Term 3 - 2025: Week 7 - Writing Homework | Year 5 Scholarship Specialisation

Section 1:

#1 (Opening paragraph: "Our school cafeterias should become classrooms of culture...")

Strengths: Your opening creates a clear connection between food and education, and you establish the main argument straight away with the phrase "broadening our menu, we can broaden our minds."

Weakness: Underdeveloped concept → Your idea needs more specific details about how this would actually work as education. You mention it's "about education, connection, and understanding" but don't explain what students would learn or how teachers would use this in lessons.

Exemplar: Instead of just serving the food, teachers could share stories about where dishes come from and what they mean to different families.

#2 (Third paragraph: "This move also aligns with our fundamental goal...")

Strengths: You connect the cafeteria idea to bigger educational goals, and the phrase "As educators and community leaders, we have a responsibility" shows you understand the importance of the topic.

Weakness: Vague reasoning \rightarrow You use general statements like "foster a sense of inclusivity" and "demonstrate a commitment to these values" without explaining exactly how serving different foods would achieve these goals. Your argument stays at the surface level.

Exemplar: When students eat Korean kimchi together, they might ask questions about Korean families and learn that spicy food is enjoyed differently around the world.

#3 (Fourth paragraph: "Imagine the feeling of a student seeing a dish...")

Strengths: You create a personal connection by focusing on how individual students would feel, and your examples of "Japanese ramen" and "Russian beef stroganoff" help readers picture the idea.

Weakness: Missing practical details \rightarrow You focus on the emotional benefits but don't address important questions about how schools would prepare these foods safely, train kitchen staff, or handle students with allergies and dietary needs.

Exemplar: Schools would need to train kitchen staff about new ingredients and create clear labels showing what's in each dish for students with allergies.

■ Your piece tackles an interesting idea about making school lunches more culturally diverse, and you do well connecting food to learning and belonging. However, your writing would be stronger with more specific examples and practical details. You explain why this idea matters but don't show clearly how it would work in real schools. Additionally, your arguments often use general statements that need more support. For instance, when you say food "builds empathy," you could explain exactly how this happens through specific examples. Also, your piece would benefit from addressing real challenges schools face, like budget limits and food safety rules. Consider adding a paragraph about how one school successfully tried this idea, or explain step-by-step how a teacher might use international lunch day as part of a geography lesson.

Score: 43/50

Section 2:

- **#1** Our school cafeterias should become classrooms of culture by including a recipe from a different culture every day. This isn't just about food; it's about education, connection, and understanding. By broadening our menu, we can broaden our minds.
- **#2** A daily rotating international menu is a cost-effective and efficient way to introduce students to global diversity. Schools already dedicate resources to broadening students' horizons through field trips and special events; this approach simply combines that goal into the daily routine. It's a practical approach to multicultural education. Concerns about logistics or food waste can be addressed through careful planning, offering a limited, rotating menu that's both manageable and exciting.
- **#3** This move also aligns with our fundamental goal of preparing students for an interconnected world. As educators and community leaders, we have a responsibility to foster a sense of inclusivity and respect. By embracing diverse cuisines, we demonstrate a commitment to these values and teach students that all cultures are valuable and worthy of celebration. This is our duty.

Imagine the feeling of a student seeing a dish from their family's heritage on the lunch menu. It sends a powerful message: "You belong here." For all students, trying new foods builds empathy and breaks down barriers. A bowl of Japanese ramen or a plate of Russian beef stroganoff isn't just a meal; it's a shared experience that sparks curiosity and conversation. Food is a universal language, and by sharing it, we build bridges of understanding that last a lifetime.

In an increasingly globalized [globalised] world, our schools must evolve to reflect the rich diversity of our communities. A simple change to our lunch menu can have a profound impact, turning a daily necessity into a powerful educational tool. By embracing a variety of cultural recipes, we not only nourish our students' bodies but also their minds and spirits, fostering a generation that is more open-minded, empathetic, and ready to engage with the world.