1. Question 1: Please tell us about yourself. Try to give us a sense of your environment, background, interests and sources of inspiration (500 word max).

I am the last child of an Indonesian family, I’m Gisella Madeline Henrianto. Family are people who will continue to support me in achieving something. My father is a private employee and my mother is a housewife. They both enjoy what they do. I learn the value of time, hard work and dedication from them.

I am the last child of three siblings. Being the youngest doesn't always mean getting what I want. My parents taught me that nothing comes easy. I have to reach for something to get something. It makes me value it more and not take it for granted.

I am studying in one of the best private school in central Jakarta and one of the girls school. I am in 11th grade. I feel proud to be part of this community. I am very interested in biology and chemistry, especially when I have to work in the lab. Doing experiments is what I'm excited about. I found it fascinating.

Apart from studying, I am good at music. I am a member of a marching band organization. I am the section leader and also the head staff of logistics. I play the baritone and mellophone. Besides that, I have a high curiosity so I also try to learn the saxophone.

I am a dedicated and committed person. If I decide to do something, I will give my 100 percent and give my best even if I have to sacrifice something else. I am an adventurer person and

like to experience new things. Learning new things is one thing that makes me excited. My parents also support me to do many things. It was they who advised me to explore many things.

My parents are friends to me. They are the ones who listen to my stories and they teach me to always work hard and nothing is in vain. They are what made me a confident person and able to voice my opinion.

Hi Gisella,

Thank you for your short essay – you’ve described your surroundings and the people and activities that shape you well in this answer. A good way to strengthen this is to show us instead of telling. How do your parents teach you that nothing comes easy? How does being the section leader of the marching band impact you and your relationships with the other members? What do you learn from your friends? Giving examples and stories and tying them to your main point (they taught me nothing comes easy, having a support system is everything, etc) will make your answer more memorable.

C.G.

Hi Gisella!

I agree with Caroline. One way you can structure this essay to be more engaging and convincing is to plan outwards.

First, what is the one characteristic/trait that you want the reader to know about you from this essay? From this draft, I can see your **dedication and persistence** coming up again and again, so maybe you want to focus on that.

Now that you know this one thing, you want to **show** this trait through multiple ways. Look at the prompt – it tells you what areas you can refer to. Is there an incident with your family/school/other areas that pushed you to demonstrate your dedication to achieve something? Did your family show you how to be persistent? Tell us these stories.

Last, the conclusion. So, what kind of person are you? What are your goals and interests? How have you **dedicated** yourself to pursuing these things?

Good luck with your revision!

Chiara

1. Question 2: Describe a time when you faced a challenge. How did you overcome it and what have you learned from it? (300 word max).

It was when I was in grade 7 when I just graduated from elementary school. At that time I had to adapt to a new school at the same time as I joined the marching band organization. The organization is a semi-military organization so when I make the slightest mistake I have to undergo punishment like pushups. At that time it was hard for me because marching band practice was held 3 times a week, namely Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. Even Sunday finishes practice at 9 pm. I got home at 10 pm with a condition that is certainly tiring and I still have to do my homework and study for tests on Monday. I struggle with time management and am exhausted from staying up late every Sunday. My sleep schedule was a mess. I've been thinking about quitting. I feel inadequate. But when I think back, I ask myself. Can all problems be solved by quitting? When I see friends of my age who can survive, it inspires me that I can too. from the beginning I have committed myself so I said that I must carry out what I have committed. After that, I continued to do what must be lived in a marching band and went through it no matter how hard it was. I just need to think that all the hard things that we have to go through must have an end and all the things we go through have meaning.

Hi Gisella,

This short answer can be strengthened if you emphasize exactly how you overcame this struggle. Was it your determined mindset? Did you still face troubles even with this new driving force? Was there hesitation of persevering? Really take us through the journey until you are at the place you want to be at and talk about what you learned from it too.

C.G.

1. Question 3: What makes you a good teammate? (100 words max).

Good teammates must be able to communicate, committed, reliable, disciplined and active. Communication is one of the keys in a teamwork. I'm not afraid to communicate things related to the tasks that I do or those that are done by other teammate. I am also disciplined towards deadlines that have been determined and can be relied on. I don't want to disappoint or cause my group to be affected because because I missed the deadline. I am also open to criticism so I always ask for opinions from other teammates about my work so I can improve it.

Hi Gisella,

Again, I think it would be beneficial to provide some examples and also describe how being able to communicate, commit, be reliable, and disciplined has helped team relations.

C.G.

1. Question 4: What makes a good teaching experience? Describe qualities of a good teacher and a good student. Inspiration can be drawn from possibly a great teacher or coach you’ve had in school, a time when you taught someone something, or a time when a friend taught you something (200 words max).