ARIS ACADEMY · NSW SELECTIVE TEST PRACTICE

Writing

Centre sample · 2 timed tasks with marking guidance

The NSW Selective Test gives students one writing task in 30 minutes. This sample contains two practice tasks from Aris practice materials, one narrative and one persuasive, so you can see both styles. Marking guidance for tutors is at the back.

TASK 1 · NARRATIVE

The Unique Superhero

"Create a story about a superhero who has an unusual power that no one has ever heard of before. Describe how they discovered their power and how they use it to help others."

Time: 30 minutes · **Aris practice guide:** 250 to 350 words · **Audience:** your classmates and teacher

PLANNING SPACE

TASK 2 · PERSUASIVE

Calculator Debate

"Write a persuasive piece arguing for OR against the following statement: 'Students should be allowed to use calculators in all mathematics exams.' Use clear reasons and examples to support your position."

Time: 30 minutes · **Aris practice guide:** 200 to 300 words · **Audience:** school principal and teachers

PLANNING SPACE

Marking guidance (for tutors)

Writing is open-ended: there is no single correct answer. These are Aris teaching suggestions, not an official marking rubric. The word ranges are optional practice targets.

Task 1: The Unique Superhero (narrative)

250 to 350 words · audience: classmates and teacher

- A clear shape: orientation, complication, resolution. The unusual power should drive the plot, not sit in a list of powers.
- A discovery scene with specific sensory detail (what the character saw, heard and felt), not a summary.
- Paragraphing that matches the shape, consistent tense, and varied sentence openings.
- An ending that links back to the opening image or idea.

Revision prompts: retelling a film plot, dialogue with no purpose, a rushed one-line ending.

Task 2: Calculator Debate (persuasive)

200 to 300 words · audience: principal and teachers

- A clear position supported throughout. A qualified position can work if its conditions are explained and it addresses the word "all".
- Two or three reasons, each backed by a concrete example a principal would recognise.
- One paragraph that fairly states the other side and answers it.
- A formal but natural tone for the audience, ending in a direct request or recommendation.

Revision prompts: reasons with no examples, an unsuitable tone, a new argument in the conclusion.

About Aris practice papers: Full papers cover Thinking Skills, Reading, Mathematical Reasoning and Writing in exam format, each with a complete answer section. Email contact@aris-academy.com for the other free samples and licence details.