

Yayasan UEM

1) Introduce yourself

Ans: My name is Nesamani Victor. You can call me Nesa or Mani. I am 18 years old. I was born in Kuching, Sarawak but I was raised in Ipoh. I have 3 sisters and both my parents are teachers. I love to read mystery novels and play the piano. I am creative and very easy going. I am very grateful to have been selected for this final stage of the YUEM interview.

2) Where u wanna study and why

Ans: My desire is to study in the USA in one of the top 10 universities there for Computer Science. It has always been my dream to go to the USA. I have always liked the way US universities carry out their degree programmes. It is not all academic but involving interesting extracurriculars that make uni life interesting. Hence, I would enjoy the USA more than if I were to study in the UK or AUS.

3) Why that course

Ans: My intended course is Computer Science. I have always been someone who likes programming, coding and especially above all innovating ideas and bringing them to reality. I figured from form 4 that I am an engineering person. So, I know if innovating and specifically IoT (Internet of Things) is my passion, the best degree for this would be CS.

4) Talk about your family

Ans: I have 3 sisters (1 Older and 2 Younger). Both my parents are teachers. I love them, they have always been my support in all I do.

5) What do you think you can bring to our company after you graduate

Ans: Upon graduation, I will be serving my 5 year bond under UEM. I remember asking the scholarship managers during the final stage of the YUEM interview this question as well. I asked them where will I be working under UEM, what will the job lifestyle be like for someone who has a CS degree under UEM etc. They gave a simple answer that I can be working anywhere, under UEM's partners and subsidiaries. I may also have the chance to go overseas to work or could be working locally too. It totally depends on UEM. In my point of view, I believe I will be equipped with advanced skill sets related to my degree and with this I will be able to contribute greatly to UEM and to our country.

ii)Online Submission : They started to ask me about my essay that I submitted for my online submission

Q: Talk about your add maths journey that you have written in your essay

A: Since F4, I have never ever scored anything above a C+ for add maths, even until SPM Trial examinations. Even that C+ was once and during my final year examination in F4. Besides that, I have always failed. SPM Trials, I scored an E (40 marks). At that time, I was advised by my English Teacher to get a tuition class with a retired maths teacher, Mr Thiru. From what she said, he is a really good teacher, as her son too scored an A in SPM within just 2 months after his classes. I did what she said as I needed help. My add maths teacher in school gave up on me. She just told me to get a D, despite me being a straight A target student for the school. She would neglect me in class and only favouritise and prioritise her top scorers. I chose to not give up and went for the tuition classes diligently. I went for tuition for about 2 months only. I have never gone for tuition since F1 for any subjects, this was my first physical tuition class. Thanks to Jesus and Mr Thiru, I scored an A for Add Maths in SPM. I am very grateful and proud as I did not give up despite whatever that has been said to me.

(The managers were impressed. I was very genuine with the way I conveyed my story as I knew this story really showed how giving up is not part of me.)

Q: Talk about your debate/public speaking that you have mentioned as well

A: I remember when I was F2, my teacher made it compulsory for all of us to try out public speaking as there was a selection for the school representative. I had no plans to do it but had to anyway because it was compulsory. The day came, and I presented my speech. I had practiced so much. Despite having anxiety, I still pushed myself to do it. I was conveying my speech and before I could go to the second half, my teacher stopped me and said, “You have no talent for speaking”. She made me stop and moved on to the next person. I remember my schoolmates laughing and teasing me. After that incident, I made it my mission to prove her wrong. I am someone who if gets insulted or made fun of, I do take it personally, but I make it a point to make sure I prove them wrong. I will make it a must to show them I am not succumbed by their words. That year MCO started. There were a lot of online competitions and one of them was a National Level English Pitching Competition. My mum encouraged me to do it, and I did. I won 1st prize. I was overjoyed as I showed myself that I am not what my teacher said, in fact I am a talented speaker. After that, I started joining pitching and innovation competitions more and more. My English teacher was a big support in this. She was also the one who introduced me to debate when I was Form 5. For first time debaters, my friends and I got 2nd place in the district level going against schools who were known for debating. I also got the best speaker for one of those rounds. I feel happy and am thankful that I took what my teacher said as a challenge. I should thank her, because if it weren't for her comment, I wouldn't be here speaking to you managers confidently today.

iii) These were the longest questions that they asked about as I think they were impressed by my essay and how I overcame whatever that was hindering me from being the best version of myself. Other questions was honestly just basic questions, here are some:

- 1. Talk about your piano skills.**
- 2. Talk about your innovation competitions that you mentioned**
 - **Do you like to work alone or in a group? Why?**
 - **Did you find it difficult to learn coding/arduino by your own?**
- 3. Talk about your hobbies**
- 4. What do you watch on YouTube online**
- 5. PITCH TO US FOR THE FINAL TIME, WHY YOU DESERVE TO BE A YUEM SCHOLAR.**
 - I talked about my skills and how I can benefit UEM
 - My answer for this incorporated my video submission answer, my essay answers and a summary of whatever I spoke during the interview.

Everything else they asked were just follow up questions. After that was the final and most important one.

Overall, the final interview was very fun and chill. They just wanted to know me as a person. I was pleased coming out of the room after 45 minutes.

When you can't think of an answer on the spot

I can't think of an exact answer. I would like to request that by giving some time and we can come back on this later.

Sorry that I did not understand the question properly. Could you please repeat the question again?/Could you simplify and rephrase it?

Questions to Ask

- After reviewing my performance today, do you have any advice to me so I can improve myself better?
- What are your experience with the company culture and work environment at Shell? Like the day to day life working at shell
- I am very interested in _____ and the _____, which _____. Could you share the other future plans of UEM in innovation sector?

Personal Questions

1) Please introduce yourself

- Good morning interviewers and My name is Bryan Ngu Zhu Kiet, a student who graduated from SMK Sacred Heart in a small town in Sarawak named Sibu with a huge passion for Mathematics and computer science, wishing to pursue a Data Science degree at a prestigious university in the world. I am honoured to be here today as a candidate for the Shell scholarship. I would consider myself a math and knowledge lover as I am passionate about solving big valuable mathematical problems. So here is a fun fact about me, my parents are both Math teacher, so it's quite cruel for a young kid was already being exposed to the world of Mathematics, and you have to imagine that while others having fun with their friends or playing mobile games and I have to sit in front of the table and do a lot of Math questions, but to be frank, I was glad to join Olympiad Math when I was in primary school as solving big valuable mathematical questions gives me a sense of satisfaction. and I participated in a lot of competitions such as Sasmo and Unimas Mathematics Challenge. Besides, I am also a table tennis lover. I started playing table tennis since I was six years old. I am a state player for table tennis and I had represented Sarawak a few times in National Table Tennis Championship. Besides, I am glad to be elected as a Prefect Council of Multimedia when I was in Form 4. My roles included controlling the PA systems, projectors and computers when there were activities in the hall or theatre, making a list of QR codes for each prefect to check their attendance, and prepare a PPT for every assembly and activity of the prefectorial board. Moreover, I was responsible for leading the team of prefects during the orientation program. This had enhanced my leadership skills and communication skill besides gaining a better understanding towards students with diverse backgrounds.

2) Tell me about your family

- My family consists of my father.....

3)What course would you like to pursue. Why?

- I am a person who is so passionate about Mathematics and computing, so I would like to pursue a Data Science degree at a renowned university in the world. I would say everything in this world just can't work without math, so I enjoy solving difficult mathematical problems as it could give me a sense of accomplishment after finishing the question. Moreover, as statistics is also one of the major subjects in data science, I also found that I am interested in those binomial distribution and normal distribution so I think this is my favourite course and I will try my best to achieve a better me in this field.

4. Which country do you want to go? Locally or abroad? Why?

- I prefer study in UK as it is a well-developed and technology-based country, where I believe that I will be exposed to cutting edge research and technologies besides gaining insights into successful systems and frameworks implemented in that country. Moreover, as my brother is studying at University of Oxford in UK, and he always share the wonderful experiences in UK so I think I am looking forward to study there as the academic environment is really good and of course I can go and find him and maybe to have a vacation together. For instance, by deepening my knowledge and expertise in specialized areas such as data mining and machine learning, I believe that I will be able to leverage advanced analytical tools and techniques to help predict energy demand fluctuations by analyzing historical data on energy consumption, weather patterns, economic activity and social factors. For instance, optimising the operation of renewable energy plants, such as adjusting the tilt of solar panels to maximize sun exposure, will undeniably reduce carbon emissions, thus minimizing environmental impacts and helping achieve the target of net zero emission by 2050

I haven't really look into which university that I really want to study in UK but in general the most popular that offer data science course is UCL (University College London) and LSE (London School of Economics) and I personally think that there are a lot of opportunities there for me to grow and learn from.

5. If you were the Prime minister, what would you contribute to the country?

I believe it is crucial for us to draw insights from other nations regarding their education systems, recognizing that education holds the key to a brighter culture. Currently, Malaysia's education system places excessive emphasis on exams, resulting in students relying heavily on rote learning and lacking creativity as well as the problem solving skill. To address this issue, I intend to undertake educational reforms that focus on nurturing children's skills, fostering creativity, and encouraging innovation. For instance, I will hold several meetings with the Ministry of Education Malaysia and suggest that we should emphasize more on outdoor learning opportunities such as having more experiments outside the schools and more events and activities to enhance their creativity level. By doing so, we can stimulate economic growth, indirectly enhancing productivity and human capital. This is especially important in today's rapidly transforming world, where printed textbooks have become outdated.

6. If I don't get this scholarship, what will you do?

- I believe that my academic achievements, performance in co-curricular activities and interview will significantly contribute to securing this scholarship. However, if for any reason that the scholarship's decision does not favour me, my next step would be to draft an appeal letter addressed to the organization. I am hopeful that by presenting my case in a well-articulated manner, I may have an opportunity to reconsider their decision.

7. Why do you deserve this scholarship?

- I believe that I am a deserving candidate for this scholarship due to my unwavering passion for ICT, specifically Data Science. By obtaining this scholarship, I will have the opportunity to fully dedicate myself to my studies and research during my university years. I am confident that this scholarship will enable me to make significant contributions to the field of Data Science and make substantial contributions to my motherland. Besides, I am deeply committed to giving back to my community and making a difference in the lives of others. Getting this scholarship would not only support my academic journey but also enable me to continue my involvement in community service initiatives such as UEM ALERT volunteers and Emergency Relief Mission. With financial assistance, I would have more time and resources to dedicate myself to volunteering, mentorship programs, and projects that benefit underprivileged students or address pressing social issues.

8) What are your strength and weaknesses

- My greatest strength is

- My greatest weakness is that I sometimes focus too much on the details of a project and spend too much time analyzing the finer points. Let's take an example, In my form 5 year, I had a GKT(Grafik Komunikasi Teknikal) project which is one of my subjects and it worth 30 marks in the actual SPM exam. What we have to do is to complete three tasks in three months: creating a charger model using AutoCAD, and hand-drawing the floor plan and rooftop of a house. This project required a lot of patience and attention to detail, I found myself constantly revisiting and revising my work, making numerous changes to perfect every aspect of the project. I spent a large amount of time on these adjustments because I wanted to achieve the maximum marks. but Fortunately, I met the deadline and scored the full 30 marks.

Moving forward, I've been working on improving this by slowing down a bit and stepping back to look at the bigger picture. This way, I can still ensure high quality without getting so caught up in the details that it affects my productivity or the team's ability to meet deadlines.

9) What is your career goals?

Now we are entering the world of big data, so I aim to use the power of data to develop systems and solutions which can improve the way to monitor and track GHG emissions and help manage the reliability of the growing renewables sector such as solar, wind and even electric vehicles.

. By deepening my knowledge and expertise in specialized areas such as data mining and machine learning when studying abroad, I believe that I will be able to leverage advanced analytical tools and techniques to help predict energy demand fluctuations by analysing historical data on energy consumption, weather patterns, economic activity and social factors. For instance, optimising the operation of renewable energy plants, such as identifying optimal locations for wind turbines based on weather conditions and efficiency as well as adjusting the tilt of solar panels to maximize sun exposure, will undeniably reduce carbon emissions, thus minimizing environmental impacts and helping achieve the target of net zero emission by 2050. With predictive analysis, decision-makers can take proactive measures regarding Shell's investments, ensuring strategic resource allocation for more sustainable development. I hope to use advanced analytics which can enable real-time monitoring and control of the renewable energy grid which allows us to balance supply and demand, predict peak loads, and manage energy storage efficiently.

Over the next decade, I aim to pursue a Data Science degree and certifications, deepening my knowledge and expertise in specialized areas such as data mining and machine learning. My long-term goal includes leveraging advanced analytical tools and techniques to organize data brilliantly and this will enable precise interpretation of the data. For instance, I aim to develop a machine learning model to analyse financial data and help Shell by forecasting future market trends and consumer behaviour. This will lead to accurate decisions to be made or the benefits of economic growth and societal values.

10) What is Data Science?

Data Science is the combination of Mathematics, Computer Science and statistics, which also combines artificial intelligence and machine learning. Data Science is the field of study that involves extracting knowledge and insights from noisy data and then turning those insights into actions for the organization or business can take. Data science is not only about making complicated models, making awesome visualisations, writing codes, its main job is to use data to create as much impact as possible to the company or organizations. In my word, Data Scientist are problem solver and strategists, companies will give data scientist the most ambiguous and hard problems, and what data scientist have to do is to guide the company to the right direction.

Competency Based Questions

11) Can you describe a stressful situation and how you deal with it?/ Describe a situation that you find difficult and how you overcome it

I would say I experienced one of the most stressful periods of my life during my spm years. As we know, the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia is the most important examination for secondary students in Malaysia, which serves as a launchpad for our tertiary studies at renowned universities or colleges. It is an invaluable chance for us to change our life. So Yup, I personally would like to study in KYUEM, which is Kolej Yayasan UEM.

Coming from a middle-class family, my father had told me that he wouldn't be able to support my further studies financially unless I secured a full scholarship. This added immense pressure to excel academically, as you know excellent results is one of the most important criteria for all the scholarship bodies. At the same time, I had to juggle between my academic and various co-curricular activities, like attending tuition, table tennis training, and participating in competitions a lot more.

To manage this, I realized the importance of planning ahead and having a proper time management. So I did prepare a school planner on a small calendar, where I jot down all the project due dates, future obligations, and tasks. This organization helped me keep track of my studies and ensure I wasn't wasting any precious time.

I also appropriately reduced my table tennis training time as I personally think that studies was my priority that time, but I still have an exercise and like have a table tennis match with my friends to keep my body fit and healthy. Besides listening to relaxing songs and have some 'me time', which means meditation that makes my mind clear and emotionally calm, I always express my feeling to my parents and siblings as well when I am down. They are all good listener and sharing my feelings made me feel better and less burdened.

Through effective time management, emotional control, and maintaining a healthy body, I managed to keep up with my studies and ultimately achieved excellent results in my SPM, scoring 10A+ and an A. This experience taught me how to handle stressful situations effectively, and I believe these skills will enable me to tackle any challenges that come my way in the future.

12) When have you learnt a new skill or qualifications?

Actually I am a person who is so curious and like to explore things, and I am passionate about math and computer science as well. My interest towards computer science grew intensely in my heart when I was in primary two. So here is the story began, I was quite small and unfamiliar with the school compound and I just walk around the school and entered a room. I was amazed by the seniors transforming a pile of LEGO EV3 components into a complicated robot car, where it could move itself on a designated map! I was quite shocked when I saw them programming using the EV3 Programmer App so I decided to join the robotics club and trained hard with my teammates, we even stayed up late in school until 10 pm discussing strategies and ultimately, our team qualified as the Top 10 team in the National Robotics Competition. In this competition, I am able to enhance my programming abilities, creativity, problem solving skills and most importantly it strengthen my teamwork, as the competition required a group of three, and I as a leader have to lead the group and assign tasks to each members of my group, I have to work well with the my teammates in order to win the game. Due to the exposure to the programming, I learned programming language which is C myself by undertaking CS50: Introduction to Computer Science, an online course on computer science taught at Harvard University. I found that solving problems using computational and critical thinking skills gives me a sense of satisfaction. I believe that I am always prepared for self-improvement by investing myself in learning new things because these small and regular efforts count.

13) Could you please share with me a challenging situation you encountered during your leadership role

In my role as a prefect council of multimedia and assistant of the head prefect during Form 5, our team, consisting of 12 members, were asked to organize an orientation program for the new prefects. To make this event a success, we needed to have meticulous planning and come out with a clear report with a list of activities and the overall expenses. During the discussion process, one of my teammates and I had a disagreement about the direction of our program. I thought that we should add more elements of gamification into the activities with attractive presents to make our prefects more engaging and enjoyable, while my friend argued for a more traditional approach, he thought that the prefects couldn't learn with the game and it was kind of wasting money and time, he emphasized more on professional talks and sharing sessions to impart knowledge on prefect duties and responsibilities. To resolve this conflict, I suggested that we have a meeting with all our teammates to discuss our viewpoints in detail. During this meeting, we each presented our arguments and provided sources to support our perspectives. After a thorough discussion, we realized that both gamification and talks were essential to learning while having fun and not boring. We reached an agreement to incorporating both gamification and educational talks would offer a holistic learning experience for the new prefects. I took responsibility for organizing the gamification activities, ensuring they were educational yet enjoyable. Meanwhile, my teammate focused on inviting professionals to conduct talks and facilitate sharing sessions on how to be a good prefect. Additionally, to foster teamwork among the prefects, we organized a friendly competition that rewarded the most cooperative team with a significant prize through each activity. This initiative not only motivated participation but also encouraged collaboration among the new prefects. Ultimately, the compromise worked out well as our orientation program received positive feedback from both teachers and prefects. Participants appreciated the interactive and informative nature of the activities. Not only did we receive praise, but the process also strengthened our collaboration and communication skills, helping us to work more effectively together in future projects. In conclusion, organizing the prefect orientation program was a valuable learning experience that highlighted the importance of teamwork, collaboration, compromise, and effective communication. By embracing diverse perspectives and integrating various approaches, we not only achieved our goals but also enhanced our abilities to work cohesively as a team. What's more, I learnt that as human beings, everyone has his own opinions so we have to respect others by looking from different perspectives and giving them the opportunity to voice out.

14) Describe a time when you identified an error that others had overlooked. How did you address it?

- During my group chemistry presentation, we had a team of five, and I am the leader of that group. At one point, I discovered a calculation error on a slide that we were preparing for a class presentation. So the presentation is just around the corner, we have to address the error before the presentation to ensure accuracy and to avoid classmate from confusion. And this project was really important as it was the final project of our Year, and it could influence the marks of our trial exam. So I immediately brought the error to my team via Telegram, providing evidence of the discrepancy. Together as a group, we investigated and found a formula mistake in it. We quickly made changes to it and finally, by rectifying the error promptly, our presentation went well and all of our members got high marks. This experience reinforced the importance of rigorous quality check in our work process and the importance of teamwork as well

15) What has been your biggest achievement to date?

My biggest achievement to date is creating achievements for others. After my SPM, I had the opportunity to become a table tennis coach in Sibu. Having played table tennis since I was six and being a state player, transitioning into a coaching role allowed me to share my passion for the sport while making a difference in the lives of young athletes.

Initially, I was worried that I might not perform my best in coaching the young athletes. To address this, I sought advice from experienced coaches and did extensive research, including watching numerous YouTube videos on coaching strategies for children with different special needs. Time flies, my dedication paid off as the youngsters trained hard and showed remarkable improvement in their skills, stamina, and mindset.

Throughout these three months, I recorded their top moments and unbelievable rallies during training sessions and small competitions. I felt a great sense of accomplishment when those young kids watched their videos and felt like they were superstars. Recently, one of my students secured a top 5 place in Sarawak, which means he would be representing Sarawak in the national table tennis competition. This accomplishment fills me with pride and warmth, knowing I played a part in their growth and success. This coaching experience stands as my biggest achievement, and it has been truly fulfilling to see these young athletes thrive.

Besides coaching, I also had the privilege of being a personal tutor, teaching Accounting, Mathematics, and Moral Education to Form 5 students. I conducted three classes: one class for one or two students and the other two were one-on-one sessions. I focused on teaching effective test-taking strategies, including time management and question analysis. It was satisfying to see my students improve, with three of them increasing their scores by up to 20+ marks in their previous exams.

16) Describe a time when you needed to ask for feedback or advice. What help were you given and how did you respond? What did you learn about yourself? / 16) Can you provide an example of a time when you went above and beyond what was expected of you? What motivated you to take the extra step?

- A time when I needed to ask for feedback or advice can be traced back to my form 4 year when I was elected as a Prefect Council of Multimedia. So the story began when I was asked to prepare a 200-page PowerPoint for the annual speech day, which was the biggest ceremony in my school to honour students who excel academically and are actively involved in co-curricular activities. It was quite stressful at that point as the grand ceremony invited some notable figures such as YB _____ and representatives from the _____. My roles included preparing the PowerPoint, setting up the audio-visual equipment before the event started, and controlling the PA systems, computers and projectors throughout the ceremony. To make this ceremony smooth and successful, I reached out to a teacher in charge of ICT, Mr _____ and I asked for his advice on how to enhance the visual appeal and incorporate some interactive elements. Before this, I was like inserting evocative images, colourful backgrounds and meaningless stickers that made the PowerPoint end up being so complicated until Mr _____ told me that 'simplicity is the key'. He suggested that I choose a simple, clean background and use concise text with larger font sizes besides inserting some videos and photos to help my content stand out. He also guided me to control PA systems well and to have a better understanding of stage lighting and volume control. In response to his advice, I reorganized the presentation to ensure a smooth flow. Well, the work was lofty actually so I needed to commit extra hours to finish the PowerPoint and I reached out to one of my friends to assist me. We brainstormed ideas to maintain audience engagement and carry out the assigned tasks. Ultimately, everything went smoothly, the sound systems and PA systems were well-controlled and the event ended with a huge success. Through this experience, I learned that asking for help and feedback is not a sign of weakness but rather a strength that can lead to better outcomes. Since then, I have been the first one who always stands out and asks questions whether in class or any other activities. Besides learning computer skills and communication skills, I discovered my capacity to handle significant responsibilities under pressure and to be resilient, embracing difficulties and new challenges that come to me in life. My journey as the Prefect Council of Multimedia was not merely about mastering technical skills but also supporting my personal growth and leadership development. It taught me that success is not achieved in isolation but through collaboration, resilience, and a dedicated commitment to learning and improvement. I am sure that I am always prepared for self-improvement by investing myself in learning new things because these small and regular efforts count. Thank You.

17) Tell me about a time that you made a decision and then changed your mind.

(GKT/BIO)

The time that I made a decision is During my Form 4 year, I faced a significant decision regarding my choice of studies between Grafik Komunikasi Teknikal (GKT) and Biology. Since I was young, I would say it is an understatement that all the elders would talk about the advantages of being a doctor, like earning a lot of money. My parents also hoped that one of their children could become a doctor, but at the same time, they gave me the freedom to choose my path.

Initially, I was influenced by these talks and decided to choose Biology, even though I had no interest in the subject. However, I had a strong interest in engineering drawing, which involves creativity and designing floor plans and rooftops. This was fascinating to me. After some reflection, I decided to follow my heart and chose GKT.

The beginning was challenging as I had no prior experience, and my initial drawings were often inaccurate. However, practice makes perfect. I even practiced before the lesson started in the GKT room, where a supportive teacher would come early to help us. Through hard work and determination, I improved significantly and eventually achieved an A+ in the subject.

This experience taught me the importance of following my passion and interests. It also reinforced the value of perseverance and seeking support when needed. I am grateful for making the decision to follow my heart, as it not only led to academic success but also personal fulfillment.

18) Describe a time when you have juggle with different commitments and how you manage them

- One significant time when I had to juggle different commitments was during my Form 5 year. I was serving as the assistant of head prefect, and our team of twelve had to conduct interview sessions for juniors to select the next batch of prefects. Unfortunately, the interview day coincided with my table tennis competition for the SUKMA selection, and the Trial 1 exams were just around the corner.

To manage these conflicting priorities, I first spoke to the teacher in charge about my absence on the interview day and suggested ways I could still contribute to my team. We held a quick meeting with all of our team members, and I suggested I could prepare the list of QR codes for each prefect to check their attendance. This was a quite lofty workload, so I had to commit extra hours at night to complete it on time.

While on the other hand, I continued my table tennis training without neglecting my studies, as academics was my priority. I made sure to finish my daily homework before heading to training. During those few weeks, I often burned the midnight oil to do revision and ensure that I was well-prepared for the trial exams.

In the end, the interview sessions went smoothly, and I achieved excellent results in my trial exams. Although I only secured 9th place in the competition and did not qualify as a SUKMA player, this experience taught me valuable lessons in time management, prioritization, and teamwork. It enhanced my ability to balance multiple responsibilities effectively and achieve positive outcomes in all areas.

19) tell about you giving influence towards a committee - how you make your rapport (good relationships in group - understand each other & communicate well)

During my time as an assistant head prefect, I encountered a junior prefect who always appeared unhappy and disengaged while performing his duties. Initially, I addressed the issue directly by giving him a warning, but he didn't respond to it, and his behavior continued. I suspected there was something more going on, so I took a step to understand the root cause.

I approached his friends and discovered that he was struggling with depression. Realizing that scolding him wouldn't be effective, I decided to change my approach. I began by reaching out to him in a more personal manner. Although he was initially shy and avoided me, I persisted in trying to build a friendly relationship with him.

I used Instagram to start casual conversations, aiming to be more of a friend instead of an authority figure. My optimistic and conversational approach seemed to have a positive impact on him. He eventually opened up about feeling isolated at school and voiced out that he didn't have many friends.

By having regular contact and offering support, he became more optimistic and engaged during his duties. And started showing more enthusiasm and commitment. This experience taught me the importance of empathy and understanding in leadership, showing that addressing underlying issues can lead to positive change. Yup of course, we still get in touch with each other now, and he just mentioned that he went on a trip to Labuan last week, So it is a really uplifting and thrilling moment to see him be more happy.

20) Describe a time when you came up with a creative solution to a problem or improved a progress. What was the impact?

Situation: As an assistant of the head prefect at my school, I noticed that our monthly meetings were often chaotic and unproductive. There was no clear agenda, and we frequently ran out of time before addressing all necessary issues, which led to inefficiencies and a lack of coordination in our activities.

Task: My task was to find a way to make our meetings more efficient and ensure that all important topics were covered.

Action: I suggest implementing a structured agenda for our meetings. First, I gathered input from all our team members beforehand to identify recurring issues and topics that needed regular discussion. Then, I created a standardized agenda template that included time slots for each topic, a segment for new business, and a designated time for Q&A. To ensure everyone was prepared, I distributed the agenda a few days before each meeting and asked members to submit any additional topics in advance.

Result: The new meeting structure had a significant impact. Meetings became more organized, and we were able to cover all necessary topics within the allotted time. My teammates appreciated the clear agenda and felt more engaged and prepared for discussions. As a result, our decisions were more informed, and we implemented initiatives more smoothly. This had successfully boosted the overall effectiveness and reputation of the Prefectorial Board within the school.