

**Reference Examples**

**Reference 1: Biochemistry – Predictions A,A, (D\*D)**

Subington Academy is a large mixed academy, located in a residential suburb of Leicester. Subington Academy is part of the wider Leicester Learning Trust and has a Sixth Form of 160 students. Enrichment and work experience are compulsory.

Mohammed joined the Sixth Form in September 2017, having gained a strong set of GCSE results. He chose to study A level Biology, Chemistry and BTEC Applied Medical Science Diploma.

Chemistry: Mohammed has demonstrated severally beyond reasonable doubt an inherent potential to succeed in his chosen course of study. A potential that is manifested in the manner in which he conducts himself as a student. His behaviour for learning is phenomenal. Mohammed's work ethic is equally outstanding. His attitude towards learning is consequent on an unquenchable desire to know and understand the key ideas under study with a clear intention to demonstrate mastery through consistent and effective application. I am very confident that he possesses the requisite skills and character to become a successful student in a science related field accrued from studying chemistry and many related subjects. As a student with a burning desire to learn, Mohammed will constitute an important addition to your student body and uphold the status of your institution in any potential career if you eventually grant him this unique opportunity to actualise his potentials.

Biology: Mohammed is a confident member of the class, he is happy to contribute to class discussion and is able to recall facts and data with ease. In addition he is competent when it comes to the practical element, often taking the lead in his working group. He is able to make links across the different topics and he can make links between the different courses he is studying at the moment. Mohammed has a methodical approach to his studies and always goes above and beyond in his homework tasks. He spends time outside of school taking an interest in science in the news as he frequently arrives into lesson with a wealth of questions about the articles he has seen or read. He then tries to make sense of the news by linking it to the studies in the classroom.

BTEC Applied Science: Mohammed has been very committed to the study of medical Science in the last year. He has worked very hard in all his lessons and contributed fully in class discussions, asking questions and giving responses that represent excellent thought processes. The work that Mohammed has produced have been of very high standard. Mohammed's attendance and punctuality to lessons and extra sessions has been excellent. During practical activities, he showed great skills in handling equipment and was very meticulous when planning his experiment. He was able to take very accurate readings in all of his practical work. He always completed a risk assessment including appropriate action for when things go wrong before starting his practical. Mohammed has been excellent with the quantitative aspects of the subjects and also made links between knowledge gained from his study of Chemistry and Biology into this course.

Tutor: Mohammed is a confident student who is self-motivated to succeed. He submits his assignment and coursework ahead of time and presently achieving very good grades in his studies. Mohammed's experience includes working as a customer service assistant in a Pharmacy and had direct communication with the public, including dealing with prescriptions. He also supported primary school pupils by being motivational and improving their communication skills. Mohammed is a keen sports lover and is involved in a boxing club. He has helped in school open and award evenings over the course of this academic year.

Mohammed wishes to study Biochemistry, so the positive endorsements of his teachers in related subjects is encouraging. We would recommend Mohammed for his course choices and consider that he will be a credit to whichever University he attends.

**Reference Examples**

**Reference 2: International Business, Finance and Economics – Predicted A,B,C**

Lancington College is a state-funded institution of approximately 2200 students. Most learners take three A levels or equivalent alongside enriching studies in Year 13. We have a strong tradition of student success and an application rate of around 70% to Higher Education.

Helen came to this College from a local all-girls independent school with an outstanding set of GCSE results, coming in the top four performers in her year group with ten A\*s and one A. In her first year, Helen studied Chemistry, History and Mathematics and is continuing with all of these subjects into the second year alongside a portfolio course in Netball Performance. Helen has proven herself to be a dedicated and mature student, with excellent attendance.

In History, Helen is a positive and committed student who works hard on her analytical skills and challenges herself to achieve high grades. She is very interested in all the history topics she has studied and in particular, she was gripped with the topic of the fall of the Soviet Union and obtained a very high mark for this. Helen is a reliable student who is willing to question and probe in-group discussion. In addition, a source based question on the Rustication campaign in Mao's China reached level 5 for its succinct merger of source evaluation and contextual own knowledge. Helen is a modest and reflective student who accepts guidance and advice and is very good at independent study. Helen would enjoy the challenge of university and we highly recommend her to you. Predicted Grade A

In Mathematics, Helen is a competent student with a good attitude to learning. Helen has worked hard to secure her understanding of the material we have covered this year and will ask pertinent questions to achieve this. Helen is a natural problem solver and likes being able to apply her sound technical skills and understanding in new and interesting scenarios. Helen's written work is of a consistently high standard and her grades in assessments have improved over the course of the year. Helen's cheerful attitude to learning and aptitude for mathematics and problem solving will make her a good candidate for further study on a highly mathematical undergraduate programme. Predicted Grade C

In Chemistry, Helen is an able and conscientious student who has made solid progress over the year. She can provide detailed scientific explanations using correct terminology and has been successful integrating the core curriculum ideas and more complex content to access higher grades at assessment. Helen can apply her chemical knowledge outside familiar contexts. She is studious in the classroom working productively on her own as well as during group tasks. In practical's, Helen can manipulate equipment to enable accurate measurement and is skilful in analysis of these data. Predicted Grade B

Helen is a polite and hardworking student who has shown great dedication to her studies. She has embraced college life through her participation in the netball team, demonstrating her team and coaching skills. Helen shows effective communication skills, which she has developed from her weekend job at a call centre, as well as part-time work in retail. Helen is a committed and dedicated student who comes highly recommended for your consideration.

### **Reference Examples**

#### **Reference 3: Economics, Predicted B,C,C**

Johnson College is an open access, inclusive sixth form college of approximately 2100 students, offering a wide range of both A level and vocational subjects. Students come from diverse educational and social backgrounds, and depending on ability, they generally take four AS levels reducing to three A levels in the second year, or the vocational equivalent.

Britney joined Johnson College from Struttford High School. Her strong GCSE profile allowed her to enrol on a level 3 programme of AS levels in Economics, Medieval History, Maths and Psychology. Britney is a pleasant student who is a very likeable character. Britney manages her time effectively as she has balanced her part time job as a pot wash whilst studying at college.

Britney worked exceptionally hard in Economics. Her knowledge of economics was amongst the best within the cohort, which meant that Britney was an integral part of the class, especially during class discussions. Here Britney was able to articulate her views in a way which always demonstrated an ability to apply, analyse and evaluate economics theory. Written work also showed these necessary academic skills along with an ability to handle data and manipulate economic diagrams to support his judgements.

Britney has a genuine interest in History. She has very good conceptual understanding, and can engage with complex concepts and ideas. She works effectively as part of a group and has shown that she can lead discussion, and instigate debate. Her written work is well structured and she is able to show evidence of analysis and judgement. He can evaluate and use complex source material. Britney has all the abilities to be successful in the subject, if he can combine this with improved academic discipline.

Britney was a lively member in the Use of Mathematics class covering Algebra, Decision and Data Analysis. Her attendance was good and he managed to complete class work to a high standard in all modules. Her assessments throughout progressed well, and she worked hard to develop her confidence in all aspects of this course resulting in some assessments considerably above target level. Britney worked hard outside of class.

Britney is a very amicable, positive and polite student who worked well in all lessons. She has excellent communication skills and was a very popular member of the class who worked well in groups and ensured that her group stayed on task to produce excellent work. Britney excelled in the social psychology module and is able to explain and evaluate theories of conformity and obedience to a very high standard.

All of Britney teachers have agreed he is a pleasure to teach and an asset to every class. Britney is an intelligent student who has the skill set for higher education. She is reliable, organised, diligent and confident. These skills clearly suggest that Britney has the academic ability and motivation to successfully study Economics at higher education level. I am sure that Britney will thrive at university and can recommend her to you without reservation.

### **Reference Examples**

#### **Reference 4: Maths and Physics, Predicted A\*A\*A\***

We are a state, school based sixth form college. The school has a progress 8 score of 0.021. The majority of students take three level 3 courses, with some choosing to take the Extended Project. Our academic programme is linear in nature. The Average Point Score for our A level programme is 30.00 (Grade C) with a VA of -0.28. 64% of the 2016-17 cohort went onto higher education, with 19% attending Russell Group Universities. As his GCSE results show, Tom is a first-class student academically; with an average point score of 8.20 he was in the top 10 of a very strong cohort. He has adapted very well to the demands of the A Levels and has risen to the challenge, but it is in beloved Mathematics that he has chosen to specialise. In Mathematics he has studied Pure Maths, Mechanics and Statistics. In further mathematics he has studied further pure, statistics and numerical methods. Tom's understanding of the pure and mechanics modules is unequivocally comprehensive and his problem solving in particular is beyond his years. His interest in problem solving is evidenced by the work he completed last year for fun. Tom began working through STEP papers even before he'd started researching universities. Tom has exceptional powers of analysis, making valuable contributions to assist others when complex concepts are introduced. His ability to work synoptically is impressive as his ability to resolve inaccuracy through trial and error independent of staff intervention. His approach is one of enthusiasm and quiet determination, thriving on the challenge of a problem to be solved. His written communication is of a high standard, well planned and well organised, always using appropriate terminology. He regularly does extra work without being prompted and is extremely hard-working, highly motivated and self-driven. Tom was identified as an exceptional mathematician from the first day he started at Braddingford. He sets himself the very highest standards in everything he attempts. Never happy to simply get the correct solution to a problem, Tom always strives to understand the reasons why and how solutions work. He goes beyond the obvious, is hungry for knowledge and is always keen to read beyond the specification, often putting his teachers to the test with searching and challenging questions. The current cohort is possibly the strongest we have ever had and he is regarded as being in the upper echelon of this group, finishing with the top score in last year's Further Mathematics class. The Head of Mathematics says he is one of the best natural mathematicians he has taught. Tom works diligently, forever looking to expand his knowledge. He has even studied chapters of Further Mathematics removed from the new specification to help broaden his repertoire. Tom is a keen participant of the UKMT challenges, never failing to attain medals throughout the six he has taken so far. Following a challenge, Tom will insist on taking the challenge away and enjoying the problems outside of time constraints. He is constantly reading about Mathematics and regularly asks staff about mathematical concepts and history nothing to do with the A-level specification. Tom undertook the EPQ as part of the enrichment activities in our college curriculum where he researched warp drives. In producing and discussing the work he showed an impressive range of knowledge of mathematical and scientific principles. He worked well to manage his project and complete it almost entirely independently. Assessors said his EPQ was definitely one of the best of his year and he was awarded an A\*. Tom has not only all the intellectual abilities and natural intuition to be successful in mathematics, but also has the personal qualities and drive to succeed. He is a student whose passion for his chosen subject is to be seen in all that he does. He will be an asset to any group of undergraduates. I cannot recommend him to you strongly enough.