

### Paul's Recommendation Letter

To whom it may concern,

It has been a pleasure to tutor Paul for the last 2 weeks in Ancient Philosophy and History. He is a charming young boy, who can successfully engage in the widest variety of conversations of any 14 year old I have ever met. I think it's fair to say he's one of the few people in the world who can go from discussing Plato's Recollection argument in depth, to the possible merits of Cornish independence and then onto the superiority of the country Liechtenstein all within one conversation. And on every one of these topics, he has an admirable and truly impressive grasp. It's also abundantly clear that he has a keen eye for creativity both in his conversations (we have had many very fascinating and bizarre tangents) and in his writings, which always make for an enjoyable read.

Over these 2 weeks, we have covered a huge variety of content. In history our study has largely focused on life in Sparta with lessons ranging from their intriguing political structure to the greater freedoms in the lives of women in this city-state. As a student of ancient history, Paul has been highly perceptive in evaluating the significance of our sources and his creative mind is perfect for suggesting plausible theories of how Spartan life may have looked for the times when we are lacking information about the ancient world. His memory and ability to retain information is also impressive and I am always delighted with his ability to summarise our previous discussions and lessons successfully and clearly. Moreover, his engagement in my lessons is always brilliant, and I feel as though I have his focus and attention at all times.

Meanwhile, in terms of philosophy we have looked over many of the different arguments presented in the Phaedo. This has included some very complex philosophical arguments and I have been continuously impressed with how Paul has approached the challenge of understanding the complexities and nuances within these arguments. Whilst at first, he seemed hesitant when I would introduce him to these new concepts (which is perfectly understandable given they still confuse University level students) normally after some further explanation he would grasp them and eagerly participate in very interesting conversations about their flaws and successes. Paul's consistent curiosity makes him an ideal student for philosophy and he never objects to my incessant, Cambridge supervision style lines of questioning but rather fully engages himself and is always ready and willing to explore the great bounds of philosophical debate. By the end of our internship, I was delighted with the development of his evaluative skills in dissecting new concepts, and he also applied this very successfully to the essay plans and writings which he did as prep work for me. His ability to apply different skills across the board is highly developed and such an important skill to have which will serve him well in his future education.

In terms of his writings, he has very successfully picked up on how to structure arguments within an essay format and his writing is both concise and clear whilst still retaining his own delightful flourishes. His ability to take on instruction and improve is commendable, and a crucial asset to his character which makes him such a pleasure to teach. He is always open and eager to hear ways in which he can improve his intellect - a truly admirable quality, especially in someone his age.

I have greatly enjoyed my time tutoring Paul not just because of his brilliant attitude to our studies but also because he is genuinely an interesting and funny young boy. His competitiveness and wide variety of different styles of play in our table tennis matches never fail to entertain me, although I would like to remind him that I did beat him in a hat-trick one day! I wish him all the best for the future and have no doubt that he will go on to succeed in whatever it is he chooses to do, and that he will continue to be a delight to many others who will come across him in life. I hope he has also enjoyed this introduction into Classical History and Philosophy and that he will take that enjoyment into his life and treasure the new things he has learnt; I don't doubt that he will.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Lowrie

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