

***This is an example review for a thirteen-year-old. Names given of individuals and some organisations are fictional. Please note this example review does not include work samples or achievements mentioned.***

***--Begin example review--***

REVIEW FOR CHILD FIRSTNAME SURNAME  
CHILD'S VSN: 00000000  
DATE THIS REVIEW SUBMITTED: xx/xx/xxxx

C is thirteen years old. Our home education review will be broken down in to the eight key learning areas, outlining C's educational program and achievements. Where noted, work samples and/or achievements are enclosed with this document.

### **ENGLISH**

C has been focusing on improving his essay writing skills this past year, covering a variety of styles such as persuasive and analytical. C completed a six-week analytical essay writing course run by Super Skillz Essay Club, created by teacher and author Jane Doe who holds classes online for home educated students. C's final essay was an analysis of The Hobbit and he earned a certificate (copy enclosed).

In July 2017, C submitted an essay in a competition run by the Victorian government and won a prize. His essay focused on politics and technology.

C is a regular contributor to Too Cool For School, a quarterly magazine. He has submitted reviews and has recently been given his own column to report on his activities, as well as becoming the new editor of the teens column.

C reads a lot of historical accounts, particularly of a military nature, as well as science fiction. He also reads about the real-life experience of people who have served in wars, or world leaders. C enjoys reading alternate history fiction and has written a few stories (work sample is enclosed).

C reads the news/current affairs every day. We have daily discussions about politics, technology, history and many other topics which show that C has a strong grasp of the content he reads. Where necessary, he is able to follow up on things of interest by doing his own research and he enjoys talking to people about these areas. C also reads local newspapers and is interested in writing letters to the editor when he would like to voice an opinion. He visits the library often and has registered his interest in becoming a teen reviewer for the library.

C has been working on his communication and presentation skills by attending some SmashedAvoToast Masters local events and giving a short presentation and acting on the feedback to improve.

C has participated in many team events and challenges, which has helped improve his communication skills and getting his ideas across to an audience.

As part of our home education, I set frequent challenges such as writing a certain kind of poem on any topic of C's choosing. First we study a poem and the style, and his task is to write a poem (work sample enclosed).

### **MATHS**

C's maths program is based around the Math U See curriculum, a product from the USA which has been adapted for Australia and is used in some Australian schools and education environments. C has completed the pre-Algebra level and is currently working on the advanced algebra and geometry levels. Some of the areas covered include solving for the unknown, polynomials, factoring polynomials, ratios, volume, surface area, as well as frequent refreshers and quizzes on past topics such as decimals, fractions and percentages. The Math U See lessons involve watching a DVD, then using the manipulatives and workbook to answer questions and word problems. C is working towards finishing his current workbook then moving on to calculus (a sample of C's maths work is enclosed).

In addition to Math U See, C supplements his learning with YouTube videos and resources such as Khan Academy. C also enjoys maths puzzles and for fun, uses some maths puzzle books and websites.

C has entered the Whizzbang Mathematics Competition for a few years and has earned certificates and a prize placing.

## **SCIENCE**

C is very interested in science and would like to work in a scientific field as a computer scientist. He is interested in space and rockets, and keeps up to date with the latest discoveries via social media through following scientists, astronauts and the like, as well as subscribing to various science organisations and magazines such as Cosmos.

C frequently attends university and industry lectures and conferences open to the public, usually weekly. He also attends lectures by research institutions such as WEHI, Melbourne Brain Centre and the Doherty Institute.

C is a member of the Royal Society Victoria and regularly attends their presentations and events.

C is currently studying chemistry, biology and physics using the VCE texts published by Jacaranda. This involves reading the text, following any digital linked content, and completing given quizzes and exercises (work samples are enclosed). C supplements by finding videos on YouTube.

C uses his Snap Circuits electronics kit to build devices and further his knowledge of electronics and physics. He has completed projects such as a bedroom burglar alarm.

In 2017 C attended a two-day Jean-Luc Picard University space conference, seminars on Parkinson's Disease, A UN Youth Environmental conference and a three day Monash engineering school holiday workshop (copy of completion certificate enclosed). C also regularly attends aerospace and engineering university and industry events.

C has entered the Whizzbang Science Competition a few times, earning impressive marks (copy of his latest certificate enclosed).

## **TECHNOLOGY**

C is a great technology enthusiast and keeps up to date with the latest news. He wants to complete a university computer science degree and work in a space research or biomedical environment and wants to do as much as possible from now in a self-directed manner.

C has been continuing with programming in Java and C (work sample enclosed). He has written programs and web interfaces, in one instance helping his father with a project for his father's client who required some web site work. C is currently preparing to enter competitions such as Govz Hackz and has been looking in to gathering data, databases and informatics.

C takes computers and hardware apart and upgrades his computers at every opportunity. He is interested in quantum computing and enjoys attending lectures on all areas of technology. He has set up his own Linux server and is learning how to install and troubleshoot as the superuser. For extra challenges, we (my husband and I) ask him to set up a particular piece of software we're familiar with ourselves, such as MySQL, and set him tasks that we later check.

In October 2017 C entered a technology challenge run by Light Speeders Vic and reached the finals (copy of certificate enclosed). The challenge involved following a set of specifications to create a small vehicle capable of performing set tasks. C's input included researching physics and engineering principles to apply them to the vehicle, designing and 3D printing the vehicle and creating a portfolio. C learned how to use Scribus to create the portfolio.

C regularly attends technology meetups and events, either tailored for teens or tertiary students and academics. Some of the events have been drone building workshops, Arduino and Raspberry Pi workshops and 3D printing and design challenges (work samples enclosed).

### **The ARTS**

C is more interested in digital art and drawing designs of things he wants to build. C's current project is designing a metal forge that he wants to build in the backyard. He has been sketching this design on paper and then creating a plan on his computer.

C has attended Arts Centre performances with other home educated students. He has attended theatre and musical productions such as Henry V at the pop-up Globe, and local theatre performances. He has also attended a music making workshop at MusikPlay where he learned to create beats and sounds then mix them together digitally to make a song. He attended a drawing workshop by popular artist Randy Warholz and a street art stencil making workshop.

C enjoys attending galleries and exhibits. The Van Gogh exhibition he attended included a workshop for home ed kids beforehand. C later researched Van Gogh at home and other artists.

Our home arts program employs a resource called Artistic Kidz, where every lesson involves learning an art concept such as perspective or composition, then C creates a piece of work following on from that lesson and applying what was taught. Through this resource, C has produced artwork using a variety of techniques and tools (work sample enclosed). C's uncle is an artist, and he is always happy to do some artwork with C during visits.

C has Greek relatives and has been learning about the history of some Greek dances such as the dances depicting going in to battle. He has also been learning some of these dances.

### **HUMANITIES and SOCIAL SCIENCE**

C has extensive knowledge of European military history through his self-directed studies this past year. C has visited military museums and the Shrine of Remembrance tours and museum, as well as the War Memorial in Canberra. C is currently studying Australia's role in past world conflicts. C enjoys discussions with former service people, particularly when they share their experiences with him. C has also studied the Byzantine and Ottoman empires, as well as Russian history.

C attends local history society events. This has given C a greater understanding of our neighbourhood's history, and he enjoys looking at old maps and schematics, and comparing them to what is displayed on Google Maps.

C is self-directed with geography studies and most of his knowledge is tied in with his history interests. He has been looking at maps and spotting inconsistencies or where the maps are now obsolete. C is very aware of the impact of events such as natural disasters and how it has affected communities, for example the devastation experienced by communities not only by the natural disaster but the ensuing lack of action or support by governments. C is also well versed in areas commonly studied in high school geography, such as how to read and produce various maps, topics like sanitation and water around the world, and the political and economic climates of developing nations.

For the past year C he has been studying government at the local, state and federal levels. He has attended local council meetings, state Parliament sitting days and went on an excursion to Parliament House in Canberra. C also watches Parliament live streams and frequently accesses the education materials on the Parliament websites. He is interested in the future of democracy using technology and has researched what different countries around the world employ, such as direct democracy. C attends voting booths with us and enjoys watching the corresponding political commentary such as the ABC's election day programs showing the election predictions and results.

C studies political histories of many European countries, particularly revolutions, and he has a thorough understanding of different political ideologies and how countries have changed and what the impact was on the government and people, for e.g. the former USSR to modern day Russia.

C has been using the Australian History Mysteries website and resources to learn more about Australia's history, particularly with an emphasis on Indigenous/First Peoples and history not often found in books. He prefers to seek out 'the other side of the story', particularly to learn more about injustices.

C has attended the magistrates court and Old Melbourne Gaol re-enactment as part of an educational activity to see our legal system in action. He has also been on a tour of the Supreme Court and uses the education materials on the websites of our various courts, as well as attending lectures held by the Whizzbang Law School, featuring popular guest speakers such as Perry Mason.

C is interested in commerce and business, particularly with regard to modern technology and new initiatives that benefit the planet, for e.g. Space X, solar batteries and so forth. C has attended lectures hosted by the Melbourne BusinessBrainz School.

## **LANGUAGES**

C has been learning to speak Greek. This involves basic conversation exercises, learning the alphabet sounds and using Greek student texts to familiarise himself with the language. C uses what he has learned in conversations with his Greek speaking relatives. He likes learning new Greek words that are used in the scientific field.

C has also been using DuoLingo to learn Russian and German. He became interested in these languages after attending some space themed events where a presenter spoke about the Europa SpaceAge Agency and how it helps to speak a second language if you wish to be employed in the space industry. The lessons involve quizzes and pronunciation, and C will write down words and phrases in his notebooks for later revision (work sample enclosed). C also writes labels in other languages for household objects or calendar days and puts them up to memorise.

C has cooked traditional foods, watched travel documentaries and been to cultural events in Melbourne. He enjoys going to restaurants with different cuisines and trying national foods.

C has penpals in Europe and uses some of his Russian and German there. He also enjoys putting subtitles on movies in different languages, to spot which words are similar to English or other languages.

## **HEALTH and P.E.**

C has been doing his own fitness experiments, which involve timing himself doing various activities at the local park, such as jogging around the oval. He also goes for walks, entering his stats in to apps that help him keep track of his progress. C has been attending weekly archery and taekwondo classes, as well as visits to the local swimming pool to improve his swimming skills.

C has been reading about nutrition and how science debunks many current food and health fads. He has prepared his own meals at home and enjoys watching documentaries about health and nutrition. We have discussions about food science and general kitchen and food safety and hygiene. C has studied the course notes of a food safety and handling short course, then went on to watch videos on various food poisoning and bacteria related ailments.