



Paris, January 5th, 2010

To whom it may concern,

The Lycée Saint-Louis is one of the top state schools in France preparing students for entrance to the French "Grandes Ecoles" : engineering schools, leading business schools and ENS (Ecole Normale Supérieure). Our "Grandes Ecoles" are roughly the equivalent of leading American and British Universities.

Students are admitted to the Lycée Saint-Louis after severe selection and our school can be considered as one of the most successful in preparing students for highly competitive exams. The average level of our students is far higher than that of the students in most French Universities.

Please note that the A, B, C, D, E "grades" established by "Lycée Saint-Louis" do not correspond to the British grading system. They can be interpreted as a ranking system which only attributes an "A" to a handful of students and sometimes only one student. These levels can be found on the translation of the original transcripts for every term or semester.

The Physics and Engineering Sciences section (PSI) is regarded as particularly attractive by many students willing to prepare for the exams. Therefore the first-year students with the highest potential are usually admitted in PSI* or PSIET (ET standing for "Etoile" which means "Star"), where they are trained to take the top exams such as the "Polytechnique" or the "Mines" exams which allow entrance to schools such as ISAE Supaero.

Therefore, these classes are characterized by their homogeneity and very high level. The severe marking of the teachers cannot be compared to the way students' work is currently assessed in other schools. The only real indicator of a student's work is his or her rate of success in the various exams (s)he takes at the end of the second year.

Assistant to the Principal of Saint-Louis School