



File Introduction

Advice for Incoming ASHS Applicants! ✨

Introduction


Hello! We are the students from ASHS Batch 27, here to give advice to the next batch/es of students applying to the ASHS.


How to Use:

This section is made for those who are not very well-versed in Google Docs or technology in general, as well as those viewing the Google Doc on mobile devices.

There are seven tabs in this Google Doc:

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For PC and laptop users, tabs are shown at the left side of your screen. Click on any tab to immediately go to the section you want to see. If you accidentally close the tabs list, look for this  button right below the bottom left of the top menu.

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Affirmations from ASHS Passers! 💙🦅

- Good luck future Atenistas! Coming from someone who had no leadership positions, just a few extracurriculars, a probably terribly written autobiography, and no connections to anyone in Ateneo, the ASHAPE will always be the #1 factor that will make the difference between getting in or not. You will be fine!
- You got this! Just try to do your best in each part for example, if your grades aren't great, do your best to cook in the exam and autobio :)).
- Keep a cool head, prepare, and do your best! You can do it!
- LOCK IN.

WRITERS

- Chloe D. (STEM) [ig: @moonlytzz]
- Marj A. (STEM) [ig: @intercyanide]
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On Application Matters

Ateneo Senior High School Application Crash-Course Guide

I. Requirements

A. Grades

- The application form will be asking for your Grade 8 and Grade 9 Report Card. It has to be submitted as a PDF File and all pages must be seen, especially the grade conversion table (Ex: A+ is from 98-100). - Patrice J.
- You will also have to submit the report card of the FIRST GRADING of your Grade 10 School Year. By First Grading, this will be the VERY FIRST QUARTER OR TERM with a FINALIZED GRADE. This is to be submitted by January, a week or so after the A-SHAPE proper. - Patrice J.

B. Leadership Roles and Extracurriculars

I. Academic Awards

- These should contain Honors awards and anything else that falls under such a classification. - Patrice J.

II. Extracurricular Awards/Involvement

- These would contain any awards, certificates, and positions that you were involved in from Grades 7-10, ideally put the things you think would be most beneficial or important to your application—something that'll make you stand out to the admissions team. - Patrice J.

III. Church and Volunteer Work/Involvement

- Church involvements pertain or refer to things you've done that are related to your local church, things that would strengthen and build your faith and religion. Volunteer work on the other hand refers to the things you've done to help your community, like donation drives, disaster relief, etc. - Patrice J.

C. Autobiography

I. Coverage & Tips

- Your autobiography should cover the following details: interests, ambitions, accomplishments, and the reasons that the applicant desires a senior high school education at the Ateneo de Manila University (From the ASHS Admissions Page). - Patrice J.

II. Tips specialized for the autobiography

- **For those who are dealing with writer's block/aren't writers:** What I did personally was thinking of it as a y/n college essay. Yes, I'm serious. It was asking myself "Why am I the way I am", and I started crafting the story I wanted to tell and inputted the things Ateneo wanted like hobbies, ambitions, etc. Remember you can always write about a certain time or event instead of your whole life, but make sure the event you pick defines you and therefore how you live your life afterwards. The key is to make sure it aligns with Ateneo values and shows yourself in a good light. - Chloe
- Cover the guidelines while also incorporating what's unique about you and why you want to go to Ateneo/What makes Ateneo stand out to you. Maintain good grammar while also keeping your paragraphs concise and information packed so you can make the best of your two pages. Start early and beat the deadline!
- This is SHS, not college, so admissions are more likely to read a basic overview of you over an inspirational story. My formula was in 4 paragraphs: information and upbringing -> hobbies/skills (relate them to your upbringing) -> achievements (relate them to your hobbies/skills) -> values (relate them to all of the above). it makes your autobio clean, comprehensive, and connected. also, when it comes to skills and values, try to relate them to admu's core values like magis to score some bonus points

III. Not a writer? We got you! Here are tips from accepted students on writing



- It's good to have a **main idea or theme** for your essay to be more organized and clear, like a thesis statement. Think about something you want your essay to revolve around; it's easier to read and understand.
 - If you don't want to delve that much into the past like me, focus on qualities or strengths you want to showcase. For me, a quality I take great pride in is my determination and passion, so I made my essay revolve around how passion shapes who I am. - Alexa M.
- **Be sure to write with your voice**, don't use AI. Be original and true to your voice. You don't have to use big words, just as long as you convey your idea well. Alexa M.
- **Avoid being too flowery**. Sure it's tempting to include complicated words to make yourself look smarter, but nowadays you can just go to thesaurus.com for those types of words. Ateneo can see right through it, just because a bunch of fancy words are in there doesn't mean the autobiography you wrote was good. **Put the substance in your autobiography first**. They *will* see the vapidity behind the fog. - Marj. A
- Try to intertwine any values you write about with the way you write your autobiography. This can be as simple as demonstrating a sense of curiosity by including questions you've asked yourself in your autobiography. It's good to do this especially if these values mix especially well with your ambitions.

Show, even in your writing style, the kind of person you are to Ateneo. - Marj A.

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Patrice's Writer 101 Tips 😊:

→ **INTRODUCTION:**

Start your autobiography with **something that can pull your readers in**, something to tie them to what you've written and something that can catch their attention for the rest of your autobiography. **As much as possible please REFRAIN from starting your autobiography with things like "Hello, my name is -", since it feels off-putting for a piece that's supposed to make you stand out from the thousand-fold applicant pool!** - Patrice J.

→ **BODY:**

The body should **contain supporting details about you**. Start with an introduction of your young life, **where are you from? Who are your parents? What are your roots?** Make sure as well that this part isn't bland or transitions to a tone of normality, like writing it is a chore. **Put your essence into what you write for this part, show that what makes you, you**. In this part, answer the questions posed by the admission page, but don't make the transitions between topics extremely abrupt. **Who are you, and what chapters of your story highlight you best?** - Patrice J.

→ **CONCLUSION:**

The conclusion should, at the very least, **bridge together all your previously mentioned supporting details**. Think of it as tying a neatly wrapped gift with the perfect ribbon to keep it all together and in shape. It could very well define your autobiography just as much as the first two parts. Go bold with your conclusions, and **say something that's bound to leave a lasting impression** on the admissions officer reading your autobiography, since this is one of the only other saving graces for your application should your ASHAPE Exam take a turn for the worst. **After you've acknowledged your roots and told them your story, give them something they'll never forget.** - Patrice J.

IV. Submission Reminders

→ Upon submitting, your autobiography must be in **A4, 1 page minimum and 2 pages MAXIMUM, and in a readable font**. - Patrice J.

D. Recommendation Letters

I. Who to Ask?

- Any teacher you are close with will do, preferably your Homeroom Teacher/Moderator or a teacher you work with regularly or have known for a long period of time. - Patrice J.
- Best choices would also be teachers who have something in common to the strand you plan to take, such as a Science or Math teacher for STEM, English and AP/Socsci for HUMSS, etc.! It would be beneficial to you, however, to have a more

well-rounded approach and ask teachers who can represent core subjects as well as vouch for your experiences and general value as a student and individual. - Patrice J.

- Get the one that will do it the most early, if a teacher doesn't respond, politely pester them.
- Think of teachers you can ask for a recommendation letter in your school early on. This person should ideally be someone who knows you well and is a good mentor.
- I suggest you choose your mentor for those in PAREF schools/teachers that you have a personal relationship with/you're close with. - Chloe D.

II. How to Ask?

- There are three ways, the formal way through a request via email or message, the informal way of just asking them directly face to face, and a mix of both. - Patrice J.

The Formal Way:

- Email them on their school account, stick with respect and formalities, and follow up every now and then for a reply and an update. Once they submit their letter, I would suggest you update them every now and then about the progress of their letter (you can see if the Admissions Officer has opened their letter or not in the dashboard for Recommendation Letters in the Admissions Portal ^^) - Patrice J.

The Informal Way:

- I would only suggest doing this if you're very close with your teacher and you see them on a regular basis to keep in touch about status updates.
- You may greet your teachers in person or through social media, make sure to be respectful. Ask them to write you a recommendation letter from there. You may follow them up periodically if you wish. - Marj A.
- Make sure to let them know that you want them to write your letter, and ask them for permission first of course!

E. Other tips

- Preparation is the key. Start preparing, completing, and submitting the things that are required for your application to alleviate some of your stress. Study, study, study!
- quadruple check your files

On A-SHAPE Review

Ateneo Senior High School Application

ASHAPE Review Approaches

A. Review Centers

I. MSA - SHSETP

- The one I took was in Katipunan, legit across Ateneo. It was generally very fast-paced and actually hard to keep up with as someone who came in blind not knowing the nature of entrance exams, having one math module and test every day. I don't really recommend it if you won't take other SHAPES since this program has Science and that's already another rock on your shoulder. Generally MSA can be a bit inaccurate and way harder than the test itself but hey it got me into Ateneo (Chloe D.)
- Too fast-paced and topics were scrambled so it was hard to absorb what was being taught. Inaccurate tests and exercises. Too expensive and it was NOT worth it for the price (Alexa M.)

II. MSA - ASHAPE Refresher

- This was also in Katipunan. A lot better than SHSETP since it caters to ASHAPE talaga. It is less quick but it was a jumble of topics and you can get lost in, especially since this is in the middle of the SY. Nevertheless the material was one of the most important things I used to study for ASHAPE and it taught me more than SHSETP (Chloe D.)

III. Academic Gateway (Onsite/Online @ Php 5.7k, discounts available)

- As someone who took AG, it would be in a 50/50 kind of zone. I studied with the online meetings version, which allows for flexibility with your schedule. However, the topics covered weren't exactly what was on the exam itself—it was more of either advanced topics or things not entirely focused on by the exam. The good side to this is their webinars are available until February to make way for other SHAPES like USTET which happens in February, and their English module is very deep and informative, like actual lessons followed by a pop quiz. (Patrice J.)
- I took the online meetings version of AG, and I would say that some topics are advanced, especially since it's mainly focused on college entrance exams. The book they give out after enrollment is very thick, and full of practice tests. Still, I think it's a pretty good option, especially if you actually answer the practice tests (don't be like me who just followed along with the lectures HAHAAHA). The lectures go by each practice test item, first explaining how to get to the correct answer, then revealing it. Some teachers share test-taking tips and shortcuts along the way. (Marj A.)

IV. Mentorsplus

- 100% recommend. I will keep glazing this revcen as someone who also took MSA. Mentorsplus' approach is very refreshing and different from the rest of the review center's I've heard of.

- a. **Approach:** Mentorsplus fosters competition, which if you're competitive like me, definitely impels you to lock in. They have pre and post-tests for every session and your score will be monitored and displayed on the board, along with everyone else's score. With this, you'd be able to track your progress on the topic.
- b. **Pace:** Their way of teaching is a little fast paced but also very insightful and it's just right, with each session focusing on a new topic. MSA was too fast paced for me, and did not focus on any topic. One page would be full of algebra, geometry, word problems, and it's hard to focus and absorb the information that way.
- c. **Accuracy:** They give you TONS of resources. Their exercises and tests are identical to the ASHAPE's. I was super relieved when I found out the questions were "like this pala" because MSA questions were too hard and worried me. The only problem with the accuracy is that their numerical ability was totally off from the ASHAPE's. Everything else was good.
- d. **Bonus:** Gives you test-taking tips and briefs you on the ASHAPE application (estimates % of how much each requirement matters). They check your autobiography too if you ask.

→ **Conclusion:** AMAZING AND BEST ASHAPE REVCEN SO FAR 😊😊 - Alexa

<p>Are Review Centers worth it?</p>	<p>For me, I believe it was worth it because there were teachers that were willing to give tips on answering ASHAPE that will help limit your time.</p>
	<p>It depends on what works the best for you! If you do better in an environment where there is someone to teach you and peers to help you, then a review center might be just for you.</p>
	<p>For more guidance and assurance in what and how you are studying I recommend but personally I suggest you first know the style of entrance exams beforehand from the time pressure to the pointers because for me the programs will brush through everything to make you remember these topics since you took these before, but I am pretty sure most of you forgot and will have to relearn.</p>
	<p>It prevents you from over- and understudying. It guides you with the coverage of the exam. It helps you know what you have to improve on. Review center helps, but it is 100% possible to pass without. You can also find reviewers online for cheap prices!</p>

	Personally, it isn't all that necessary, however people who did take review centers passed spectacularly based on experience of my friends (this section is a mix of 2 people's responses)
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B. Self Study Guide

I. GENERAL TIPS

1. Scour sites for coverage, watch YouTube videos, & take SAT practice tests, they're quite similar.
2. notes and reviewers are your best friend! and don't put all your eggs in one basket.

II. MATH GUIDE

1. This is the subject you need to focus on the most. It will focus on mainly the topics of Grades 8-10. It won't necessarily test your high skill level per topic but your general knowledge. In simpler terms, they test if you know the topic, understand it well enough to finish a question in a minute, but not necessarily master it because the test is actually quite easy if you know the topics. (Note: this is the math proficiency test, I'm not talking about
2. That being said, **DO NOT relax when taking this part nor studying for it.** ASHAPE is very time pressured so I suggest practicing with a timer and studying harder questions so when the time comes, you won't be stressing over the clock.
3. Here's the study method I used: I generally used the review center material I had and studied each topic (I used the MSA ASHAPE Refresher Material), answering questions timed (1 min or less per question). Aside from that I answered the MSA Math SHAPE Reviewer, timed (1 min or less per question), looked at the solutions at the back, and repeat, otherwise I go to the next section and do the same thing. After using the SHAPE Math reviewer I use the general MSA SHAPE Reviewer, but it has no solutions (but answers). For reference for topics I was unfamiliar with I would either search up modules or use the MSA Math booklet (i took msa for review so i use a lot of their material ok).
4. Maximize your time.
5. focus on grades 7 and 10 math. maybe review your every JHS math lesson, too.

A. WHAT I STUDIED:

Let's begin with what I studied: topics from grade 7-10. **Those italicized did not pop up for me, but still safe to study*

- i. **BASIC ALGEBRA:** *Rational numbers, properties, divisibility*, prime factorization, GCF, LCM, Polynomials, simplifying expressions, SETS, Linear equations, absolute value equations
- ii. **ALGEBRA:** Radicals+radical equations, Probability, permutations and combinations, quadratic functions & equations, polynomial functions, statistics, polynomial theorems, sequences, logarithms

- iii. **GEOMETRY:** Lines and angles, transversals triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, mensuration, circles
- iv. **TRIGONOMETRY:** Special triangles, trigonometric identities, solving right triangles, *unit circle and radians*

B. HOW I REVIEWED:

Personally, I had a lot of resources to study math and I utilized it. I used MSA books, and my Mentorsplus binder. You can also use YouTube or Khan Academy if you don't understand a topic or want to relearn a topic from scratch. You can use Quizizz or online worksheets to test yourself. I rewrote most things from my Mentorsplus binder in my notebook: the definitions, exercises, formulas, etc.

- v. **Review Tip:** When testing yourself, time yourself. Give yourself less than one minute for each question. Example: 20 Questions in 15 minutes. Challenge yourself to do it FAST.

III. ENGLISH GUIDE

- When reviewing for the different English exams for the ASHAPE, focus the most on spotting errors and enlarging your vocabulary. Also train yourself to read and understand long passages in short periods of time. ASHAPE isn't about the barrage of complicated topics, it's about the time pressure put on simple ones.
- You don't, however, need to review this as much as Math, since the English exams are just common sense and knowledge. As long as you read up on grammar rules and structures, you should be fine.
- Good practice for this would be reading pretty much anything, but I would suggest either essays to prepare you for the possibly imminent word vomit you'll see in the exam or fiction that trains you to want to read at a faster pace.
- Improve your reading speed, read the question first before the passage, it'll be easier to retain information. Scan, don't skim.
- good to know how words are "built". like how "biblio—" refers to books, "pre" and "fore" refer to preceding things, "anthro" refers to humans or humanoids, etc. don't worry too much about this one if english is your first language

IV. ABSTRACT REASONING

- Watch abstract reading videos, take some online tests, and practice regularly. Once you've familiarized yourself with some abstract reasoning patterns, it should be a breeze.
- It can take time, so practice being quicker at them.

V. READING COMPREHENSION

- Reading Comprehension tests on the ability to analyze long texts in a short period of time. The passages given are typically long non-fiction (no poems or anything like that).
- I recommend looking for review books with the similar style of coverage as said in the exam coverage section, MSA review usually is a mix of fiction and non-fiction, but also extra hard.
- If you can't find anything, try asking chat gpt to customize quizzes for you (you can do this with your other practices for other subjects as well).
- Improve your reading speed, read the question first before the passage, it'll be easier to retain information. Scan, don't skim.

VI. VOCABULARY GUIDE

- - Expand your vocabulary, pick up a dictionary, watch a few videos. It's generally easy, so don't stress this out too much.

VII. ANALOGY GUIDE

- Don't overthink.
- expand your vocabulary. some words are obscure parts of obscure objects, and some answers can depend on interpretation

VIII. LOGICAL REASONING GUIDE

- Think like an NPC.

IX. NUMERICAL ABILITY GUIDE,

- Numerical Ability is different from math. It will mainly focus on word problems, has significantly less than the math proficiency and is the last portion of the exam, which is why it is important to focus on this a lot.
- By the time you take this part, a lot of your energy has been used but you need to keep the momentum and energy going since this focuses on critical thinking and problem solving.
- You will be given 30 questions, and have a minute or less to solve each one so try taking mock tests, especially at a not so high energy level, timed to practice your skill for the real thing. It's important to keep yourself going without realizing your exhaustion, and **to not get caught up on a question.**
- Math Proficiency tests if you remember the math you learned in junior high. Numerical Ability tests if you remember the math you learned in late elementary up to early junior high.
- Just because the questions in this test only go up to around grade 8, doesn't mean you should slack off from reviewing for this test. **Chances are, you forgot the foundational math needed to solve these problems.**

- For numerical ability, you really need to assess how well you can make use of foundational math to solve different word problems. From what I remember, these include age, interest, and different kinds of percentage problems.
- Make sure to review how to convert one thing to another quickly and perform different mathematical operations with them. Practice writing down your solutions quickly (or just doing them in your head). It will greatly help you in this subtest.



For Financial Aid Applicants

For Future Ateneo Financial Aid Applicants

Tips and Advice for Incoming FinAid Applicants

A. Start Early

- Deadlines matter. Don't wait until the last minute, sometimes being early gives you an edge against the competition.
- Gather documents early. Income tax returns, proof of income, school documents, we waited for my documents for three whole weeks and we were one day away from the deadline.

B. Understand the requirements

- Read the application guidelines carefully, if you ever get confused don't be afraid to ask others for clarifications and call the OAS if still not clear.

C. Be Honest and Accurate

- When writing your letter of intent and submitting your documents make sure they are all clear and honest, this can reflect in the interview as they usually ask about the financial situation of your family and ask you about what businesses or about the jobs of your parents.
- Sound desperate enough to want the aid but don't go overboard as this can be used against you.

D. Be Professional

- Treat each and every interaction with respect and clarity—whether it be by email, phone, or in-person.
- Use a formal tone, especially when writing essays or appeals.

E. For writing your Letter of Intent:

- Be clear and concise of the reasons you need the aid, be honest, sincere, and clear on your financial situation. Convey on how the aid will help you achieve your goals and differentiate ASHS from other senior high schools.



Exam Coverage and Preparations

Ateneo Senior High School Application

Exam Coverage and Preparations

A. Sample Exam Schedule

BLUE PAPER


 **ENGLISH:** 100 Questions - 40 minutes

 **MATH:** 60 Questions - 1 hour

 **BREAK:** 10 minutes

GREEN PAPER


 **ABSTRACT:** 30 Questions - 15 minutes

 **READING COMP:** 30 Questions - 25 minutes

 **VOCAB:** 25 Questions - 10 minutes

 **ANALOGY:** 25 Questions - 10 minutes

 **LOGICAL REASONING:** 25 Questions - 10 minutes

 **NUMERICAL ABILITY:** 30 Questions - 30 minutes

B. The English Exam

- The general outline of all the English exams for ASHAPE encompasses all the usual lessons from Grades 7-10, but not in a way you'd generally expect. Instead of a "what type of word is this", expect questions that revolve around looking for the grammar or spelling errors, spotting the correctly structured sentence, and similar subtests for the main English Exam.
- In the last part of the English exam, you will be given a passage with blanks, and you will have to fill it with words, making sure the passage is grammatically correct by the end.

C. Math Proficiency

- **BASIC ALGEBRA:** Rational numbers, properties, divisibility, prime factorization, GCF, LCM, Polynomials, simplifying expressions, SETS, Linear equations, absolute value equations
- **ALGEBRA:** Radicals+radical equations, Probability, permutations and combinations, quadratic functions & equations, polynomial functions, statistics, polynomial theorems, sequences, logarithms
- **GEOMETRY:** Lines and angles, transversals triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, mensuration, circles
- **TRIGONOMETRY:** Special triangles, trigonometric identities, solving right triangles, unit circle and radians

D. Abstract Reasoning

→ **Raven's Progressive Matrices:** There is a term for these tests with the seemingly random shapes where you need to find a pattern in the pictures in order to find out the next picture. You can practice doing these online through the Mensa Norway IQ test—but **do not guess**. If there's a question you're stumped at, skip it rather than guessing. I would say that it is a good idea to aim for a score of at least 115.



Sample and Review Files

I. Requirements

A. Grades Examples

PATRICE J.	Grade 8	Grade 9
Araling Panlipunan/Social Studies	HP	A
English	HP (96.25)	A- (89.75)
Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao/Religion	HP	A
Filipino	HP	A
MAPEH	HP	A
Mathematics	HP (95.00)	A+ (98.25)
Science	HP (93.75)	A- (92.75)
Technology and Livelihood Education	HP	A
General Average	95.96	94.67

Chloe D.	Grade 8	Grade 9
Araling Panlipunan/Social Studies	A+ (95-99)	A+
English	A+	A
Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao/Religion	A+	A
Filipino	A (90-94)	P (89-85)
MAPEH	A+	A+
Mathematics	A+	P (I got AP for first sem which is 80-84 then A+ for second sem, just wanted to say in case any of yall have this grade 😭)
Science	A	A
Technology and Livelihood	A+	A

Education		
General Average	A+	A

Marj A.	Grade 8	Grade 9
Araling Panlipunan/Social Studies	97	96
English	96	96
Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao/ Religion	97	96
Filipino	95	95
MAPEH	92	93
Mathematics	95	98
Science	93	92
Technology and Livelihood Education	These are two separate subjects in my school! Technology - 96 Livelihood Education - 94	These are two separate subjects in my school! Technology - 96 Livelihood Education - 92
General Average	95 (95.00)	95 (94.89)

B. Leadership Roles and Extracurriculars Examples

I. Academic Awards

Academic Awards - Patrice J.			
Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10
With High Honors	Full SY Honors Awardee	Full SY Honors Awardee	1st Qtr Academic Awardee

Academic Awards - Chloe D.			
Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10
Gold Awardee (General Average of A+)	Gold Awardee	Silver Awardee	Silver Awardee

Academic Awards - Alexa M.			
Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10
Honors	Honors	Highest Honors	High Honors

Academic Awards - Marj A.			
Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10
With Honors	With High Honors	With High Honors, Best in Mathematics	— I didn't update my registration for this one.

II. Extracurricular Awards/Involvement

Examples From Patrice's Submitted Application:

Extracurricular Awards	Extracurricular Involvement	Leadership Positions
Certificate of Participation for De La Salle Model United Nations	Fair Business Committee, Batch Events Committee, Publicity Committee	Class VP, Pres, Secretary Org Asst. Treasurer

III. Church and Volunteer Work/Involvement

One Example from Patrice's Submitted Application:

Church and Volunteer Work	
Participation in Pilgrimages	Assisted in several Medical Missions

II. AUTOBIOGRAPHY SAMPLES

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III. REVIEW FILES

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