**PS Example 2**

After reading from the minds of Zimbardo and Pinker respectively, my enthrallment with psychological theories and controversies was almost instinctual. I’d like to believe that, by outlining the limited knowledge of how the mind works within his field, Pinker is partially responsible for my desire to pursue psychological research. However, although a frontline soldier in the battle for my potential career, cognitive psychology has yet to stand out to me as boldly as developmental psychology.

Outside of my studies, I regularly participate and follow several online psychology-based courses – recently, one detailing the prevalence of autism and the social interaction deficits that are most common in diagnosed children. Additionally, although this exemplified my curiosity toward psychological development in children as a potential career, the number of missed autism diagnoses amongst women due to their advanced masking abilities potentially escalated my researcher instincts.

By balancing full time education and good performance whilst maintaining a part time job, I have excelled in my time management skills and, despite working three shifts a week, been able to prioritise my schoolwork. However, I don't allow this to deter me of my non-academic interests. For example, I recently attained a flute Grade 6 which cannot be achieved without consistent practice and dedication. Additionally, I volunteered as a St John’s cadet for three years where I learned to problem solve under pressure and critically analyse a person’s symptoms to rapidly formulate a plan of care to potentially save a life. Also, I maintain my personal reading goal of at least one book per fortnight and, subsequently, put my adoration for reading into researching psychology - by reading books such as: The Lucifer Effect (Philip Zimbardo), How the Mind Works (Steven Pinker), Psychology Introduction (Oxford), & Criminal Psychology Introduction (Oxford).

As I am intricately interested in the inner workings of the human mind, researching in detail topics such as the developments in how (and if) good people can turn evil – *The Lucifer Effect* by Philip Zimbardo. For example, this inspired my project for the Welsh Baccalaureate, in which I debated the question of moral conformity and its basis on societal input – and whether good and evil really exist outside of a society. I was particularly interested in the debate of who, or what, defines laws and the psychology behind how punishment impedes crime. For this, I followed Ted Talks and several interviews from psychologist Jordan Peterson as he debated how social deprivation could lead to insanity. This developed my essay writing abilities, which led me to partake in a university provided course that required me to review and analyse a research paper – I aspire to use the referencing techniques and analytical eye I gained when I transfer to a university level, research-based course. Subsequently, I became a representative for this programme at school. This entails organising and delivering assemblies, designing and distributing posters and arranging meetings with members of staff – all to promote the programme I completed to younger students. This allowed me to embrace my management skills and shape myself as a prominent leader within my school community. Additionally, through this I was able to improve my public speaking confidence and communication skills. I anticipate encouraging these qualities when I go to university and using them in presentations and group work assignments.

Through studying Psychology at A Level, I have been able to gain experience of the challenges of the psychological advances and writing ability of the course required, but also developing my numerical skills through standard deviation. While studying Chemistry, I have been exposed to and succeeded in the potential level of mathematical skills and quantitative analysis I would require to further pursue Psychology. At my initial interest in psychology, I was sure I would find developmental psychology the most alluring. However, following my research into criminal psychology, through my Welsh Baccalaureate project and wider-reading, I find it almost equally exciting. Although I am still in debate over which specific department of psychology I would like to specialise in, I am definitively sure that my fascination with psychological research and ideologies is never-ending and is the only career I can truly ever thrive in.

**PS Example 2.1**

After reading from the minds of Zimbardo and Pinker respectively, my enthrallment with psychological theories and controversies was almost instinctual. I’d like to believe that, by outlining the limited knowledge of how the mind works within his field, Pinker is partially responsible for my desire to pursue psychological research. However, although a frontline soldier in the battle for my potential career, cognitive psychology has yet to stand out to me as boldly as developmental psychology.

**Not sure this is the way to go. Your intro could/should more directly answer…..Why are you interested in the subject? What is it about psychology that particularly interests you?**

Outside of my studies, I regularly participate and follow several online psychology-based courses – recently, one detailing the prevalence of autism and the social interaction deficits that are most common in diagnosed children. Additionally, although this exemplified my curiosity toward psychological development in children as a potential career, the number of missed autism diagnoses amongst women due to their advanced masking abilities potentially escalated my researcher instincts.

**What was the name of the online course? What did you learn? How did it benefit you? How is this relevant to the course you are applying to?**

By balancing full time education and good performance whilst maintaining a part time job, I have excelled in my time management skills and, despite working three shifts a week, been able to prioritise my schoolwork. However, I don't allow this to deter me of my non-academic interests. For example, I recently attained a flute Grade 6 which cannot be achieved without consistent practice and dedication. Additionally, I volunteered as a St John’s cadet for three years where I learned to problem solve under pressure and critically analyse a person’s symptoms to rapidly formulate a plan of care to potentially save a life. Also, I maintain my personal reading goal of at least one book per fortnight and, subsequently, put my adoration for reading into researching psychology - by reading books such as: The Lucifer Effect (Philip Zimbardo), How the Mind Works (Steven Pinker), Psychology Introduction (Oxford), & Criminal Psychology Introduction (Oxford).

**The topic of this paragraph seems to be your dedication to your own learning. Is this the most important thing to mention? You might consider dropping some of this if you are struggling with the word count.**

As I am intricately interested in the inner workings of the human mind, researching in detail topics such as the developments in how (and if) good people can turn evil – *The Lucifer Effect* by Philip Zimbardo. For example, this inspired my project for the Welsh Baccalaureate, in which I debated the question of moral conformity and its basis on societal input – and whether good and evil really exist outside of a society. I was particularly interested in the debate of who, or what, defines laws and the psychology behind how punishment impedes crime. For this, I followed Ted Talks and several interviews from psychologist Jordan Peterson as he debated how social deprivation could lead to insanity. \*\*\*\*This developed my essay writing abilities, which led me to partake in a university provided course that required me to review and analyse a research paper – I aspire to use the referencing techniques and analytical eye I gained when I transfer to a university level, research-based course. Subsequently, I became a representative for this programme at school. This entails organising and delivering assemblies, designing and distributing posters and arranging meetings with members of staff – all to promote the programme I completed to younger students. This allowed me to embrace my management skills and shape myself as a prominent leader within my school community. Additionally, through this I was able to improve my public speaking confidence and communication skills. I anticipate encouraging these qualities when I go to university and using them in presentations and group work assignments.

**The first part, up to \*\*\* is about a topic of interest, the rest relates to skills. These should be separate paragraphs.**

Through studying Psychology at A Level, I have been able to gain experience of the challenges of the psychological advances and writing ability of the course required, but also developing my numerical skills through standard deviation. While studying Chemistry, I have been exposed to and succeeded in the potential level of mathematical skills and quantitative analysis I would require to further pursue Psychology. \*\*\*\*\*\*At my initial interest in psychology, I was sure I would find developmental psychology the most alluring. However, following my research into criminal psychology, through my Welsh Baccalaureate project and wider-reading, I find it almost equally exciting. Although I am still in debate over which specific department of psychology I would like to specialise in, I am definitively sure that my fascination with psychological research and ideologies is never-ending and is the only career I can truly ever thrive in.

**Up to \*\*\*\* looks like an attempt to demonstrate relevant development from current studies, this needs to be expanded.**

**After \*\*\*\* is about different aspects of psychology, you need to link this to how uni is going to help you explore and then specialise as opposed to dwelling on the fact you are not sure.**

**Overall – be careful of language e.g. the highlighted words they could be seen as sightly overstated.**

**Use a ‘topic statement’ at the beginning of paragraphs.**

**Think about the order of the main paragraphs by having those related to current studies and topics of interest/areas of knowledge first and before paragraphs on skills or dedication to your learning.**

**Have a conclusion that answers: How is going to university and/or studying a degree in Psychology going to help your personal development?**

**PS Example 2.2**

Why are we different? I am fascinated by how one can think so differently to another (despite similar upbringing and cultural influence), from moral principles to the order in which you pour cereal or milk. I often wonder how preferences are developed – if they are learnt through peer influence, or individual to our very nature. Simply, I am interested in discovering, not what makes us individual, but why we are so. Pursuing psychological research will help me understand this.

By studying Psychology at A Level, I experienced the challenges of understanding psychological research and the writing ability of the course required, also gaining relevant numerical skills such as standard deviation. It was important for pursuing research to gain this experience. Studying Chemistry, I was exposed to quantitative analysis skills I will need; producing percentages from given data to form a graph will be useful for content analysis. Furthermore, my experience in learning Spanish has enriched my vocabulary and memory skills, aiding me towards more desirable exam results in the future.

As I am interested in the differences of human minds, I researched topics such as how (and if) good people can turn evil – *The Lucifer Effect* by Philip Zimbardo. This inspired my project for the Welsh Bac in which I debated moral conformity and its basis on societal input, and whether good and evil exist in absence of a society. I was interested in the debate of who, or what, defines laws and the psychology of how punishment impedes crime. For this, I compared the crime rates in Singapore, with the existence of the death penalty, to the UK. I was fascinated to find that the severity of punishment made a significant difference in deterrence to crime. Also, I followed Ted Talks and interviews from psychologist Jordan Peterson in how social deprivation could lead to insanity. This will aid me at a university level as it helped solidify my love for research, and enjoyment for analysing secondary data to interpret a conclusion of my own.

My Welsh Bac project developed my essay writing abilities, which led me to partake in the Pathway to Bath programme, in which I reviewed and analysed a research paper. I will use developed referencing techniques and detailed analysis when I transfer to a research-based university course. Subsequently, I became a representative for this programme at school. This entails organising and delivering assemblies, designing, and distributing posters and arranging meetings with members of staff. As a result, I was able to improve my public speaking confidence and management skills. I look forward to encouraging these qualities when I go to university, using them in presentations and group work assignments.

After reading from the minds of Zimbardo and Pinker outside of my AS studies, my fascination with psychological theories and controversies was almost instinctual. To strengthen my bond to research, it felt important to experience other branches of psychology. Thus, I participated in several online psychology courses; for example, “Forensic Psychology: Witness Investigations” and recently, “Good Practice in Autism Education.” Therefore, understanding the prevalence of autism and the effect of leading, authoritative pressure during eye-witness testimonies has given me a better perspective towards other areas of psychology that I could research.

Although the vastness of psychological research has me torn between my specialisation, I hope to choose certain optional modules at university to solidify my interest in one area. By exploring areas such as developmental and criminal psychology in depth will help me discover my future career. Alternatively, a degree in Psychology may lead to a Masters in Psycholinguistics, that answers how language abilities differ in people. Despite this current uncertainty, I am definitively sure that my fascination with psychological research is never-ending and is the only subject area I can truly ever thrive in.