

Personal Statement Cheat Sheet

Your Personal Statement is your chance to make a good first impression on the admissions team at your top university choice. It's not easy to sum up why you should be admitted in just 4,000 characters, so this sheet will give you a head start in planning, structuring and writing your Personal Statement.

Maximum Characters: 4,000

Oxbridge & Medicine Deadline: October 15th

Minimum Characters Per Question: 350

Standard Application Deadline: Late- January

Your Personal Statement Structure

Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This first question is designed to let students introduce themselves and explain their motivations for studying their chosen course. In essence, this question acts as the introduction to your Personal Statement.

Topics to Cover

- A key moment or person in your life that inspired you to follow this path.
- Details about an area of your subject that specifically interests you.
- Things that you have seen or read that have bolstered your interest further.
- A potential plan for the future once you've completed your education.

Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Question 2 is where you can start to discuss the practical reasons as to why you would be a valuable student at your chosen university. This second part is specifically about your official qualifications, including your grades and any other formal activities you've completed that provide evidence for your skillset.

Topics to Cover

- How you work within your studies, specifically in relevant subjects.
- Transferrable skills from your studies that will support you in your time at university.
- Additional achievements or roles you have held in your school, such as being head of house or team leader.
- Formal qualifications achieved outside of school, such as awards in academic competitions.

Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

The last question of the Personal Statement is all about your experiences outside of school that relate to your application, such as extra/super-curricular activities.

Topics to Cover

- Work experience and placements.
- Volunteering experiences.
- Hobbies and clubs outside of school.
- Post education activities.
- Research projects.
- Personal experience/extenuating

Common Mistakes To Avoid:

- Lack of reflection
- Irrelevant examples
- Too many examples
- Generic Statements
- Overly long examples
- Repetition
- Long, poorly worded sentences
- False information

