Below is the essay topic.

|  |
| --- |
| Please provide information which you feel will be of interest to the Admissions Tutors and will help them know you better, e.g. your reasons for applying to HKU, the chosen curricula, extra-curricular activities, participation in voluntary work, past working experience, career aspirations and other achievements. (maximum: 6000 characters, including punctuation and space) |

HKU Essay

The University of Hong Kong has one of the most reputable School of Business in the world, and it offers a wide range of degrees courses to choose from. But, what struck me about these programs was the BBA single degree program that HKU offers. The program allows me to specialise in Management Studies and Marketing, and International Business and Global Management (IBGM). I’d always look forward for the Business lecture, even if it was at the end of the day and that’s when I realised my passion for the subject. I did not want to just learn the subject, I wanted to explore it and link it with everyday examples. Economics has also been another subject that I am really interested in. Economics allows me to see the world through a Kaleidoscope, to let me observe various patterns and connect them to each other which helps me introspect every facet of everyday economic policies before criticising them. When high-denomination Indian currency notes were demonetised in 2016, many individuals and businesses were affected due to a sudden lack of in-hand cash. With seemingly no solutions to continue transactions in the short term, I wondered at how businesses would tackle this problem. The course that HKU is offering has captured my interest as it provides a broader view of the subjects and experience beyond the classroom. It helps me bring out the “economic” part of my subject and link both business and economics together.

I completed GCSE from 8th to 10th grade, and I am currently pursuing my A-levels with Business, Economics, and Maths. I have finished my English AS-level course and haven’t taken it up as an A-level Subject.

My passions and interests do not stop there. I have been playing tennis for 7-8 years and have also participated in many inter-school and national-level tournaments, where I reached the quarter and semi- final level. Two of the national tournaments I played were organised by All Indian Tennis Association (AITA), which included tennis players, who were under the age of 16, from all over the country. The competition was very high and my opponents were a tough match. The first match that I played in one of the tournaments was with one of the best players of the tournament. She was tough but I fought and made it to the quarter-finals. The four-hour-long anticipation for my match to begin was worth it when I realised it only boosted my energy and made me fight for every single point. Unfortunately, I could only reach the semi-finals. Also, I have represented my school along with my team in many inter-school and state-level Throwball tournaments and have also won many of them.

Participation in these sporting activities has taught me a lot of things. Tennis taught me that I have to stand up for myself, because, the moment when everything turns around, and my energy has been drained out, I know, I have to give my best in order to be a victor. Throwball has taught me that sometimes teamwork is vital to achieve a goal. If one player is out then the whole team is at risk. I have also ran for my school’s relay team and won twice. Tennis, Throwball and athletics have strengthen my sportsmanship spirit, and I’ve I realised that it’s okay not to win as long as I give it my 100%. Being out there on the field, be it Tennis, Throwball or Athletics, has always been a home away from home. It’s where I can truly express myself to make a difference without having to worry about hardships of life. It has taught me to take strides and leap further even if it meant stepping out of my comfort zone.

Similarly, I wish to carry forward what sports has taught me and use it in everything I do and pursue. When I complete my BBA, I wish to pursue MBA and specialise in Marketing and Management. I aspire to be an entrepreneur and have my own start-up one day, but, before that I want to work at a firm as the head of the Marketing department as well as learn to manage the employees well, so that when I have my own business, I could use my skills to become a good employer and manager.

I always seem to derive a satisfaction when my work is noticed. It may be the small effort I put into a friendship or the days of work I pile together to present on the big-screen. It was in the year 2017, where I was asked to be a judge/panel member for a crisis management event, which was conducted by the commerce department of my school. As a panel member for the event, I was responsible to concoct a crisis that involved financial, HR, social, and economic disasters. It wasn’t an easy job to consolidate information for the most challenging crisis. It took days of work and sleepless nights until I arrived with the “perfect” crisis on the day of the event. My crisis was on the big-screen and the results were overwhelming. The nature and the challenges posed by the crisis, made the participants give in their best. My work had been noticed and appreciated, not just by the teachers but also by the hundreds of participants. It improved their critical thinking skills and made them more confident, I couldn’t be more satisfied knowing that my work helped not just me but everyone who were a part of the event. It was an event I thoroughly enjoyed organising and judging. It helped me gain confidence in the work I do and improved my public speaking skills.

To enhance my public speaking skills further, I participated in many MUNs (Model United Nations) and was appreciated for my contribution. In one of the MUN, I represented Cambodia. Though the country I represented wasn’t a part of the crisis, I took a stand and involved my country as much as possible. This also led me to form my own resolution for the committee in order to battle the crisis. The experience taught me crisis management on an international level. Apart from better public speaking skills, I learnt a lot about the power of diplomacy and the way international relationships work. MUNing taught me to have patience and to work side by side with fellow delegates even if they had a different stance than I did, it taught me to be united even with differences.

Books have always been my best friend since I was young. They allowed me to escape into a world of fiction. This fiction-ous world inspired me to start writing on my own, to allow others to explore my version of fiction. I occasionally write poems and also maintain a blog (www.nakedcondolences.wordpress.com). I have taken part in a few national-level poem-writing competitions, which were held online. I use poetry and drawing as a way to put my imagination down on paper. I sketch/draw and have taken part in many drawing and painting competitions.

Music takes me places. I don’t just listen to it, I make an emotional connection to it. I do not know how to play an instrument but the minute I listen to someone else play one, I find myself lost in their tunes. So what if I cannot play music? I could always learn it. Hence, I completed Grade 1 theory of music in the year 2012. I had taken up the course in my school and at the end of the year, I wrote the Grade 1 theory exam and passed.

Watching my parents work every day always made wonder what it felt like to work. I watch them leave the house in the morning and come back in the evening, but never would they talk about work at home because it’s “Family time”. But my curious mind did not stop at “family time”, so I applied for an Internship during my summer break of 2017 at a three star hotel named “Maurya”. I wanted first hand work experience, to leave in the morning and come back in the evening. I worked reminding myself that I was in an internship that I liked. I was taught marketing through social media, comparison of hotel prices, and improvement of the hotel service on online travel agents (OTAs). The internship lasted for two weeks and it made sure that I was taught well enough to handle the tasks on my own, with a little guidance.

Happiness is key to everything. I look for happiness in everything I do. It doesn’t have to be my personal happiness, it can be someone else’s. I’ve always found happiness in the greater things I received or did, but on August 15, 2017 (Independence Day), my thoughts on happiness changed. There are children out there who aren’t half as privileged as I am yet they smile, they make the best use of what they have, even the smallest gestures of kindness bring a smile on their faces. I wanted to put a smile on five thousand underprivileged faces. I participated in an Initiative called “5K smiles” where a group of 5 students and I (all below the age of 18) set out to deliver five thousand McDonalds Happy Meals to five thousand orphans across Bangalore. Watching the kids eat their burgers, some of them perhaps for the first time, showed me the true definition of happiness. Watching the kids’ eyes well up with excitement melted my heart and that is when I realised that perhaps I’ve been looking for happiness in the wrong places and that happiness exists in the little things we do. It took the team about a month and half to collect all the donations, collaborate with McDonalds and the orphanages. The initiative also received national media coverage.

Pointers:

>Various activities mentioned lacks a flow.

>The essay is limited to achievements. Apart from the ‘sports’ part, rest of the activities don’t represent personal experiences.

>Add your personal inspiration as to what made you choose those subjects.

>Add a few more personal experiences to make it impactful.

>You can also speak about your family background in the beginning to give it a personal touch.