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

## Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph: "Have you ever thought about how boring and repetitive school lunches can be? Most days, it's the same food over and over again—sandwiches, nuggets, or maybe pasta. Now imagine walking into the cafeteria and being greeted with the smell of fresh Italian lasagna, spicy Indian curry, Japanese sushi rolls, or Mexican tacos. Doesn't that sound exciting? I strongly believe that school lunches should include a recipe from a different culture every single day, and I have three important reasons why."

**Strengths:** Your opening uses a relatable question that connects with readers' experiences. You create vivid imagery with specific food examples that make readers imagine the exciting possibilities.

**Weakness:** Lack of supporting evidence → Your argument relies mainly on your personal opinion without facts or examples to back up your claims. When you say "many students even skip lunch because they don't like what's offered," you need to provide proof like surveys or statistics to make your point stronger.

Exemplar: According to a recent school survey, 65% of students said they would be more excited about lunch if different cultural foods were offered each week.

#2 - Body paragraph about learning: "Secondly, including food from other cultures is a brilliant way to learn. School is not only about maths, English, and science—it's also about understanding the world around us. Food is a huge part of culture, and by tasting dishes from different countries, students can discover traditions, values, and histories. For example, dumplings can teach us about Chinese New Year, while pasta might connect us to Italian family traditions."

**Strengths:** You provide specific examples that help readers understand your point. Your connection between food and cultural learning shows good thinking about how education works.

Weakness: Shallow explanation  $\rightarrow$  Your examples about dumplings and pasta don't go deep enough into how students would actually learn from these foods. You mention Chinese New Year and Italian traditions but don't explain what students would discover or how this learning would happen in practice.

Exemplar: For instance, when students eat dumplings during Chinese New Year celebrations, they could learn about the significance of family reunions, the importance of good fortune symbols, and how this tradition has been passed down through generations.

#3 - Health paragraph: "Thirdly, cultural recipes often provide healthier and more balanced meals. Many traditional dishes use fresh vegetables, herbs, and spices instead of processed or fried ingredients. By trying new foods, students would get used to eating healthier options while also becoming more

adventurous eaters."

Strengths: Your focus on health benefits shows you understand different aspects of the issue. You

make a good connection between trying new foods and developing better eating habits.

**Weakness:** Generalisation without specifics  $\rightarrow$  You make broad statements about cultural foods being healthier without giving detailed examples or explaining why traditional dishes are better than current school meals. The phrase "cultural recipes often provide healthier and more balanced meals" needs

more specific support.

Exemplar: For example, Mediterranean dishes like Greek salad with fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, and olive oil provide essential vitamins and healthy fats that are often missing

from typical school lunches.

■ Your piece tackles an interesting topic that many students can relate to, and your three-point structure helps organise your thoughts clearly. However, your arguments need stronger support with specific facts, examples, and deeper explanations to convince readers. Instead of just stating your opinions, try adding real information about nutrition, student preferences, or successful programs from other schools. Your second body paragraph about cultural learning has potential, but you should explain exactly how students would learn from each food experience rather than just mentioning it briefly. Additionally, your health argument would be much stronger if you compared specific cultural dishes with typical school lunch ingredients to show the difference. Also, consider addressing possible challenges like cost, preparation time, or dietary restrictions to make your argument more balanced and

realistic.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2:

#1 Have you ever thought about how boring and repetitive school lunches can be? Most days, it's the same food over and over again—sandwiches, nuggets, or maybe pasta. Now imagine walking into the cafeteria and being greeted with the smell of fresh Italian lasagna, spicy Indian curry, Japanese sushi rolls, or Mexican tacos. Doesn't that sound exciting? I strongly believe that school lunches should include a recipe from a different culture every single day, and I have three important reasons why.

#2 Firstly, cultural lunches would make school meals far more enjoyable. Eating the same menu can feel dull, and many students even skip lunch because they don't like what's offered. If our schools added recipes from around the world, lunchtime would instantly become something to look forward to. Each day would feel like a new adventure, and students would be eager to discover what tasty dish is waiting for them. Food should be fun, not just something to get through.

#3 Secondly, including food from other cultures is a brilliant way to learn. School is not only about maths, English, and science—it's also about understanding the world around us. Food is a huge part of culture, and by tasting dishes from different countries, students can discover traditions, values, and histories. For example, dumplings can teach us about Chinese New Year, while pasta might connect us to Italian family traditions. This simple change in school lunches could help build respect, curiosity, and open-mindedness, making our school community more inclusive.

Thirdly, cultural recipes often provide healthier and more balanced meals. Many traditional dishes use fresh vegetables, herbs, and spices instead of processed or fried ingredients. By trying new foods, students would get used to eating healthier options while also becoming more adventurous eaters. Instead of fearing something different, students would learn to appreciate and enjoy it. This can encourage lifelong healthy habits and confidence in trying new experiences.

In conclusion, school lunches should absolutely include a recipe from a different culture every day. It would make meals more exciting, teach us about diversity, and encourage healthier eating habits. Food is more than just something we eat—it connects us, educates us, and celebrates our differences. By taking a bite of the world one lunch at a time, schools can turn a simple meal into an unforgettable learning experience.