David Tam

4. a) Glenforest Secondary School

   b) None

5. Not applicable

6. a) No courses were repeated

   b)

Course Name	Type	Semestered	Completion Date	Source	Mark
Physics	12	yes	01/94	Day School	92
English	12	yes	06/94	Day School	85
Math	12	yes	06/94	Day School	94
Finite	OAC	yes	06/94	Day School	92
Chemistry	OAC	yes	06/94	Day School	85
English	OAC	yes	02/95	Day School	90
Economics	OAC	yes	02/95	Day School	95
Calculus	OAC	yes	02/95	Day School	96
Computer Science	12	yes	06/95	Day School	n/a
Algebra & Geometry	OAC	yes	06/95	Day School	n/a
Biology	OAC	yes	06/95	Day School	n/a
Physics	OAC	yes	06/95	Day School	n/a

The rank could not be obtained because Glenforest S.S. does not supply such information.

   c) All grade 12 and OAC courses were taken at day school.

   d) I spend an average of 15 hours per week doing homework.

7. **Yes,** I plan on writing the Descartes contest on April 19, 1995.

David Tam

8.

Start	End	Activity	Time spent/ week	Offices, honours level, etc.
09/91	06/95	Junior/Senior Math Club	1 hr	
09/92	06/95	Audio/Visual Crew	1 hr	
09/93	06/95	Computer Graphics Club (GFX)	3 hrs	President
09/93	09/94	Yearbook Club	1 hr	Layout
09/93	06/95	Senior School Reach for the Top	1 hr	1994 Peel finals
09/93	06/94	Mississauga Hospital Volunteer	3 hrs	Admitting depart. 96 hrs total
09/93	06/94	Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic	n/a	Registrar, Tele-recruiter
09/93	06/95	University of Toronto Mentorship Program	4 hrs	Research Assistant
09/94	06/95	Math Tutoring	1 hr	
09/94	06/95	Newspaper	1 hr	Layout & Writing
09/94	06/95	Junior Achievement Association of Peel	1 hr	
09/94	06/95	Junior Achievement Company Program	3 hrs	Vice-President of Administration

David Tam

9.

Start	End	Sport	Level	Offices, honours, level, etc.
09/92	11/92	Cross Country Running	Interest	
09/92	02/93	Cross Country Skiing	Interschool	Junior, 2nd place team standing at ROPSSAA race
05/93	06/93	Mountain Biking Club	Interest	
05/94	06/93	Grad Baseball	Intramural	Semi-Finals

***** (Region of Peel Secondary School Athletic Association)

10. a)

( )	Start	End	Job	Employer	Average hours/week
	08/94	09/94	Computer Presentation Designer	Silicon Graphics Canada, Inc.	40
	09/94	06/95	Audio/Visual Stage Crew Member	Peel Board of Education	2

10. b) I held a part-time job while attending school because there was a need for and a lack of qualified candidates for the position. I chose to assist my high school by providing them with my services.

David Tam

11.

Start	End	Activity	Special Features
07/93	08/93	University of Toronto's Computing Insights Program	4 Week, Advanced Computer Science Program (Accepts 60 From the Greater Toronto Area)
07/94	08/94	Shad Valley Program, University of British Columbia	A Science, Technology, and Entrepreneurship Program (Accepts 400 in Canada) Included Work Term with Silicon Graphics Canada

12.

1993 Grade 11 Champ Math Competition. 5th place in school.

1994 Grade 11 Fermat Math Competition. Top 25 % in Canada.

1994 Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation semi-finals. Top 60 students from Greater Toronto Area.

13.

August 1994. Mississauga Hospital award for 50+ hours of volunteer work.

David Tam

14.

1984 by George Orwell

1984 has influenced me because it introduced fascinating new philosophies and had much to say about power, politics, and human nature. Orwell introduced the fascinating philosophy of Doublethink and the language of Newspeak. The deep psychological games played by the oppressors revealed a lot about human nature, though it was mostly cynical. This novel has caused me to become aware of the potential dangers of oppression and the loss of privacy. Big Brother is alluded to quite often in the present day because of the explosion of information accessibility. These fascinating new ideas provide a spark for my own ideas. They provide a seed for my own creative thought. It has also caused me to become more cautious of power and the statements of politicians. This novel has given me a better understanding of human nature.

Neuromancer by William Gibson

This cult classic is a combination of an intriguing mystery and a great science fiction story. It presents a future that is controlled by large corporations. Biological engineering, artificial intelligence, and cyberspace are areas that interest me and are explored and well-developed by the author. This novel has enhanced my overall creative thought process by introducing new ideas, both in terms of narration and setting. It has provided me with inspiration for developing my own ideas. My interest and exploration of the Internet is partially due to this novel.

Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett

This play, though very simple in its presentation, is rich with very complex ideas. The philosophy of existentialism was very interesting and introduced me to a whole new way of thinking about life and existence. The questioning of the most basic conditions of human existence had never occurred in my own mind. Discovering such an idea from Beckett stirred my interests. I am always amazed by new ideas and this one, in particular, is still mysterious. The beauty of this novel is that I still do not fully understand it. Every time I re-examine it, I can always find new interpretations. The heavy interpretation that is required is a challenge but it is also rewarding. This play has caused me to research existentialism to gain a better understanding. It has presented ideas for me to evaluate and incorporate into my own beliefs. It has altered my view of the world and of life.

David Tam

15.

The writing of an economic thesis paper for OAC Economics meant the most to me during my school years. The topic I had chosen was technology as an economic challenge to Canada. I pursued research in this area with great intensity because of my personal interests in all aspects of technology, ranging from the social effects to the most technical details. This resulted in an excellent grade from my Economics teacher. Because this topic had interested me a great deal I found quite a bit more information than was necessary, though this was quite enjoyable. For example, in the extra research I had done for the sake of personal interest, I stumbled upon a very small article on the pursuits of Professor Kim Veltman of the University of Toronto. A few months later, I happened to meet this same professor. From my research I gained a better understanding of how technology affected the economic condition of a country. I was able to determine the current status of technology in Canada, identify the problems, and generate possible solutions. Combining both my technical background knowledge with the discipline of economics, to present a problem-solution thesis paper, proved to be a very satisfying process.

16.

Participating in the mentorship program at the University of Toronto has meant the most to me. For this reason, I've dedicated four hours every week. I have been in the mentorship program for two years, aiding Professor Janet Salaff in the Department of Sociology. Currently, I help in research and in the analyzation of data on telecommuting - working at home instead of at a large, central office, made possible by the use of electronic connections -. The department basically studies the impact of technology upon society. I also help in many other aspects of the project, such as solving technical computer problems, preparing mini-seminars, and being a tutor during a few seminars. This activity is the most important to me because I feel that I am contributing to society by being involved in research, and because I have an important role in the research team. I believe that a well-rounded view of technology is needed for a better understanding. This is just one area of technology that I am interested in, along with the technical side.

David Tam

17.

Engineering is a challenge I am ready to accept despite the stories I have heard from my cousins and brother who study engineering. In particular, computer engineering is the program I wish to pursue because of my fascination with computers and technology, as well as my aptitude and interests in mathematics and science.

The career of an engineer was never clear to me until I had attended the Shad Valley program in the summer of 1994. Now, I have discovered that it is a very powerful discipline that has many applications in the real world. Engineers are not trained for one specific job. Instead, they are given the tools to design and handle any set of problems presented. Having experienced the Shad Valley program, I have learned a few engineering aspects. The mandate of our group projects required the design of a product within the given time period of four weeks. During that time period, basic engineering concepts were presented in the form of lectures to aid in our development of a product. As a result of the Shad Valley program, my desire to acquire this discipline has grown stronger.

My short-term career goal is to obtain a degree in computer engineering, and to work for a leading technology-oriented company. My long-term career goals present more variety. A masters or doctorate degree in engineering is only one idea. My minor interests in economics, as development by the Junior Achievement program and my summer work experience at Silicon Graphics, may lead me to obtain a masters of business and administration. The combination of a solid computer engineering discipline, along with knowledge of the business world are the two key elements which will provide me with a bright future. Education will continue to play an important role in all stages of my life.

I hope to contribute to many of Waterloo's student activity clubs and teams by offering whatever talents and aptitudes I have. One specific area I have in mind is the Engineering Society. I am very interested in the research that is conducted at the Institute for Computer Research, and I wish to assist in their activities.

From my studies at Waterloo, I hope to gain the engineering discipline, with specific knowledge in the area of computers. Insight into the work environment is what I hope the co-op portion of the engineering program will provide. Developing better communication and time-management skills will be a definite goal because of the intellectual challenge of the engineering program. Finally, the much talked about "university experience" is something that I and every university student must discover, enjoy, and never forget.

David Tam

18. Other than English, I also speak Cantonese.

19.

The experiences of the Shad Valley program have shaped my personal development. I have become involved in more activities outside of the school curriculum. I attempted but was not successful in assembling a team of students for the Canada First Competition, a national robotics/engineering contest. I became involved with the Junior Achievement Company Program because I wished to gain experience in business operations and in dealing with members of a team. The final endeavor I have undertaken involved assembling two teams to enter the Wilfred Laurier High School Stock Market Competition for the autumn session of 1994. Despite the failures and the successes of these activities, I have gained many valuable experiences. The drive and determination to become involved was a quality I learned from my Shad Valley experience. I hope to apply this to my university life at Waterloo.

Being a well-rounded individual with a variety of interests and abilities is something I strive to achieve. I enjoy academic as well as physical activities such as rollerblading and mountain biking. The key to a rewarding lifestyle is to maintain a balance between work, rest, and play. I know that this balance will be challenged at university. My interests in science, technology, and entrepreneurship present me with many possible future careers. I wish to keep all of my options open. Choosing computer engineering as the program of study will give me the widest array of options and offer me to the most satisfaction.

The desire for knowledge is a characteristic I possess. There are many things I wish to learn about, yet there is very little time to accomplish this. For example, my desire for knowledge is usually intensified whenever I enter a library. I am fascinated with the amount of information that is available. Sometimes, I wish I could absorb all of the knowledge. One particular area of fascination is philosophy. Philosophies open many doors because they present new ways of thinking and new ideas. Beauty is an idea because an idea is intangible yet very powerful.

Computer engineering is a very difficult discipline but I am prepared to accept the challenge. I believe I am well qualified for the program based on my academic record, past experiences, determination, and interests. It is my hope that this challenge will allow me to build a successful future.