



**O' Level  
Foundation  
Week 8**

**The Write Tribe**

**PERSONAL RECOUNT**



### 23. What was the most difficult moment of your life? Describe your experience.

I believe that having gone through a challenging episode in life would force one to **grow exponentially**. Regardless of the context, one would be able to draw out lessons on values and principles that will be invaluable for future experiences. The most difficult moments of my life have not only brought me out of darkness, but helped me gain a **sense of revelation** from the **stifling situation** I was in.

Being the eldest in a conventional Chinese family carries a huge weight. Compared to the younger siblings in the family, the expectations of them are generally lower than of myself. Expectations can span from academic performance to being a good role model in every other aspect, all to set a rigid benchmark for the younger ones to follow suit. Anything off the course would mean **defying traditions** or failure to be filial. There were times when I felt lonely and was under **immense stress**. I cried myself to sleep on those days. If only I could be one of the younger ones and enjoy the **freedom to act**.

My ageing parents did not make the matter any more promising for me. Health problems started to kick in for them while they continued to struggle with their jobs to ensure that we could make ends meet. However, seeing them **grind themselves away** daily with their worsening health made my heart ache. Powerless to effect any real change, I knew that doing well on my part was the only thing I could do to make them proud and fulfil their expectations of me.

I was doing pretty well in my academics, but I never expected that I would receive an **opportunity of a lifetime** to participate in a national competition. It was a nomination my teacher had submitted after she learnt about my passion in music and my exceptional talent in playing the violin. Taking me out of school to a national level competition would be the best exposure for me. I could not believe my teacher went the extra mile on the nominations and urged me not to let this **hard-to-come-by** opportunity pass me by.

If only good news could stay **untainted**. My mum fell terribly ill a few weeks later, coupled with the diagnosis of mild dementia. After much **back-and-forth** over a **repertoire** of solutions, we decided it would be best to accommodate my mum in a nursing home for a period of time and we could all have a **peace of mind** when we were not at home tending to her. That also meant that whatever finances that were set aside for my extra violin lessons were depleted overnight.

It was the most difficult moment in my life to empty our family savings, but I knew that it was the best decision at the time for my family. Although I missed a golden opportunity that was presented to me, I would never have sacrificed my mum and pursued my plan selfishly.

**What was the most difficult moment of your life.  
Describe your experience.**

**WRITING ORGANIZER - Recount**

**Orientation:** - *Introduction – Setting the scene.*

**Events:** - *What happened – in chronological order.*

**Conclusion:** - *Personal Comment (Optional)*



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