Fill in with correct tense.

Becoming a doctor or a lawyer \_\_\_\_(be) never the only path to success. Taking the GCEAL curriculum \_\_\_\_(be) not the sole method of guaranteeing yourself a spot at the world’s top universities. A-School has never focused on being a factory shaping batches and batches of doctors, which is what I believe the essence of this school lies in. A-school \_\_\_\_(do) not conform to the standards \_\_\_\_(lay) down by our society, it gives us space to \_\_\_\_\_(achieve) what is possible beyond said standards.

A part of learning is about grasping the knowledge on written material, but there \_\_\_\_\_(exist) a more important part of learning in \_\_\_\_\_\_(become) a better person. In A-School, I was taught, not by teachers, but by the atmosphere, to be proactive, to not be afraid of taking up new activities and opportunities. From joining that extra service and leadership team to applying for UCAS even when you intend to study locally, we should not \_\_\_\_\_(hesitate) to explore them. At worst, you get nothing out of it, but that is fine, because more importantly you did not lose anything. Sometimes, new opportunities lead you to places you could only \_\_\_\_\_(have dream) of, and that is when you \_\_\_\_\_(are) glad that you \_\_\_\_\_(make) that decision back then.

People around me have said that I win a lot, but there is more to \_\_\_\_\_ (learn) from defeats. The benefits of learning how to cope with success \_\_\_\_\_(be) negligible compared to that with failure. I failed a lot. I \_\_\_\_(do not win) every single mathematics contest, nor \_\_\_\_(do) I \_\_\_\_(win) the best award at all the science fairs I was a part of. There is no winning everything, and there is no harm in telling others you have lost. Sometimes, even being in the competition itself **is** an achievement.

Our time at A-School is like \_\_\_\_(sail) on the seas alone and trying to \_\_\_\_(find) an island to build our empire upon. If you do not \_\_\_\_(row) in any direction, you will not get anywhere. If you \_\_\_\_\_(be) afraid that rowing in a certain direction does not get you to your desired destination, you \_\_\_\_\_(will) not make the decision to row in the first place. Of course, everything is massively \_\_\_\_\_\_(simplify) when you have a map and a compass in hand. That is our teachers, the backbone of everyone’s success here. I looked at the map and travelled island to island, seeking the one best suited for my empire, and I guess it \_\_\_\_\_(work) out.