

## Section 1:

#1 From "What can you offer our school?" (Debating experience) Strengths:

- Effective use of personal anecdote about overcoming shyness through debating
- Clear progression showing personal growth and achievement

Weaknesses: Lack of specific future contributions → While you mention joining the debating society, your response could better articulate specific ways you plan to contribute, such as "I hope to mentor younger debaters" or "I aim to represent [school] in inter-school competitions."

Exemplar: "Through my experience reaching semi-finals in the Premiers Debating Challenge, I would be keen to both compete for [school] and help establish a mentoring programme for younger debaters."

#2 From "Weakness/strength?" (20 Hour Challenge) Strengths:

- Concrete example demonstrating persistence
- Shows problem-solving ability and adaptation

Weaknesses: Limited reflection on learning outcome → Your response focuses mainly on the process but misses an opportunity to reflect on how this strength would benefit you at [school]. The phrase "I decided to try a different way" could be expanded to show deeper analytical thinking.

Exemplar: "This experience taught me that persistence combined with strategic thinking leads to better outcomes - skills I would apply to academic challenges at [school]."

#3 From "What things do you like most at school?" (Teacher relationship) Strengths:

- Compelling narrative about teacher support
- Shows intellectual curiosity and drive

Weaknesses: Insufficient connection to future schooling → While you effectively describe your relationship with Ms Bonnett, you don't bridge how this experience shapes your expectations for [school]. The phrase "I was so surprised" could be replaced with more forward-looking reflection.

Exemplar: "This experience has shown me how valuable strong student-teacher relationships are, and I look forward to building similar connections with [school]'s staff to push my academic boundaries."

Actionable Task: Rewrite your "What can you offer our school?" response, focusing specifically on three concrete ways you would contribute to the school community. For each contribution, provide a specific example from your past experience and connect it to a future goal at the school.

**Score: 42/50**

## Section 2:

#1 What can you offer our school? At [school] I believe that I can offer many things to you. Firstly, I can join the debating society there. Currently[,] I am in my school debating team and we have been participating in this competition called the Premiers Debating Challenge. In fact, we were very fortunate to be able to reach the semi-finals before we were knocked out. But I actually did not really enjoy public speaking until I was actually put into the debating team. ~~I was always the more shy person, afraid to speak out.~~ [As a naturally shy person, I was initially afraid to speak out.] But after being put in the debating team, it allowed me to learn more about public speaking, and through my journey, I have learnt to love debating and the very thrill of going to other schools to debate. I believe that [school]'s debating society will allow me to not only resume debating but be able to expand my skills even further through competitions like the ISDA competition.

Also, I play the clarinet at my school. A scholarship [School] will allow me to contribute to the band program. Currently[,] I go to Artarmon Public School, which is well known for its amazing strength in music programs, winning competitions in the Eistodford and State Championships. I am extremely lucky to be part of that music program. I started the clarinet this year, so it was very hard to go up to the highest band in the school. But there was ONE way to go up to Senior Band. It was playing the 1812 Overture perfectly by memory, without any guidance. I really wanted to get into the Senior Band, so everyday I would play this piece, over and over again. In the end, I went up to my conductor and said: "Can I play the 1812 Overture for you?". And then, I did it! I played it perfectly! Now I was able to go up to Senior Band, but that wasn't all. I had learnt many things along the way, including perseverance and the fact that hard work pays off, so never give up! As you can see from my band experience, I believe that I will be able to contribute to the school music program through the Wind Ensemble and also the Band. This scholarship will enable me to reach out and enhance my talents, allowing me to contribute to the school as well as benefiting myself.

#2 Weakness/strength? One of my strengths is my persistence when achieving a goal. I have shown this through many ways such as the 1812 Overture challenge and also in past homework assignments. In Term 1, we had a homework assignment called the 20 Hour Challenge. This was based on the theory that someone could learn a skill in 20 Hours of practice. So my skill was drawing a realistic portrait. Not an easy task. Every week I would do 2 hours that seemed to go on forever, drawing different parts of the face and portraits in general. But everything I drew seemed to be cartoonish and unrealistic. I just wasn't creating the effect I wanted. This led to me having mood swings and frustration, but it wasn't helping me. ~~So I decided to try a different way of drawing.~~ [After reflection, I adapted my approach to drawing.] Instead of drawing off the top of my head, I used a reference photo I found online so I could actually capture their face properly to make it more realistic. This worked extremely well, so now I know that I always need to keep on trying, as you will reach your goal eventually.

#3 What things do you like most at school? ~~I believe that a healthy relationship between a student and their educators are one of the most important things to enhance your learning experience even further.~~ [I believe that a healthy relationship between a student and their educators is one of the most important things to enhance the learning experience.] My teacher, Ms Bonnett understands me really well, so she knows when to push me even further into my learning. Last term, when I finished my literacy tasks and the extra task one week early, she told me to write an essay. Writing an essay in about 8 or 9 hours for a

year 5 was a big ask. But nevertheless, I went on and wrote an essay. The words were forming in my head rapidly as I scrambled to write words in my book. I was so surprised that my teacher asked me this. But I kept on going. In the end, I was able to not only write a complete essay by hand, I had enough time to type my essay up and print it out. I was even more shocked than ever! I never knew that I could write an essay so fast and it was all because of my teacher knowing me well and pushing me beyond the limits in my learning.

What do you see yourself doing in 6 years? I love drawing and mathematics, and what combines both aspects is architecture. My father is a builder and sometimes I go to the building site to admire his project. I simply love designing things and sometimes I take a look at my father's spreadsheet for the floor plan. I find it extremely interesting and it gave me a tiny bit of inspiration for my dream job of architecture. In 6 years time, I see myself doing my design course at [school], working with wood and saws to create models of houses as an inspiration for my future job. I believe that [school] will not only let me create a dream, but make this dream come true.