

UCAS Personal Statement: Format Pack (2027 Entry)

The three-question structure that replaced the single essay from 2026 entry onwards, with character budgets and a planning worksheet.

The official question	What a strong answer contains	Suggested budget
1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?	The genuine origin of your interest, one or two specific moments (a project, a problem, a book, a competition), and what in the subject itself pulls you forward. Course-focused, not university-focused.	1,200 to 1,500 characters
2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?	Your Class 11-12 subjects and board, the topics and skills that map to the course, one classroom or practical example with a result, and how you work as a learner.	1,200 to 1,500 characters
3. What else have you done outside of education to prepare, and why are these experiences useful?	Projects, olympiads, internships, clubs, volunteering, self-taught skills or part-time work, each tied to a skill the course needs. The why-useful half carries the marks.	1,000 to 1,300 characters

The fixed rules

- 4,000 characters total including spaces and punctuation, shared across the three answers.
- Minimum 350 characters per answer. No per-question maximum inside the shared pool.
- The question text does not count. Only your typed answers do.
- One statement goes to all five UCAS choices, so never name a university or city.
- Roughly 550 to 650 words in total. Every sentence must earn its place.
- Admissions teams read the three answers together as one statement, so avoid repeating material.

Planning Worksheet

Fill every bracket in rough notes first, then draft. Delete anything you cannot make specific.

Question 1 notes: why this course

The moment my interest became real: []

Two things in the subject I want to go deeper into: [], []

The career or problem this course points toward: []

Question 2 notes: how my studies prepared me

Board and stream: [CBSE / ISC / State board], [subjects]

Topics that map to the course: []

One classroom or practical example with a result: []

How I study best (evidence, not adjectives): []

Question 3 notes: beyond the classroom

Project / competition / olympiad: [] and the skill it built: []

Work, volunteering or responsibility: [] and why it is useful for this course: []

Self-taught skill or reading: [] and where it shows: []

Final checks

[] Each answer clears 350 characters [] Total under 4,000 [] No university names

[] Every claim has an example [] Read aloud once [] Checked by one teacher or mentor