

## Application Examples

### Overview

To give you a better idea of what we are looking for when we assess applications, we have given examples of one bad application form and one good application form. Please note, we have only provided model answers for some of the questions within the application form.

The answers that you give within your application will help us to understand what you want to do in the future and how we can best support you. Please think about your answers before you submit your application form. We recommend that you save your answers in MS Word first so that you always have a copy.

We hope these examples help you to make your application form the best it can be. If you would like to discuss your application form, please do not hesitate to contact us on: [app@socialmobility.org.uk](mailto:app@socialmobility.org.uk) or 0207 183 1189.

### **An example of a poor application form**

You will see that the bad application form has short answers, which do not give much explanation and contains spelling and grammatical errors throughout.

**1. Please explain why you have made the SMF career sector choice(s) you have (including 'No Preference'), detailing any research undertaken, work experience, other contact with professionals etc." (250 words)**

I have chosen Bankng and Finance becuase I really enjoy Maths. I want to learn more about it and hopefully either study Maths or Economics at uni.

**4. Please detail how you spend the majority of your time outside lessons, including any positions of responsibility, paid employment, volunteering, hobbies etc. (250 words)**

Outside of school I volunter in various things, but most of my free time is spent studying to get the best possibly results in my exams.

**5. Tell us about a time where your communication skills have made a difference to a situation. (250 words)**

I take part in various class discussions at school. Before I used to be very quiet and teachers said that this was holding me back. But now I am confident when with my ideas so I am learning more.

**10. If you could have dinner with anyone alive or dead, who would it be and why? (500 words)**

I would have dinner with Sir Richard Branson becuase he is so famous. He first started his business at sixteen years old- this truly is inspiratinal as I hope to follow his path.

## **An example of a good application form**

You will see that the good application form has longer answers, giving more detail and has been proofread and therefore does not contain spelling and grammatical errors.

### **1. Please explain why you have made the SMF career sector choice(s) you have (including 'No Preference'), detailing any research undertaken, work experience, other contact with professionals etc." (250 words)**

I have chosen Banking and Finance as my first career choice and Accountancy as my second. This is because over the years I have enjoyed studying Maths, as it has helped to develop my analytical skills and stimulate further interest into how Maths can be applied to various situations. Having researched careers within the Banking and Finance sector, such as; reading job descriptions on career websites and researching university courses, I have found that I have a keen interest in statistics and using statistics to solve problems. I feel Banking and Finance plays a huge part in the workings of society and I would like to explore this further.

I have chosen Accountancy because not only does it involve Maths, but having read the profiles of major directors of banking firms I have found that some directors started their careers as Accountants. I would like to gain a better insight into the sector as a whole.

### **4. Please detail how you spend the majority of your time outside lessons, including any positions of responsibility, paid employment, volunteering, hobbies etc. (250 words)**

Most importantly, most of my time outside of school is spent studying and revising. However I do have a part-time job as a library assistant. Working as a library assistant is a great responsibility as I have to manage my time effectively. I have to ensure I keep to my work shifts as well as keep to my studying schedule. Working as a library assistant has also enhanced my communication skills as I have to speak to different members of the public on a daily basis. I have had to learn how to adapt my body language and manner of speaking depending on the person I am speaking to, therefore also improving my confidence skills.

I am also currently completing my Duke of Edinburgh Gold award. As part of the Gold Award I volunteer with younger peers by encouraging and helping them to read books. I thoroughly enjoy this as I'm able to share my love of books to younger peers as well as witness first-hand how the programme makes a positive impact. In terms of hobbies, I enjoy playing Badminton as it is both a team and an individual sport.

### **5. Tell us about a time where your communication skills have made a difference to a situation. (250 words)**

To develop my communication skills I always volunteer at school open evenings to show new and potential students and their parents around. Communication is really important in this situation because you need to explain information about the school in a clear and concise manner. I need to speak in a formal but enthusiastic manner because I have to relate to

unfamiliar people and make them feel welcome. Volunteering to help younger children to read has shown me that you need to adapt your style of communication depending on your audience. In this situation, I have to tailor the way I address the children as they are all in different stages of their development. If I do this well, the children enjoy the story and get involved in reading along.

**10. If you could have dinner with anyone alive or dead, who would it be and why? (500 words)**

I would most like to have dinner with Richard Branson, due to his inspirational background where he suffered from dyslexia. He overcame this to become such a great businessman. Throughout his career Sir Richard Branson has shown a lot of determination, passion and persistence for Business. I feel such a skill set is required for any career, particularly Business. Although he started at a young age, Sir Branson showed obvious entrepreneurial skills whilst making his first music magazine as a teenager. Having an awareness of the economy, and recognising his own business potential he began to diversify the brand 'Virgin' to a Record label, Airline Company and even a mobile phone network among many others. This shows his extreme motivation to become a successful entrepreneur. Sir Richard Branson also dedicates his time and money to raise awareness for environmental issues, for example he promoted the importance of preventing global warming by the introduction of Virgin Earth Challenge; in hope that a \$25 million prize will encourage faster developments in removing greenhouse gases. Due to his pure determination to succeed and wanting to change the world for the better, I would like to have dinner with him to discuss his thoughts on all his achievements. I would like to find out how he strategizes business models, and possibly propose my own business ideas. He is clearly an inspirational businessman, who dedicates his life to improving the world we live in.