

## ENGLISH

Michelle Xin

Methodist Ladies'  
College

Study Score = 50



**The thing I liked best about English was...** creating the connections between the texts I was studying and the broader picture; learning about myself and the world around me in the process.

**The best advice I can give students about English is...** to actively seek feedback for your writing. It is important that your writing process includes feedback from others as this is key to your improvement. Without this guidance, you will find yourself repeating the same mistakes and plateauing in terms of your skill level. It can be difficult to confront feedback at first, but analogous to stepping into a cold shower: it will be worth the leap of faith at the end.

**The best advice I got from my English teacher was...** to just start writing – you cannot wait for the stars and planets to align and for you to suddenly write a perfect piece one day.

**One month before the final English exam, I...** found myself in a slump where it was difficult for me to find motivation to complete practice exams. I struggled with having confidence in my own writing and yet continued to push myself to write practice essays that were of mediocre quality. This experience helped me realise that my mindset significantly impacted the writing that I could produce. In fact, what eventually helped me out of my slump was for me to shift my focus from writing a high-scoring essay to simply an essay I was happy with in a qualitative sense.

**One week before the final English exam, I...** wrote very few practice essays. I completed one timed trial exam but otherwise spent my time revising my ideas, quotations and examples, rereading sections of my texts and unpacking topics instead.

**On English exam day, I prepared myself by...** focusing on the present moment and acknowledging that I had done all that I could in the lead up to the English exam. I checked that I had more than 10 pens with me for reassurance (even though I only ended up using one during the exam) and reminded myself that I was ready for the exam.

**After the English exam, I...** tried not to overthink things. I accepted that thinking "What if I did this?" or "I should

have written about that" was futile and that I had tried my best in the time I had to complete the exam.

**The best exam advice I received was...** to believe in myself. It sounds so simple retrospectively but it is crucial that you do have faith in yourself, your abilities and the hard work you have put in throughout the year. It can be extremely easy to doubt yourself and only see flaws in your writing but remember that your pieces are also exemplifying your strengths to the assessors. You have every right to believe in yourself and the writing that you produce.

**I did not work a part-time job during Year 12 because...** I wanted to focus on my studies.

*It's easy to only see flaws in your writing, but remember your pieces also exemplify your strengths.*