

## DSA Interview Questions & Sample Answers

### I. Introduction & Background

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#### 1. Introduce yourself / Tell me about yourself ?

**Sample Answer:**

My name is Fang Fang and I am 12 years old. Even though I enjoy other activities like dancing, playing the piano, drawing, and calligraphy, math is my absolute favourite. Every time I come across a challenging math problem, I carefully study it, figure out how to solve it, and then explain it to my friends. I have also made it a habit to run every day for the past three years. Long-term running helps me stay healthy and teaches me persistence.

#### 2. What is your biggest advantage? / What is special about you?

**Sample Answer:**

Kindness is one of my best qualities. Since elementary school, my parents and I have volunteered together in various charitable projects. Volunteering is very fulfilling to me. Once, when I found an injured kitten in the park, I took it to the vet with my mother and paid using my pocket money.

#### 3. What are your weaknesses? How did you overcome it?

**Sample Answer:**

My lack of concentration is a weakness. Prior to P4, I had a lot of unquenchable curiosity, but it usually only lingered for a short while. Later, I discovered the importance of setting priorities for myself, creating a schedule, and sticking to it. Gradually, I experience the joy of achievement; I now accomplish more than before, and I believe that running has also helped me focus.

#### 4. What are your hobbies? / What do you like doing when you're not studying? / What do you do when you are not in school?

**Sample Answer:**

I enjoy dancing, playing the piano, drawing, and calligraphy, but math is my absolute favourite. Every time I come across a particularly challenging math

problem, I will carefully study it, figure out how to solve it, and then categorize it before explaining it to my friends.

I've also made it a habit to run every day for the past three years. Long-term running not only helps my body stay healthier, but it also teaches me what it means to be persistent. I think I'll keep up this habit forever.

#### 5. What was the last book you read?

##### Sample Answer:

To Kill a Mockingbird was one of the most recent books I read. and it was about a young who was falsely accused of being a "rapist" because he was a black man. Despite the fact that Robinson's attorney had proof that he was not a rapist, there was no way to stop the jury from finding Robinson guilty. Robinson later passed away from a gunshot before the appeal even got a chance to be heard, despite the lawyer's best efforts to gather evidence on his behalf. After finishing this book, I was unable to stop thinking about how, in a racially divided society, the conflict between blacks and whites starts with skin tone.

But the book also contains many heart-warming examples of humanity, including white lawyers who risked prejudice to defend black people; black nannies who tried their best to care for the children of white families, and the sibling relationship between a lawyer's son and daughter.

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#### 6. What do you do when you are not in school?

##### Sample Answer:

I practice piano, dance and solve math problems when I'm not in class. Everyday activities like doing chores with mom and dad are important parts of my daily lives. I can read an average of two books a month, and if I have more time, I'll read some non-academic books as well.

#### 7. What is one word your friends would use to describe you?

##### Sample Answer:

My friends would describe me as responsible. Whether it is group work or daily tasks, I always try to complete my responsibilities seriously. If my classmates need help, I am willing to assist them, and I believe responsibility is an important quality both in school and in life.

## 8. Who is your role model, and why?

### Sample Answer:

My role model is my mother. She is hardworking and responsible, and she always encourages me to do my best while staying kind to others. Whenever I face difficulties, she patiently supports me and teaches me how to face challenges calmly, which has influenced me deeply.

## 9. What is your purpose in life?

### Sample Answer:

My ultimate goal in life is to become a doctor so that I can treat the sick. With the development of medical technology, we can now treat an increasing number of diseases. but there are still many problems to be solved, including dengue fever, monkey pox, etc. It is hoped that by working together, we can advance medical technology and help more people.

## II. Achievements

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1. What is your proudest achievement?
2. What projects have you done in primary school that you are proud of?
3. What was your greatest achievement in primary school?

**Answer:** Such questions are answered according to your actual situation

4. During your 3–6 years in CCA, what are the most memorable events or people?

### Sample Answer:

Since I've been learning the piano since I was a young child, I take part in annual piano performance events. When I was in P5, a close friend and I prepared a program; I was in charge of playing the piano and she was in charge of dancing. With the help of the teacher's direction and instruction, our performance was a great success. The two of us hugged joyfully after the performance; it was truly blissful.

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### III. School Fit & Motivation

#### 1. Why did you apply for DSA?

**Sample Answer:**

I applied through DSA because it allows students to develop their strengths in a more focused way. I hope to further improve myself in the area I am passionate about while also receiving a well-rounded education. I believe DSA is a valuable opportunity for me to grow.

#### 2. What motivates you to choose our school and apply through DSA?

**Sample Answer:**

First of all, I want to say how much I have always liked your school. Ever since P4, I have made it a goal of mine to attend your school in the future because I am confident that studying here will help me advance more quickly.

( Give specific reasons based on your own experience, such as attending the school's open house or taking part in its previous events).

Second, I've always had a great love for mathematics, and I hope to do better in my studies of the subject. I'll work hard in the future to study hard so that my favorite school can continue to receive honours.

#### 3. How do you think our school can support your interests?

**Sample Answer:**

First of all, your school has a very positive learning environment, which makes for a very conducive learning environment for me. Second, the teachers in your school are excellent and they can help us progress by providing guidance. The success of your school's alumni is undeniable, and they will raise our standards as a result of the influence of these distinguished alumni.

( Give specific reasons based on your own experience, such as attending the school's open house or taking part in its previous events).

#### 4. What is your definition of a good school?

**Sample Answer:**

In my opinion, a good school should not only focus on academic excellence,

but also care for each student and help them grow confidently in both character and ability.

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### 5. How do you think you can contribute to our school community?

#### Sample Answer:

I believe I can contribute to the school by actively participating in academic activities and competitions related to my strengths. I am willing to work hard, represent the school in competitions when given the opportunity, and do my best to achieve good results.

### 6. Have you applied to other schools? What will you do if more than one school accepts you?

#### Sample Answer:

I applied to DSA at two schools but my preferred school out of the two is yours. I went into the interview well-prepared, but I was still concerned that I wouldn't be able to pass your DSA. Since I have always had a strong passion for mathematics, School B was an alternative for me.

I will undoubtedly select your school if I am extremely fortunate to pass the DSA at both institutions because I think attending your school will help me improve my math skills and because I enjoy the learning environment there.

**[ NOTE:** Be honest when answering this question. Schools can see which schools and programmes a student has applied to under the MOE DSA system, though they cannot see the order of choices. Some parents have shared real cases where a student honestly said the application was mainly his parents' decision, but also expressed his own interest in the programme — and the student still received a confirmed offer. What matters is being truthful and showing genuine interest. ]

### 7. What are your goals for the next 5 years in secondary school?

#### Sample Answer:

In the next five years, I hope to build a strong foundation in my studies while continuing to develop my interests and strengths. I want to manage my time

well so that I can balance academics, CCAs, and personal growth.

At the same time, I hope to become more confident, independent, and responsible. I believe that secondary school is an important stage for learning not only knowledge, but also discipline and character, and I hope to grow steadily during these years.

### 8. What do you want to ask us?

#### Sample Answer:

If I pass the DSA at your school, what is the future training schedule? If I am fortunate enough to be accepted, what area of mathematics should I focus on in the future? I hope that I can contribute to the field.

## IV. Time Management & Study Attitude

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### 1. How do you manage your time between studies and training?

#### Sample Answer:

When training is more intense, I plan my schoolwork ahead of time. I try to finish my homework earlier on training days and use other days to revise. During busy periods like competitions, I focus on completing essential school tasks and ask for help if I cannot manage everything. This helps me keep up with my studies while continuing my training.

### 2. Will you sacrifice your interests because of a busy schedule?

#### Sample Answer:

No, I'm a passionate person who still has a lot of curiosity and enthusiasm for things, and that passion keeps me motivated and excited every day. When time is limited. I make an effort to increase my productivity because that's what I need to do as I get older.

### 3. What tuition or enrichment activities do you attend?

#### Sample Answer:

I attend maths tuition once a week to strengthen my understanding of topics I find challenging. Besides that, I focus mainly on my schoolwork and training. I use tuition as support when I need it, rather than relying on it for everything.



## V. Unconventional / Reasoning Questions

**1. If you were the Prime Minister of Singapore, what would you do to make this country better?**

**Sample Answer:**

If I were the Prime Minister of Singapore, I would first make sure our country is safe by strengthening our national defence.

Second, I would support new technology and innovation so Singapore can continue to grow and stay competitive.

I would also improve social support to help people who need assistance.

Finally, I would continue improving infrastructure such as transport and public facilities so that everyone can enjoy a better quality of life.

**2. Is there discrimination in Singapore? What would you do to prevent it?**

**Sample Answer:**

Although I don't believe there is discrimination in Singapore, I do believe that different nationalities have different social circles.

First, improve education and awareness. When people receive better education, they can learn to respect different cultures and understand others better.

Second, ensure there are strong and fair laws so that everyone is treated equally and discrimination is not tolerated.

Third, encourage national unity by organising more national events and celebrations that bring people from different backgrounds together and strengthen our shared identity as Singaporeans.

**3. What do you think of Singapore's education system?**

**Sample Answer:**

I think Singapore's education system has many strengths. First, it is quite fair in identifying and developing students with different talents and abilities. Second, it provides different pathways to help students choose what suits their strengths and future goals.

However, one weakness is that students may be placed under academic pressure from a young age. This can make some students feel stressed. I hope t

he education system will continue to improve by supporting students' well-being while still maintaining high standards.

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#### 4. What makes you proud to live in Singapore?

**Sample Answer:**

1) I have travelled to many countries with my parents, and Singapore is by far the cleanest: additionally, our environment is the most beautiful. I can enjoy the cleanest environment in the entire world here.

2) There are no corrupt officials in Singapore, and our political climate is excellent. We can meet our ministers while we are in the park because our government officials are friendly to the public as well.

3) Singapore will pay close attention to how those at the bottom are living. Many people's incomes have decreased and their quality of life has worsened since the epidemic, but our government has increased its support for those with low incomes so that everyone can live better.

#### 5. What do you think of Steve Jobs and the iPhone?

**Sample Answer:**

I think Steve Jobs was a very innovative and visionary leader. By creating the iPhone, he changed the way people use mobile phones and technology in their daily lives.

The success of the iPhone also made him famous and inspired many people to think creatively and pursue new ideas.

#### 6. If you could bring one item to Mars, what would it be?

**Sample Answer:**

If I could bring one item to Mars, I would bring a communication device. Being able to stay connected with others would help me feel supported and receive guidance in an unfamiliar environment.

#### 7. Which part of a car do you want to be?

**Sample Answer:**

I would like to be the engine of a car because it provides power and keeps the car moving forward. I hope to contribute steadily and support the team.

## 8. Look around the room, which object is most similar to you?

### Sample Answer:

I would say a whiteboard marker. It is used often to explain ideas and solve problems. I like to share my thoughts when needed and help make things clearer for others, especially during discussions.

## VI. Group Interview Questions

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### 1. Who should we choose from all the applicants here?

#### Sample Answer:

I think your school can choose A, B, C from our applicants (be sure to base on your own observations, including yourself)

Reason 1: How is classmate A?

Reason 2: How is classmate B?

Reason 3: What about yourself?

### 2. Is your elementary school the best?

#### Sample Answer:

Yes, I believe my primary school is a very good school. I had a wonderful six years there with supportive teachers and classmates who helped me grow.

The learning environment is very positive and the school provides many opportunities for students to develop their interests.

There are also many CCAs for students to explore their talents, which makes school life enjoyable.

Overall, my school has given me many meaningful experiences and helped me grow both academically and personally.

## VII. Domain-Specific

### Academic

1) What is the mathematical topic or theory you are most interested in?

#### Sample Answer:

Sudoku is the mathematical topic that most appeals to me because it helps me to appreciate numbers and develop mental flexibility, Sudoku puzzles are

my go-to when I'm feeling down because they can help me process negative feelings more quickly.

2) How can you measure the sugar in a can of Coke?

**Sample Answer:**

First, I would check the nutritional information to understand the stated sugar content. Then, I would think about designing a simple scientific method or calculation to estimate it. What matters most is explaining the reasoning clearly.

3) What changes would you like to see in the science curriculum?

**Sample Answer:**

I hope more hands-on activities can be included in our science lessons so that we can understand scientific concepts better and develop a stronger interest in science.

4) Have you ever learned from a math/science/Chinese book, movie, or TV show?

5) How do you feel about using math/science skills in and out of class? Give an example of using math outside of class.

6) What do you enjoy most and least about this subject?

7) Have you ever faced a math problem with more than one solution?

**Exam point:** Focus on thinking process and scientific logic, no standard answer

### Sports and Games

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1) What made you want to DSA through this sport?

2) Why our school's team?

3) What is your strength as a player?

4) What will you bring to the team if selected?

5) Would you rather be the strongest player in a weaker team, or a weaker player in a stronger team?

**Exam point:** Passion and long-term commitment; teamwork and can handle stress

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### Visual, literary and performing arts

- 1) Why did you choose this art form?
- 2) What keeps you motivated to continue despite challenges?
- 3) You will not be allowed to follow your current teacher. How do you feel about this?

**Exam point :** Long-term commitment, passion for the art, fit with CCA/team culture, ability to adapt to change.

### Leadership

- 1) What leadership roles have you taken?
- 2) What kind of leader are you?
- 3) How do you contribute to a team or school?

**Exam point :** Responsibility, influence, communication, and values

### Languages and humanities

- 1) What are your strengths and weaknesses in language use?
- 2) (On-the-spot) Daily or situational expression tasks

**Exam point:** Language ability and natural delivery

### Uniformed Groups

- 1) How do you handle discipline and responsibility?
- 2) What values do you think are important in a Uniformed Group?

**Exam point:** Discipline, responsibility, resilience, teamwork, and ability to follow structure and handle pressure.

### Debate and Public Speaking

- 1) How do you prepare your arguments or speeches?
- 2) How do you respond when someone disagrees with your opinion?
- 3) Tell us about a time you spoke in front of an audience.

**Exam point:** Clarity of thinking, communication skills, confidence, ability to respond on the spot, and openness to different viewpoints.