.g. independent reading, laboratory work or critical analysis of evidence.

Course:

Evidence of passion for the subject. This might include wider reading, relevant work experience, other research you have undertaken e.g. documentaries, art exhibitions, podcasts.

Wider skills.
Non-academic achievements and the skills you picked up along the way. Link these to transferable skills and focus on what makes you stand out.

Future career plans or ambitions that link to the course you are applying for.

Personal Statements KS5 – Worksheet

Personal Statement Checklist

1. Does my introduction hold your attention?
2. Is it clear why I have chosen my course?
3. Have I demonstrated that I know and understand what the course actually entails?
4. Have I talked about reading around the subject and shown I have understood what I read?
5. Do I show the skills I have developed through extra-curricular and in-school activities?
6. Have I referred to my future plans beyond university?
7. Are my sentences either too long or too short?
8. Are there grammatical errors?
9. Have I backed up everything I have said with evidence?
10. Is my conclusion positive and does it include more than just the academic side of university?

Remember: every single line should be a new reason for the admissions tutor to pick you! Be ruthless and get rid of any repetition or waffle.

Checking and editing your personal statement should take as much time as creating your first draft. Aim to complete lots of drafts before you have a finished version. Then leave it for a few days (if you have time) so you can read it with a clear head before deciding it is finished!