

# What are your essentials?

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A PHOTOSTORY BY LUKAS GERVE

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We might take them for granted sometimes, but the objects we carry everyday are part of our identities, no matter how insignificant or unimpressive the items are. Hence, I set out to ask people “what are your essentials?”, and to see what can they tell me about their belongings, and what their belongings can tell us about them. I asked the people involved to arrange the items themselves, as this should capture even more of their personality.



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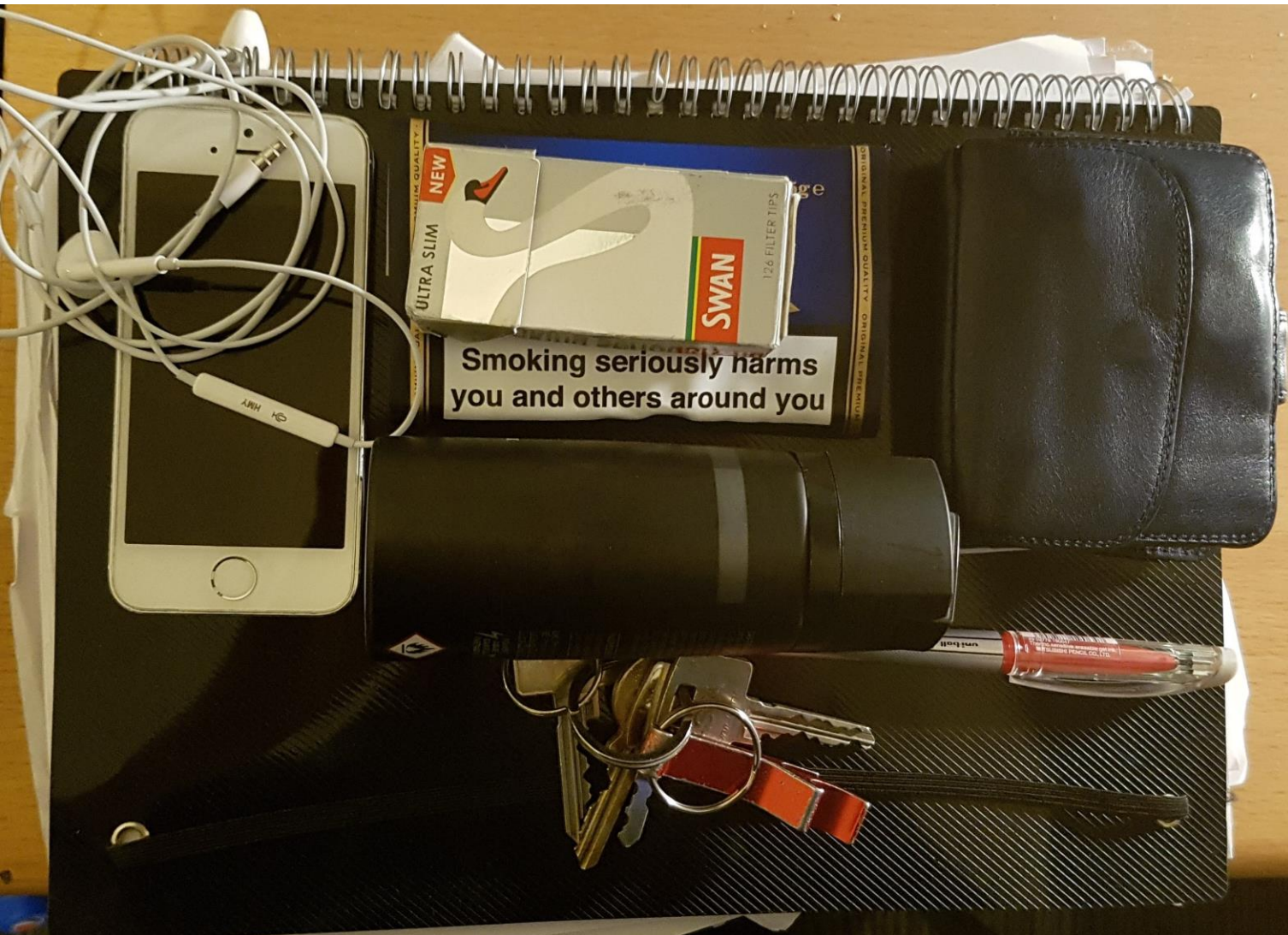
**These are my own belongings – the image I used as a reference to help my participants understand my aim. I carry two notebooks – one for class notes, the other for personal writing.**



# Mikko

“I don’t carry very much usually – I like to travel light. Recently I’ve also begun tying my earphones in a knot, so I’m not having to constantly untangle them”



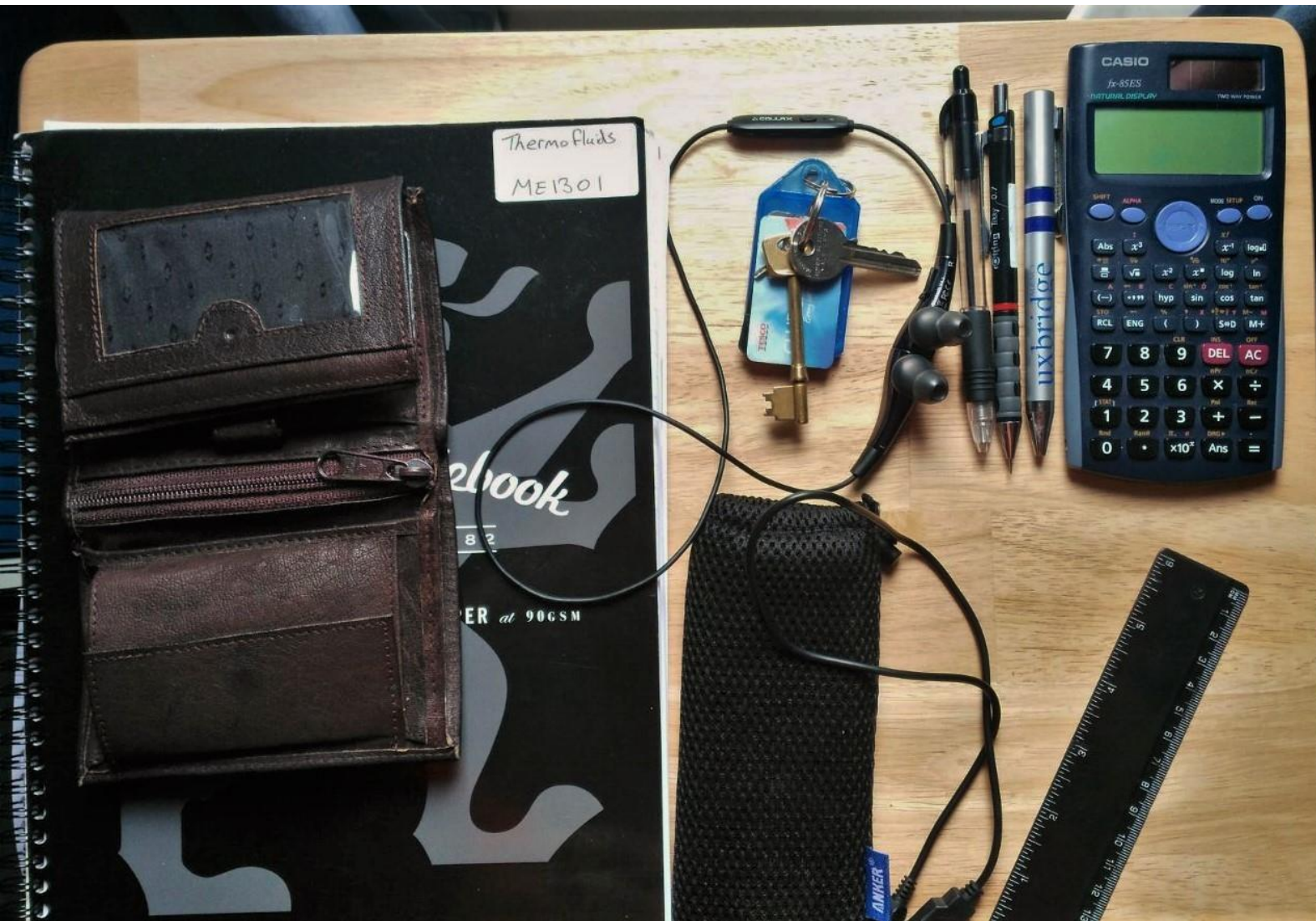


## Alfie

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**“My notes are beginning to take up a large part of my bag – they’re quite heavy by this point. Not that I mind, but I should probably clear some out by now.”**





# Anthony

“I seem to be going through pens quickly at the moment. I haven’t included my phone, as I’m not always carrying it to lectures – though that sock-looking thing is, in fact, a charger.”



Tom

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**“Well, I’m all out of painkillers at the moment, so this empty sheet is filling in. The mini Tictac box is from a huge box I got as a birthday present last year. They’re a ‘traveller’s exclusive’, meaning you can only buy them internationally.**





## Andrew

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**“Since I am studying computing, a laptop is a must for me. However, it hasn’t quite held up. You can’t see it by looking at it, but it barely works now. I think all the moving around in my bag damaged it somehow.”**





# Khaola

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**“You’ve caught me on a good day! I’m usually much less organised than this. I would most likely be carrying stuff like receipts and other things I haven’t thrown out yet.”**