

## Paul's Recommendation Letter for Hannah Lowrie

Paris, 08/08/2022

To whom it may concern,

I have had the incredible opportunity to not only have been taught by someone who comes from Wiltshire, which is already in itself a dream come true because of its closeness to Somerset, but most important by a Classics Undergraduate studying at Cambridge. I would definitely say, as one who had been under Hannah's tutorship in an intense immersion into Classics for three weeks, that her calm commitment to apply work in a very structured and yet at the same easeful way is a quality of balance that is not so found anywhere. Already, prior to coming here to start the tutorship, she had sent an email detailing the whole plan, clear and concise, of what will be done and what the aims are and that made quite an impression upon me.

Over the three weeks of which I had the pleasure to be with her, she had been able to teach me in a very suave way that reflects her ability to work concretely and instruct with a passion whilst simultaneously being able to talk of many things at interest and play ping pong. I asked a lot about life at Cambridge and we had a lot of interesting conversations including the new word 'wacky' that I had learnt and decided to apply as part of my character I develop whilst playing ping pong – the clear references to Cornish Independence was a striking success in her puzzlement over such a strange thought for a Frenchman to talk of. On her side, she has been clear in advocating the glories of Sappho, for whom she seems to reserve great admiration.

Most importantly, since she came, the result has been striking. Prior to her coming, I had a rather anarchic and chaotic way of writing essays and a sort of arrogance in thinking that the reader will be able to decipher my verbose tangents. What she did as she understood this problem that had to be solved, was that as we had talked of this issue, we underwent a process of how to plan essays, write introductions and conclusions, where to look at, a brief look at the technical side of footnotes and bibliographies, but the main purpose was to make me able to write an essay coherently with a clear and more concise way of expressing my thoughts and opinions. The result has been phenomenal. I am able to limit my tangents and it is fair to say that the final essay that I wrote shows some clear signs of improvement.

We had gone through the Phaedo, and although her strong anti-platonic stance might shock some readers, she was still able to deliver all the content and explain everything in a manner that made it understandable and transferrable. We have looked at Sparta, its history, culture and constitution, and had many thoughts and debates as I learnt a lot. Then came Athens where we looked mainly at its constitution and way of government and based on that I wrote my final essay. She has been able to make me look at the world in a different light and formulate a now more concrete support for the Classics, where I have started to see how relevant it still is today and how we can learn so much from studying the past.

I dare say, apart from the occasional debates on fox-hunting and the reason for the existence of the Stowe beagles, my school which she recently went to give a talk to the sixth form on how to apply to Cambridge and had thus met Stowe's Classics Department, she has been absolutely fantastic. She has reinforced what is now my current state of being: an ardent classicist determined to show this world that Classics is still profoundly relevant to our modern world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style. The name 'Paul Ostroverhy' is clearly legible, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the signature.

Yours Sincerely,  
Paul Ostroverhy