ellie



PPE and TSA Tutor

Education

University of Oxford: Philosophy, Politics and Economics - First Class BA (Hons)

A-Levels: French (A), Philosophy (A), Maths (A), History (B)

GCSEs: 12 A*s and 2 As

Teaching Experience

- Intensive online tuition and preparation for PPE personal statement and interviews for several Oxbridge applicants.
- Online TSA tuition for PPE and Chemistry applicants.
- Worked on two PPE UNIQ Summer School programmes for Oxford University in 2018 and 2019. This involved academic support through the Year 12 students' lectures, essay plans and tutorials. It also involved admissions workshops including workshops on personal statements, interviews, and the TSA admissions test. Close communication with the Oxbridge Admissions Office and PPE tutors, so I have a very strong understanding of what the universities are looking for in prospective students.
- Online tutoring for two students' mathematics GCSEs taken in 2018.
- In-person tutoring for KS2 mathematics with one student in 2017 and 2018.

TSA Tuition Approach

The best way to improve at the TSA is to practice. I ask my students to complete a past paper section all the way through under time conditions. For Section 1 I ask the student to go through and mark it with the answer key on the university website (I don't do this in the session because the time can be better spent!). In the session we will then go through any of the questions that the student got wrong, or wasn't sure about. We can identify patterns in the kinds of questions that the student struggles with and then focus specifically on those. For Section 2 (essay component), I'll ask you again to complete the section under exam conditions and then get you to send it over to me the evening before the session. I'll then look through it beforehand and make comments which we can discuss in the session, thinking about how the answer could be improved. With any extra time we can then go through plans for the other questions from that paper.

There's also always opportunity to ask any general questions about the TSA (and the whole application process) at any point during the session. We can also modify this approach as it fits the student and their specific needs and goals.

Interview Tuition Approach

For interviews, I start with a general myth-busting session, where the student can ask any and all questions that they have. I'll also go through my own experience of interviews and will give general advice about the best way to approach interviews and tips for doing well. Talking to tutors about interviews throughout my degree means that I know what they're looking for!

Other sessions will generally take the form of a mock interview. We'll go through the whole interview (generally 20-30 minutes, and sometimes the student will need to look at some prereading material for 10 minutes beforehand). When the mock interview is over, we'll evaluate it together. Again, this can be modified to fit the needs of the student.