

The law is constabulary, the law is government, the law is definitive and for every action there is a consequence. Very few other disciplines have such a high relevance and importance in the world and very few have such a monumental impact on way people behave. It protects the many and punishes the few, no matter where you live, the law is inescapable.

My interest stems from my belief that life should be lived within the law to ensure a fairer society. The fact that the Judge harbours so much power, respect and authority in his courtroom is truly inspiring. The aura that he/she possesses is unique and not replicable in any other job or environment.

During the Summer I visited Coventry's Crown and Magistrates' courts on a few occasions to oversee proceedings and attempt to establish an understanding of the several rules and conditions. The visits were invaluable in giving me a truthful experience of law; the criminal cases intrigued me and certainly promoted the interesting nature of working in criminal law. Completing three weeks voluntary work experience at solicitors provided me with a solid foundation and basic knowledge of the inner-workings of a law firm and re-affirmed my desire to study the subject at degree level. During the tenure I shadowed a solicitor through her day to day activities whilst asking questions and also completed some law related administration work such as API documents and writing letters to the land registry and clients and customer care letters. In addition to this my work experience also involved me interacting with clients both on the telephone and face-to-face and I was taught how to interact (formally) with them which has greatly improved my communication skills. The experience has been a useful precursor to studying law due to its truthful exposition of the skills, graft and guile required in the field.

Sociology is an area that also intrigues me, the subject is relevant to all aspects of life and can often provide answers and causation to many questions and debates; therefore the relevance of sociology in law is great. Society plays a huge part in criminal law in particular; the contextual situations regarding society encourage people to break the law, concepts such as the self-fulfilling prophecy and the concept of unintended consequences are pertinent examples of this. It is the prospect of gaining a social context to law which makes the degree all the more awe-inspiring.

Economics, politics and current affairs also interest me greatly. My interest in economics has been developed by studying the subject at A-level, where, as well as preparing for the exam by studying the specification, I also began to watch the news on a regular basis alongside relevant television programs such as 'Newsnight' and 'Question Time'. This has helped me to develop my understanding of the three interests, but also provided me with a wider context of law, and how political, economic and sociological conditions dictate the creation of new laws and create debate about existing ones. Studying A-level psychology has also developed my ability to approach issues critically, and analyse and evaluate theories and studies; key skills required when studying law.

Competing in the school cricket and football teams during secondary school developed my teamwork and leadership skills, very often I would have to be alert and organized and show the ability to improvise, such skills proved vital and transferable when working in teams in

more academic surroundings such as the year 13 business event task in which my team flourished in part due to my ability to organize tasks, assignments and colleagues.

As a result of studying this degree I hope to have actualised my potential and have acquired the necessary skills and qualifications to practise as a barrister or solicitor but I am also mindful that the degree is only the first difficult step and I am prepared for the challenges that lay ahead.