Q1- Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time.

ANS-If I look back, there are several occasions when I had to don the role of a leader. The one I remember most vividly is when I started playing basketball in the middle school. Basketball was the first team sport I played. Earlier, I used to participate in individual athletic events only, like the 100 and 200 meter race.

There is one match that I particularly remember in which I played the role of a leader for my team. It was an interschool match that we necessarily had to win to proceed further in the tournament as we had already lost two initial matches. During the first quarter of the match, the captain of our team suffered an injury and was unable to continue with the match, so our coach declared me as a captain. Before the beginning of the second quarter my team had totally shed their confidence levels as one of our main player was injured and moreover we were lagging behind in the match scores. At that point of the match I felt that it was a golden chance for me to showcase my leadership skills and with group efforts make my team win. I motivated my teammates, changed our strategy and just asked them to give their best. In this way with united team efforts we won the match and this victory boosted my confidence as a captain a lot. After that I was the captain of my team for rest of the matches also.

From this opportunity of being a captain I obtained a lot of vital qualities of a leader such as I have significantly improved my communication skills, learnt to appreciate constructive criticism and to be a good planner, a better listener and have faith in other teammates. All in all, I have developed a lot of qualities of a leader from these experiences but still there are many more things that I need to learn to demonstrate myself as a good leader.

Q2-What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time.

ANS- Everyone has a unique trait and talented side. For me, it’s that I am good at different sports. Like every other child, I used to play just for fun. I never took sports seriously never intended to participate in any sort of competition. It was in grade 4 that my sports teacher directed my parents to encourage me to participate in athletics. I got selected for 100 meter and 200 meter races to represent my school in an inter-school sports competition. To my own surprise, I managed to win two gold medals in both races. This became a source of motivation for me and the beginning of my sports journey. I also played basketball and volleyball in our school team during the high school years. In grades 9thand 10th, I was awarded with the title of best athlete in girls under 16 for two consecutive years.

Also in grade 9th, I got the opportunity to participate in district games and represent my school in 400meter race and long jump. 400 meter race was a big challenge for me as I never took part in this event before. I had to train hard for it. In the school I used to practice for two hours and after school in the evening I again used to practice in the local stadium of my town along with my coach. During my practice sessions I faced a lot of difficulties as I live in a small city where the sports stadium is not well equipped and the track is also not well maintained. But with my hard work and my coach’s guidance I managed a silver medal in that event. Taking part in sports significantly improved my time management skills as I learnt to manage studies and sports at the same time and give my best in both the fields.

Participating in such events helped me in my overall development and I really look forward to continue them in future as well.

Q3-What have you done to make your school or your community a better place.(maximum 350 words)

ANS- I had never thought that I could change someone’s life on a drastic level until that fateful day in a camp for NSS, a social service organization. I was part of a the usual activities and at the end of each day, our teachers took us to a village situated a few kilometers away from my school where we visited a local school, in which students from economically weaker sections of the society came to learn and we got the opportunity to teach these young but bright students. On the last day, while I was teaching, I noticed a new girl in my class. I noted that throughout the class, she sat silently, not responding or taking part in any activity. When the class ended, her mother came to pick her. Curious as I was about her, I went ahead and talked to her who told me the reason why her daughter Simran was always silent: she was hearing impaired and could not speak. She also told me that they could not get her cured due to their financial condition.

I had ever appreciated my own power of hearing till this moment. And to have a cure and solution but unable to take it because one is poor seemed very sickening to me.

As soon as the camp ended, I went back home and discussed this with my parents. My parents were very much willing to help her and we went to her Simran’s house. After talking to her parents, we took her to a local hospital from where the doctors referred her to PGIMER hospital Chandigarh. The doctors gave her a hearing aid with the help of which she is able to hear now. Her mother was very happy to see her daughter’s health progress and that smile on her mother’s face gave me so much satisfaction that whenever I think of that moment there is always a smile on my face. I am very overwhelmed that with the help of my parents I was able to make difference in Simran’s life .

Q4- Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

ANS - Challenges are very important for progress in life. By facing different challenges we gain confidence and get motivated to move ahead in life. When I was in grade 11th, I also came across such challenge as I opted for two curriculums, CBSE (Central board of secondary education) of India and CIE (Cambridge International Education) of UK. I made this decision as I wanted to become familiar with foreign system of education and obtain some extra knowledge that would help me score well in my CBSE exams as well.

The CIE board curriculum is very different from Indian system of education in which I had been studying since years. Barely three months after I was promoted, I had to face exams for the subject of English. Five months later, there were the exams for Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics. The most challenging part was that these exams were for both the grades 11th and 12th therefore, I had to cover the syllabus in a mere six months rather than the usual 2 year period.

In order to overcome this challenge I had to work very diligently. During regular school hours I used to study my CBSE curriculum and after school, I had to stay back for the CIE classes. I used to have extra classes even on Weekend as the time was short and syllabus was vast. My teachers were very cooperative and guided me whenever I had any trouble. In the end, despite the lack of time for proper preparation, I scored A in Mathematics, B in Chemistry and C in Physics, in the A levels. Keeping in mind the time I had got to prepare, I could not help but be satisfied with my performance. I also learnt that I can push my limits beyond what I thought was possible.

More important than the grades was the fact that I learnt a lot of new things. The practical examinations gave me a lot of clarity towards the subjects. Moreover, the greatest advantage that I had was that I already covered most of my syllabus before even entering 12th grade.