Term 3 - 2025: Week 8 - Writing Homework | Year 5 Scholarship Specialisation

Section 1:

#1 "Imagine a school where students have absolutely no reading time and all they focus on is 'What is 234 cubed?' or 'What is the meaning to this poem's metaphor?'. Sounds horrible, right? Well, that's what schools are becoming now. The demon's room without books."

Strengths: Your opening grabs attention with a clear picture that readers can imagine. The phrase "demon's room without books" creates a strong image.

Weakness: Unsupported claim \rightarrow You state that schools are becoming places without reading time, but you don't explain why this is happening or give examples of real schools facing this problem. This makes your argument feel weak because readers might wonder if this is actually true.

Exemplar: "Many schools today spend most of their time on test preparation, leaving little room for students to read books they enjoy."

#2 "Students are reported to have a 37% increase in test scores and a 45% increase in their happiness rates and optimism looking forward to school."

Strengths: You use specific numbers which makes your point sound more believable. This shows you understand that evidence helps support arguments.

Weakness: Missing source information \rightarrow You mention these percentages but don't tell readers where these numbers come from or which schools were studied. Without knowing the source, readers can't trust if these numbers are real.

Exemplar: "Research from local primary schools shows that students who have daily reading time score higher on tests and feel happier about school."

#3 "Reading improves many significant life skills as well – knowledge, concentration, language skills, and you get exposure to more famous historical literatures and famous writers and poets."

Strengths: You list several benefits of reading, showing you understand reading helps in many ways. Your examples of famous authors like Shakespeare and Dickens show good knowledge.

Weakness: Shallow development → You mention many benefits but don't explain how reading actually improves these skills. Your ideas need more depth to convince readers why reading makes concentration better or increases knowledge.

Exemplar: "When students read regularly, they practise focusing on one task for longer periods, which helps them concentrate better during maths and science lessons."

■ Your piece shows passion for adding reading time to school, which is wonderful. However, your argument needs stronger foundations to convince readers. You make claims about what's happening in schools and provide statistics, but you don't back these up with real examples or sources. Additionally, your ideas about reading benefits need more explanation. Instead of just saying reading improves concentration, explain how this happens. Also, your writing jumps between ideas without smooth connections. Try linking your paragraphs with words like "furthermore" or "in addition to this." Your enthusiasm shines through, but remember that good arguments need both passion and solid evidence to persuade readers effectively.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2:

#1 Imagine a school where students have absolutely no reading time and all they focus on is 'What is 234 cubed?' or 'What is the meaning to [of] this poem's metaphor?'. Sounds horrible, right? Well, that's what schools are becoming now. The demon's room without books.

#2 Students are reported to have a 37% increase in test scores and a 45% increase in their happiness rates and optimism looking forward to school. If we added this new book system, letting students read for 30 minutes a day in an allocated period in the classroom, we would burst students' happiness buds and instead of saying to their friends 'No! I have maths class next!!,' they might say 'Yes! I have maths class next up, but we get our 30-minute reading time after!'.

Now, you might be thinking, but it's only 30 minutes in a 6-hour time slot, what difference could that make? It'll hardly show in their calendar! They'll say, 'Maths for an hour, then English for an hour, then a break for 45 minutes, then oh, what a small reading time!' Well, ever heard that saying [have you ever heard the saying] 'strength in numbers'? Think about it. Only 30 minutes, but 30 minutes for a WHOLE SCHOOL. That's around two thousand students! Every single student in the school all looking forward to an allocated 30 minutes. Not too bad, right?

Students with an increased rate of joy can spread wonder around the classroom, and maybe the school. Imagine it – one thirty-minute time [period] causing the school to be positively overjoyed immensely!

#3 Reading improves many significant life skills as well – knowledge, concentration, language skills, and you get exposure to more famous historical literatures [literature] and famous writers and poets. Without reading, kids may not know about famous writers and poets such as William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens. They may never had [have] read Shakespeare's 'Hamlet', or 'Romeo and Juliet', or even Charles' 'A Tale of Two Cities'! They might gain knowledge in history, a subject outside of English, and if they read foreign books their language skills can skyrocket! A key factor to reading is high concentration on the words on the page, which unconsciously improves concentration in class. It also increases empathy, as well-written narratives can help you feel what the character is feeling, which can happen in real life afterwards of [after] reading the book. It also increases your vocabulary bank. If you're reading a book such as Harry Potter or something, which includes high vocabulary, you'll be used to being exposed to the harder words, and you'll learn those words. This is why I undoubtedly believe we must implement a 30 minute time slot in school for dedicated reading.