**3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time? (350 words)**

I play three instruments... and a half: piano, guitar, and two different saxophones - tenor and soprano. I don’t usually regard them as two different instruments; they have the same parts, same fingering, and same music. However, I don’t see them as the same instrument either.

Contrasting my 16-inch soprano, my tenor is 39 inches long. Like a go-cart and a real car, switching between two objects of different sizes offer a much greater challenge than expected. Being 5’1, I stumbled over attempting to pick up the instrument for the first time, but I was adamant to be able to switch between the brightness of the current baby saxophone to the deep, rich sound of the tenor. With my first blow (or more accurately, my first squeak), it was clear that my soprano’s tight embouchure meant this transition was going to be difficult.

Therefore, I came up with a strategy. While it may sound silly to learn a skill through research, my Spotify playlist featuring my personal favourite, Count Basie’s Orchestra, was particularly useful to show me the correct tone and timbre of a ‘proper’ tenor. Then, the dreaded scales. The notorious repetition of one note after the other, each a tone apart, up and down the keys. While my soprano accommodated my small fingers, the tenor keys were almost 2 inches apart. Every day, I dedicated 10 minutes to progressing my major and minor, blues and chromatic scales from crochets to semiquavers. Lastly, the low notes. The 39 inch body meant that I needed to blow a lot more air to project a single note compared to my soprano. To play anything below a D, I had to embrace my double chin and open up my embouchure.

Within 3 months of following these steps, I can now easily pick up my tenor without stumbling, and embrace its warm sound without any squeaks. I can now confidently switch between my soprano and my tenor sax— my 16-inch baby sax accompanies me during my solo performances, while my giant tenor leads as tenor 1 in my school’s big band.

This is great Rachinta!

I was actually imagining you with the 2 saxophones as I read.

You were able to descriptively share how you’ve developed your talent very well.

I do think though you could elaborate just a little bit more on how you demonstrated your talent over time. I think it would be good if you could add 1 or 2 details to your solo performances.

All the best!