

S.K.H. St. Simon's Lui Ming Choi Secondary School
English Language – Writing a Statement for University Application

Outline

Personal statement of Mr. David Chan

- A) **Brief self-introduction**
(40 words)
- B) **Interests in (subject)**
(about 150 words)
- C) **Experience in extra-curricular activities**
(about 200 words → Strengths and Weaknesses)
- D) **Conclusion**
(about 80 words)

Personal statement of (Name)

A) **Brief self-introduction**

My name is _____. I am a Form six student and I have done my schooling at S.K.H. St. Simon's Lui Ming Choi Secondary School. For all these six years, I have learnt and gained a lot which has shaped me what I am now.

B) **Interests in (subject)**

- Say *why* you are interested in the subject
 - Personality
 - Experience
 - A teacher who has inspired you
 - A friend who has a similar path

E.g. 1 – Personality

Statement for **Mathematics**

When asked why I like Mathematics, I realized that it is all down to my personality. Being a person who loves thinking, I enjoy the challenges of questions with definite answers. Having said that my creativity gives rise to my acceptance of new ideas and my positive mind results in my wish to succeed. This is why I believe my personality suits the subjects of Mathematics.

E.g. 2 – Personality

Statement for **Nursing**

I want to be a nurse to use all of the best parts of my personality. I want the challenges that come with the job as a nurse: always learning and developing better methods of care. Also, I am a caring person. The way one nurse treats her patient stays with that patient for years and I want to be a nurse who will be remembered as one who cared, worked hard and did her best.

E.g. 3 – Experience

Statement for **Geography**

My interest in Geography began when I visited an exhibition on maps from the 1400s up to the present day. The maps show the progress of smaller kingdoms and country boundaries into China that we know today. This interests me a lot because it shows how our country has stemmed from different cultures. This is also one of the main reasons why I am interested in Geography.

E.g. 4 – Experience

Statement for **Biology**

Being born in a family with a large number of members working in Biology, I have been constantly surrounded and inspired by ideas and talk about the subject. Slowly, I have become more and more interested in their talk. Indeed, I have been lucky because it has been easy for me to ask questions. As a result, the more I know about Biology through my family members, the more I feel that this is the subject that I should study in university.

E.g. 5 – Experience

Statement for **Culinary Studies** (cooking)

I like to learn new skills. I like to eat a lot. Yet, my parents are not always home because they have to work. So, I ask my grandmother to teach me how to cook. At first, my grandmother only taught me how to cook instant noodles because that was easy. However, I found out that I wanted to eat rice more. So, I asked her how to cook rice later on. My grandmother slowly taught me how to cook other dishes too, such as chicken wings, sausages and so on. It has developed my interest in cooking. With this strength and my interest in cooking, I believe I can get better cooking skills after taking this course.

E.g. 6 – Experience

Statement for **Biology**

When I studied Biology in senior secondary level, I was assigned to do a project on ‘biodiversity’. I spent about four months in preparation and finally, my work was highly appreciated by the teacher. The preparatory work was by no means easy, I read a lot about the issue, I studied proposals and critiques as solutions of the threats, I organized all these facts and supplemented them with appealing graphics. The project allowed me to study biotechnology from various aspects. I spent much more than required on this project because I found my work meaningful. The experience fuels my determination to study Biology-related disciplines in my tertiary education. Through researches and in-depth study, I hope that I can contribute to creation of a better environment for us, and also for other species.

E.g. 7 – Experience

Statement for **Biology**

I still remember having the Integrated Science lessons when I was a S.1 student. It is my first time to approach science and discover my interest in science. Enjoying each lesson of Integrated Science, I am determined to take _____ as one of my electives in the senior forms. By going over the experiments I have done and the theories such as particle theory and motion theory, I started to believe that science is different from other subjects such as Chinese and English. It trains our logical and critical thinking and it gives us some reasons behind all the phenomena of nature. Science is such a mysterious and challenging subject that I have ever learnt. As a student of Chemistry and Biology, I hope I can use the knowledge I have learnt to discover more and more wonderful theories and rare species of animals and plants so as to help our society get more improvements and understandings about the nature. My mission is to investigate useful materials from biology or chemistry in order to raise the society’s living standard. Another crucial mission for me is to protect the natural environment so as to keep the ecosystem well and protect the wildlife.

E.g. 8 – Experience

Statement for **Art**

I like arts and design; working in a field that is related to them was my hope since I was young.

In the past three years of NSS study, I have been trained to have an analytical and logical mind through science subjects as well as doing everything cautiously. On the other hand, I have studied History and Design, and I started to gain interest in arts stream as well.

Among the subjects in arts stream, I like design the most. To be a designer, I know I have to be creative. Besides, reading some books related to design, I started to think creatively whenever I am going to solve my problems or to make a product. A designer has to take care of the needs of customers. I also served as a big sister to teach the junior form students and served in the voluntary group, which trained me to be patient.

Statement for English

Because of my teacher, I have become more interested in the subject of English. From her, I know that English is a fun subject to learn. I feel inspired by her experience as she told me her story about her own studies and future job opportunities. I especially like the fact that students doing English can read a lot of different books. I also admire her success because she has found her interests and she has worked hard to do well. I would very much like to be like her in the future. Therefore, I would like to follow her footsteps and become a student of English.



If you still find it hard to write this paragraph, you may think about the following questions before you start writing it.

Questions to think about before you write this paragraph:

1. What do you want to be in the future?
2. Why do you want to do that?
- 2a. Give example or your personal experience (if possible)
3. If you want to do that, what education background do you need?



Example

(1) I would like to be a social worker in the future as (2) I am a person who likes to help people solve problems. (2a) I remember when I was in F.2, I felt really stressed since I could not adapt to the huge studying pressure. I couldn't sleep for almost a month and I didn't know what to do. Luckily, with the help of the class teacher, I was suggested to talk to the social worker in my school. After talking to him, he gave me encouragement and support. I felt way better after 1 month and I've made up my mind that I would like to be a social worker in the future, helping people to solve their problems. (3) In order to become a professional social worker, I need to enrich myself of related knowledge. Therefore, I would like to further my studies of this field in a post-secondary institution so as to realize my dream. (156 words)

Write your preference here in the space provided below. (around 150 words)

C) **Experience in extra-curricular activities 課外活動 (→ strengths and weaknesses)**

- Explain your strengths (e.g. 1 – 6) and weaknesses (e.g. 7 – 8)
 - What extra-curricular activities have you joined/ organized over the years
 - How do these experiences contribute to your personal growth (strengths and weaknesses)
 - What is unusual about you
 - What leadership roles you have taken

→ Strengths (about 120 words) + Weaknesses (about 80 words) **OR** Strengths (about 200 words)

E.g. 1 (Chairperson of the Current Affairs Club / Secretary of the English Club)

My life in secondary school is heavily involved in extra-curricular activities. (在我的中學生活中，我參加了很多課外活動) Being in charge of the **Current Affairs Club** (時事學會), I acquired important skills in **organizing activities** (組織活動). I also **gain** much **invaluable experience** (取得寶貴經驗) in **dealing with adversities** (面對逆境) and **making final decisions** (作最後決定). Besides, as the **Secretary** (文書) of **English Club**, I learnt **how to work as a team** (如何以一組人去工作) and communicate with others to solve problems.

E.g. 2 (Member of the School Choir / play chess / swimming / riding bicycle)

To strike a balance between study and play (在工作與玩樂中取個平衡), I love singing and I was a member of **the School Choir**(合唱團) in junior forms. Taking part in Hong Kong Schools Music Festival **equipped me with more confidence** (取得自信). Besides, I like playing **chess** (國際象棋) which helps me **develop a logical mind** (發展一個有邏輯思維). Swimming and riding bicycles are also my hobbies. I will **definitely seize the opportunities** (一定找緊機會) to **take part in**(參加) different extra-curricular activities so as to learn outside the classroom.

E.g. 3 (Volunteer work)

I have taken part in a lot of **volunteer work** (義工工作). For example, I have been working for ABC Association. It aims at helping local families which cannot make good **living** (生計). My job involved **extensive work on computers** (很多時用電腦工作), including **word processing** (打字) and **handling documents** (處理文件). I have learnt to **work independently** (獨立工作) and to **importance of being very careful and serious at work** (知道小心和認真工作的重要性). I enjoyed these experiences a lot because not only can help people in need, but I can also get something out of the work for my future development.

Visiting the elderly home

E.g. 4 (Committee member of the Student Union)

Besides my academic studies, I have taken up a number of leadership roles at school. For example, I am a committee member of the Student Union at school. From this experience, I have learnt to work with other people in different positions. I **have become more aware** (留意到) that different people have different ways of thinking when trying to solve a problem. I know this because we have been trying to work on some **issues** (問題) with the School's management. During our meetings, I have learnt to **put myself into other's shoes** (把自己代入別人的處境) and **think from their perspectives** (從他人角度去想). This experience will be very valuable and useful in my future.

E.g. 5 (Member of the Football Team) → ball teams, e.g. basketball, volleyball, badminton

Although I am not the best student in my studies, I have tried hard to develop in an **all-round** (全面的) **manner** (禮儀.) I have joined the Football Team for all my years at school. I **value** (重視) this experience a lot because I have developed good **relationships** (關係) with my teammates and we have worked hard to **achieve our goals** (達到目標) every year. We have learnt to set an **achievable target** (可達到的目標) for ourselves, and we have been training hard to hit the target. Every year, we gather and **reflect** (認真思考) on the success and failure so that we can do better next year. I believe this cycle of planning, **implementation** (執行) and **evaluation** (評估) is a key to success in every **aspect** (方面) in life. I am glad that I have gained such experience in the Football Team.

E.g. 6 (Social Service Group and School Choir) (**How to be a member in clubs**)

I am interested in **participating in** (參加) such other activities as the **Social Service Group** (義工隊) and the School Choir. In these groups, I usually took the role of **being a loyal** (忠心) **and reliable** (可靠) **team member** (隊員). For example, I have **considerable experiences** (不少的經驗) in **helping committee members** (幫助委員) of the **former group** (前者[指義工隊]) **in planning activities** (計劃活動). I was usually invited to **give suggestions** (給予意見) and asked to live up to the plan after the leaders had made decisions. I believe that my **deployment** (能發揮效用) in the various services and activities was **due to my trustworthiness** (因為我的可靠性) and the fact that I **could act independently** (獨立工作), **concentrate on my tasks very well** (集中精神做我的工作) and **finish my job efficiently** (有效率地完成我的工作).

E.g. 7 (How to transform your weakness into strength)

My key weakness is my English language. I have **realized** (發覺) that my **language skills may not be good enough** (語文能力不夠好) to allow me to communicate effectively with others, especially when writing this statement. Having said that, I am now **eager to improve myself** (努力去改善自己) so that **this limitation is not going to have a negative impact on me forever** (這不會做成負面影響). I have already started to develop a reading habit, and try to **immerse myself in an English environment** (把自己浸淫在英語的環境) I wish I had worked harder on this subject, but I am confident that I will **improve hugely** (有很大的進步). **I am determined to strive for success** (決心尋找成功) now.

E.g. 8 (How to transform your weakness into strength)

I am **not strong in leadership**. (不太有領導能力). I have joined different courses to try to improve it. I finally **found myself not a good leader** (覺得自己不是一個好領導者). Rather, I found myself **a good team player** (是一個有團隊精神的人). I have learned to be **considerate** (體貼的) and **responsible** (有責任感). Therefore, I tried to attend Chemistry Olympiad as a partnership team. I am well **acquired** (獲取) with the **sense of cooperation** (與人合作的精神) and being responsible.

Project works were once my **weakest field** (最弱的一環) of work. In my junior form, I always get a low grade in projects. **However**, being a drama club **committee member** (委員) in S.4 enabled me to **learn more skills in doing projects** (學懂做 project 的技巧), as well as **gaining confidence** (取得自信) with my own work. And this would help me in any **tertiary studies** (大學科程), which require projects rather than homework.

Post you held	Period	Duties	What have you learnt / gained?
(chairperson / vice-chairperson / secretary / treasurer / activity convenor / committee member / captain / vice-captain / prefect / mentor / member of the Class Committee / monitor / monitress / IT prefect)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● organize/ hold activities ● plan activities ● take care of the F.1 students ● keep financial record of the Club ● write minutes for the club ● lead the team during adversities ● join activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● develop curiosity ● acquire (learn) skills (organization/communication) ● gain experience in dealing with adversities and make final decisions ● develop a sense of responsibility / cooperation / logical mind ● gain / boost up confidence

Post you held	Period	Duties	What have you learnt / gained?
e.g. prefect	F.3 - 5	Check school uniform, on duty during recess time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● be fair to everyone ● set a good example to the others
e.g. captain of the Yellow House	F.5	hold the orientation day, organize different types of activities, e.g. inter-house singing contest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● how to organize events (good organization skills) ● how to communicate with others effectively (communication skills) ● be more confident

Example

I participated in different kinds of extra-curricular activities. I was selected as the monitress from F.4 to F.6. I was responsible to remind teachers to write down their teaching records and give homework book to classmates. So, I have learnt to **read teachers' and students' needs** (知道老師與同學的需要) and help them **actively** (主動). Also, I was a prefect from F.3 to F.5. I need to check students' uniform and see if they have worn the uniform properly. I have learnt to look neat and tidy every day so that I could present myself as a good model to my schoolmates and I've also learnt to be fair to everyone. Moreover, I was selected as the house captain of the Yellow House. I needed to organize different types of activities and promote to others. I have learnt how to organize events and I have also gained invaluable experience in dealing with adversities.

Now, it's your turn!!!

Post you held	Period	Duties	What have you learnt / gained?



Write your experience in extra-curricular activities in the space provided below. (around 180 words)

Other useful vocabulary:

Strengths

action-oriented (實幹型) / attentive / detail-oriented (細心) / collaborative (合作的) / committed (盡忠的) / creative (有創意的) / determined (堅決的) / disciplined (守紀律的) / empathetic (有同情心的) / enthusiastic/passionate (熱心的) / flexible/versatile (多種用途的) / honest (誠實的) / patient (有耐性的) / respectful (尊重的) / polite (有禮) / strong language/computer ability (好的語文/電腦能力)

Weaknesses

disorganized (組織不善的) / self-critical/sensitive (敏感的) / perfectionism (完美主意) / shy (害羞) / not adept at public speaking (不善於演講) / limited experience in a non-essential skill (在某非重要的技巧上缺乏經驗) / take on too much responsibility (擔上太多責任/職務) / not detail-oriented (不夠細心) / too detail-oriented (太仔細) / not comfortable taking risks (不喜歡承擔風險) / too focused (太專注) / lack of focus (不夠專注) / lack confidence (缺乏信心)

D) Conclusion

- Give a summary of your interest and your strength related to the field you want to study at
- Detail your future plan
 - ✧ What you want to do after the course
 - ✧ How you plan to achieve your wish

Example 1

Life has been so fruitful(富饒的)in the past few years. There have been learning opportunities and challenges(挑戰)in my study and other learning experiences. Nevertheless(儘管如此), I am sure that the attributes(特質), including a sense of responsibility(負責), willingness to collaborate(合作) with people, and perseverance(堅持不懈)I demonstrated and developed through them have laid(打基礎) the solid foundation(基礎)for my pursuit (追求)in further study and career aspirations(志向). I am looking forward to a new journey of navigation(航行).

Example 2

I enjoy exploring(探索)more advanced(高階的)and professional knowledge in different areas. I strongly believe the above-mentioned experiences and characteristics(特徵) can really benefit me. I hope all this evidence(證據) can really prove my capability(能力) and enthusiasm(熱情) for my further studies in the tertiary education(高等教育).

Example 3

The tertiary education is my best choice to further improve myself and surely will further develop my interpersonal (人際的) skills and encourage me to pursue(追求) my interests. I also believe that I have been well-prepared for the life ahead.

Example 4

With all these activities I have participated, I am now becoming more independent (獨立的)and mature(成熟的). I am able to make decision in critical time(關鍵時刻) and work effectively(有成效地). Moreover, I have acquired(獲得) valuable leadership skills and it could surely help me in the future. I believe that university education is not really about job training. It helps us develop intellectual (智力的) ability and expand(擴大) our knowledge base. I hope that I can be one of the candidates you find suitable for your university.

Example 5

I am highly aware of (了解) the condition of our society(社會) and I hope that one day, I can make use of my talents(天賦) to improve our quality of life of the society. Last but not least, I believe the character traits (特點) I mentioned above can prove that I am a suitable candidate to be admitted to (允許…加入) university and can have the ability to realize (使成真)my dream.