

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.

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

Calculator Debate

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

Marking guidance (for tutors)

Writing is open-ended: there is no single correct answer. These notes describe what Selective markers reward, and the most common ways students lose marks.

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.

Common mark losses: 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 in the first paragraph, held to the end. Sitting on the fence caps the mark.
- 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.

Common mark losses: reasons with no examples, slang, 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.