Gates Cambridge Scholarship Interview Topics

The Gates website on interviews is very specific in terms of what questions are asked, and while they are more focused on whether the applicant is a good Cambridge fit (rather than being focused on his or her past endeavors), it's a good list of questions to ponder and to prepare for any scholarship.

Each interview has four main sections:

1. Welcome and introduction
   - The Chair will introduce the panel, set out the format of the interview, and provide any other essential information to allow for a productive session.

2. Gates Cambridge
   - What you know about the Gates Cambridge Scholarships
   - Your motivation for applying
   - Why you think you could be a Gates Cambridge Scholar
   - Your thoughts on the opportunities and responsibilities that a prestigious, full-cost scholarship at one of the world's leading universities brings

3. Academic and career plans
   - Your academic work to date - can you convincingly communicate your passion for, and the importance of, your chosen subject?
   - Your proposed degree at Cambridge - why you want to do it and why you believe Cambridge is the right place for you to study.
   - Your career plans - can you convincingly link your application for both a Gates Cambridge Scholarship and your proposed course at Cambridge to your future career plans?
   - You may also be asked probing intellectual or ethical questions, to which there are no 'right' answers.

4. Final thoughts and any questions you might have.
   - A chance to add anything further you would like the interview panel to consider, and to ask any questions you may have.