**PS Example 1**

The start of the pandemic inspired my interest in current affairs, and subsequently politics. This is because I could see directly for the first time the impact of government decision-making, not only on me, but on the rest of society. Therefore, I felt it was important to be aware of the news and this motivated me to choose politics at A level. From Covid, I have learnt that politics affects everything we do, and so I wish to be part of the process, helping politicians implement legislation and changes to improve our society. Each day my morning begins listening to the BBC Radio 4 Today programme. During the day, I keep track of breaking news via the BBC News app and read my copy of ‘The Week’ when it arrives each Friday to get an overview of the recent political issues. I enjoy listening to podcasts such as ‘The Political Party’ by Matt Forde, and watching documentaries for example, ‘Blair and Brown: The New Labour Revolution’. Through this wider interest in politics, I have been able to understand and gain knowledge of global issues, such as relations with China and the EU, beyond what is taught in school and how this shapes domestic politics. Over the summer I had the opportunity to spend a day in my local MP’s constituency office with their researcher, giving me an insight into what an MP’s job entails. During the day I supported them to research what action the government is taking to address the climate crisis, so they had information to answer local constituent’s emails. This task helped to develop my research skills, including knowing which sources are credible and legitimate. I have recently been using these skills to explore the possible influence Thatcher had on New Labour for my history coursework in which I am linking my knowledge of Thatcher from both political and historical perspectives. While at the MP’s office I was also able to discuss local concerns such as planning issues and constituency boundary changes, with the researcher applying my political knowledge to engage in these conversations. Studying feminism in sociology triggered my interest in finding out about the impact gender plays in politics, such as how women in positions of power are treated by the media. Watching the documentary ‘Missrepresentation’ and reading ‘Women in Leadership’ I was shocked by the many examples of double-standards, including the emphasis on women’s clothing, embodied by the Daily Mail’s headline “Never mind Brexit, who won legs-it?” in regards to a meeting between May and Sturgeon. This headline would never be written about two male politicians meeting. I’ve also come to realise how the lack of representation leads to trivialising of women’s issues in decision-making. This is evident in regards to how everyday sexual harassment is treated by society and the lack of response by the police and governments. It took the death of Sarah Everard for the issue of women’s safety to be taken more seriously by the government. At the time, I wrote to my local MP questioning what the government was doing to address the issue nationally and locally. One of the key skills within politics is the ability to acknowledge different viewpoints and learn how to work collaboratively to find solutions that benefit all of society. By participating in a week-long university social sciences virtual summer school I developed my teamwork skills to deliver a presentation on ‘protests’, as well as demonstrating my ability to listen to ideas, formulate and contribute arguments based on evidence. For example. Joe Biden’s recent Infrastructure Bill demonstrates the difficulty in achieving consensus. The rise of tribalism in politics today threatens bipartisanship for short-term electoral gain. Following attendance at a 4-day university politics residential summer school, I wrote a university-level research report, using academic sources and Harvard referencing, skills I will need when studying for my degree. Additionally, I demonstrated study and analytical skills through finding evidence, arguing for and against and applying this to further my argument. Through doing my Bronze DofE award I showed teamwork, perseverance, and resilience, especially during the expedition as I really struggled and hated every part, but succeeded in achieving the award. A week of politics virtual work experience (Springpod) helped in broadening my knowledge of the types of career option available within the umbrella term ‘politics’ and I was interested to learn from a political advisor about their experience of progression into that role. Furthermore, I recently had the opportunity to speak to people working for Oxfordshire County Council, including the Acting Head of Strategy and a previous civil servant, where I got an insight into the reality of careers in local government and found out more about the different career pathways available. Overall, these experiences have helped in furthering my ambition to work in the civil service after finishing university as I wish to work behind the scenes in policy implementation. Studying degree level politics and international relations will allow me to further develop my interest in the subject and ready me for my future career.

**PS Example 1.2**

The start of the pandemic inspired my interest in current affairs, and subsequently politics. This is because I could see directly for the first time the impact of government decision-making, not only on me, but on the rest of society. Therefore, I felt it was important to be aware of the news and this motivated me to choose politics at A level. FromCovid, I have learnt that politics affects everything we do, and so I wish to be part of the process, helping politicians implement legislation and changes to improve our society. Each day my morning begins listening to the BBC Radio 4 Today programme. During the day, I keep track of breaking news via the BBC News app and read my copy of ‘The Week’ when it arrives each Friday to get an overview of the recent political issues. I enjoy listening to podcasts such as ‘The Political Party’ by Matt Forde, and watching documentaries for example, ‘Blair and Brown: The New Labour Revolution’. Through this wider interest in politics, I have been able to understand and gain knowledge of global issues, such as relations with China and the EU, beyond what is taught in school and how this shapes domestic politics. Over the summer I had the opportunity to spend a day in my local MP’s constituency office with their researcher, giving me an insight into what an MP’s job entails. During the day I supported them to research what action the government is taking to address the climate crisis, so they had information to answer local constituent’s emails. This task helped to develop my research skills, including knowing which sources are credible and legitimate. I have recently been using these skills to explore the possible influence Thatcher had on New Labour for my history coursework in which I am linking my knowledge of Thatcher from both political and historical perspectives. While at the MP’s office I was also able to discuss local concerns such as planning issues and constituency boundary changes, with the researcher applying my political knowledge to engage in these conversations. Studying feminism in sociology triggered my interest in finding out about the impact gender plays in politics, such as how women in positions of power are treated by the media. Watching the documentary ‘Missrepresentation’ and reading ‘Women in Leadership’ I was shocked by the many examples of double-standards, including the emphasis on women’s clothing, embodied by the Daily Mail’s headline “Never mind Brexit, who won legs-it?” in regards to a meeting between May and Sturgeon. This headline would never be written about two male politicians meeting. I’ve also come to realise how the lack of representation leads to trivialising of women’s issues in decision-making. This is evident in regards to how everyday sexual harassment is treated by society and the lack of response by the police and governments. It took the death of Sarah Everard for the issue of women’s safety to be taken more seriously by the government. At the time, I wrote to my local MP questioning what the government was doing to address the issue nationally and locally. One of the key skills within politics is the ability to acknowledge different viewpoints and learn how to work collaboratively to find solutions that benefit all of society. By participating in a week-long university social sciences virtual summer school I developed my teamwork skills to deliver a presentation on ‘protests’, as well as demonstrating my ability to listen to ideas, formulate and contribute arguments based on evidence. For example. Joe Biden’s recent Infrastructure Bill demonstrates the difficulty in achieving consensus. The rise of tribalism in politics today threatens bipartisanship for short-term electoral gain. Following attendance at a 4-day university politics residential summer school, I wrote a university-level research report, using academic sources and Harvard referencing, skills I will need when studying for my degree. Additionally, I demonstrated study and analytical skills through finding evidence, arguing for and against and applying this to further my argument. Through doing my Bronze DofE award I showed teamwork, perseverance, and resilience, especially during the expedition as I really struggled and hated every part, but succeeded in achieving the award. A week of politics virtual work experience (Springpod) helped in broadening my knowledge of the types of career option available within the umbrella term ‘politics’ and I was interested to learn from a political advisor about their experience of progression into that role. Furthermore, I recently had the opportunity to speak to people working for Oxfordshire County Council, including the Acting Head of Strategy and a previous civil servant, where I got an insight into the reality of careers in local government and found out more about the different career pathways available. Overall, these experiences have helped in furthering my ambition to work in the civil service after finishing university as I wish to work behind the scenes in policy implementation. Studying degree level politics and international relations will allow me to further develop my interest in the subject and ready me for my future career.

**PS Example 1.3**

The pandemic inspired my interest in current affairs and politics because I could see the direct impact of government decision-making, not only on me, but on society. I felt it was important to be politically aware which motivated me to choose to study A Level Politics. I learnt that politics affects everything we do, so I wish to be part of the process, helping implement legislation and changes to improve our society.

I like to keep up to date and informed. My morning begins listening to the Radio 4 Today programme. I keep track of breaking news via the BBC News app and read ‘The Week’ to get an overview of the recent political issues. I enjoy listening to podcasts such as ‘The Political Party’ by Matt Forde, and watching documentaries such as ‘Blair and Brown: The New Labour Revolution’. Through this wider interest in politics, I have been able to understand global issues beyond what is taught in school and how they shape domestic politics. I am passionate about finding out more, and relish the opportunity a degree in politics and Internationls relations (IR) will allow me to do this.

I am particularly interested in feminism. My study of the subject in A Level Sociology triggered my interest in the impact gender plays in politics, such as the media treatment of women in positions of power. Watching the documentary ‘Missrepresentation’ and reading ‘Women in Leadership’ I was shocked by the double-standards, including the emphasis on women’s clothing, embodied by the Daily Mail’s headline ‘Never mind Brexit, who won legs-it?’ which would never be written about male politicians. I’ve realised a lack of representation trivialises women’s issues in decision-making. This is evident in how sexual harassment is treated by society, the police, and governments. It took Sarah Everard’s death for the issue of women’s safety to be taken more seriously. In response, I wrote to my MP questioning what the government was doing to address the issue nationally and locally. I am looking forward to furthering my knowledge of gender in politics through study at university.

Through a range of super-curricular activities, I seek out opportunities to developing key study skills to further my learning. During work experience in my MP’s office I researched government action on the climate crisis to answer local constituents’ emails. This allowed me to developmy evaluation skills, including knowing which sources are credible and legitimate.I then applied this learning when exploring Mrs Thatcher’s influence on New Labour for my coursework, where I am also using critical thinking to link political and historical perspectives. For a University of Bath residential summer school I wrote an undergraduate-level report, using academic sources and Harvard referencing and further developing my ability to analyse through finding and applying evidence to further my argument. I believe it is important to acknowledge different viewpoints and to work collaboratively towards solutions that benefit society. While participating in a university Social Sciences virtual summer school I delivered a group presentation on ‘protests’ andthrough my Bronze DofE I have regularly engaged in teamwork, especially during the expedition. I look forward to working collaboratively with others while at university.

My ambition is to work in the civil service after finishing university, as I wish to work behind the scenes in policy implementation. Studying degree level Politics and IR will allow me to further develop my interest in the subject and prepare me for my future career.