

## Selective High School Placement Test 2020 for entry to Year 7 in 2021

### Test information for parents and students

#### Who must sit the Selective High School Placement Test?

Students seeking placement in Year 7 at a selective high school must take the Selective High School Placement Test unless they have a satisfactory explanation, e.g. illness. (See page 4.)

#### When will the test be held?

The test will be held on **Thursday 12 March 2020 at 9.00am** at the allocated test centre.

#### How long does the test take?

The following is a sample timetable for the test. Apart from the start time and duration of the tests this timetable is approximate and will vary according to the size of the test centre and its facilities.

Parents must drop students off at the test centre by **9.00am** and return promptly at **1.30pm** to pick them up. There is no supervision for students before 8:30am. If the test finishes early, students will be supervised. Please do not be late to collect your child after the test. If the test is delayed, please wait quietly and take care to avoid disruption to the school or students doing the test.

In a small number of cases parents will be advised in writing if they are required to stay on the school grounds for student welfare reasons. **Generally, parents are NOT permitted to enter the test centre and they must leave the school grounds during the test so the school can maintain its security.** Please do not photograph other students or attempt to take photographs of students inside the test room (even through windows) as it can cause disturbance to the students.

Activity	Approximate start	Approximate finish
Candidates arrive by	9.00am	
Candidates assemble in school groups	9.00am	9.20am
Session 1: Administration	9.20am	10.00am
Reading test (40 minutes)	10.00am	10.40am
Break	10.40am	10.45am
Mathematics test (40 minutes)	10.45am	11.25am
Administration	11.25am	11.35pm
Break	11.35am	11.55am
Session 2: Administration	11.55am	12.10pm
General ability test (40 minutes)	12.10pm	12.50pm
Break	12.50pm	12.55pm
Writing test (20 minutes)	12.55pm	1.15pm
Candidates collected by parents		1.30pm

#### What happens during the 20 minute break?

In the longer break students will leave the test room and should go to the toilet. They should not run or play vigorous games, but they should eat food they have brought with them. Students should not share food.

#### How do students get to the test centre?

Parents must arrange transport for the child to and from the test centre and must observe any parking restrictions near the test centre. **Parents must not park on or drive into school premises unless authorised by the High Performing Students Team and the school prior to the test.**

## What happens if a student arrives late?

Students who arrive late may be allowed to take the test, but will be required to finish at the same time as other students. Parents can request consideration for illness/misadventure after the test if there are extenuating circumstances.

## What should students wear to the test?

Students should wear school uniform, including a jumper and a hat for the break. Before the test the students will be assembled in primary school groups outside the test centre.

## What must the students bring to the test?

Students must bring a printed copy of their 'Test authority letter' that shows their application number.	
Students who have been granted disability provisions must bring any specially approved items. <b>If your child has an EpiPen you must provide the <i>Action plan for anaphylaxis</i> and the medication to the presiding officer before the test.</b>	
<b>Students SHOULD bring:</b>	<b>Students should NOT bring:</b>
Glasses, asthma inhaler (and spacer) and tissues if required. Other equipment and medical devices must be approved before the test	Pens, pencil cases, erasers, rulers, note paper or other material such as dictionaries or books
Clear plastic water bottle – with no writing on it except for the brand name (to be stored under the seat to avoid spills)	Equipment such as calculators, computers, mobile phones, computer watches, watches that calculate or beep, or any device that calculates, photographs or communicates
A substantial snack to eat during the break as lunch will be late, especially if the test is delayed.	Snacks containing nuts or nut products.

Pens will be provided for all students sitting the test.

## How are the students identified at the test?

At their desks in the test room students will find an answer booklet labelled with their name, date of birth and current school. They should tell a supervisor if the details are wrong. Identifying details are not provided to markers so all papers are marked anonymously. Answer booklets are linked back to the student using a unique booklet barcode.

## What tests do the students do?

There are four tests. Three of the tests have multiple-choice questions and students answer in answer booklets which are scanned electronically. These three tests are Reading, Mathematics and General ability, each lasting 40 minutes. The fourth test is a writing test lasting 20 minutes. A stimulus such as an image, a statement or a question is provided and students respond in writing on two pages only.

To gain high marks for their writing students should include interesting and imaginative ideas and communicate their ideas clearly. The markers will give **no marks** if the writing is not about the topic or if the writing is using someone else's ideas or words. The writing test is double marked by trained markers. The markers pay more attention to what is written than to how much is written. The markers need to be able to read the handwriting.

## How do students show their answers?

The presiding officer (the person in charge of the test centre) will show students how to record their responses in the answer booklets at the beginning of the first test session and students will practise recording their answers. Students who need further help should raise their hands. This part of an example answer booklet shows the boxes students will shade in to show their answers.

The answers are grouped according to the page number in the question booklet, e.g. question 1 to 5 are on page R3 of the question booklet in this example.

TEST 1 READING																										
Page R3				Page R11				Page R17																		
1	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	31	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	17	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page R19								
3	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	18	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	32	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page R13				33	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>					
5	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	19	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	34	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
Page R5				20	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	35	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>					
6	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	21	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page R21								

This helps students to make sure they are answering each question on the correct line of the answer booklet. Sample answer booklet pages can be viewed on the Team's website under 'The test'.

**Students must show their answers in the answer booklet** and not the question booklet unless authorised in advance by the Team as a disability provision. If students need to work anything out they may write in the question booklet but they must show answers in the answer booklet. See below for instructions for changing an answer.

### How do the students know how much time they have in each test?

The presiding officer will show students the test clock that times the test. If students cannot see the test centre clock clearly, they put up their hands and tell the presiding officer or supervisor. Test centre clocks are usually analogue clocks so students need to be able to read the time. No time warnings will be given before the end of each test.

### What is expected of the students?

Students must follow the presiding officer's and supervisors' instructions during tests and breaks.

### What if students miss all or part of the test or are prevented from doing their best on the day?

Students unable to take the test will not be eligible for placement at a selective high school unless there are exceptional circumstances. If your child misses all or part of the test because of exceptional circumstances, you should submit a request for consideration of illness/misadventure within 14 days of the test. Parents may submit an illness/misadventure request if their children took the test while ill or because of misadventure which prevented them from doing their best. The *Illness/misadventure* form is available at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7/the-test/illness-or-misadventure>. It is generally better to do the test and make an illness/misadventure request than to miss the test, as long as it does not put your child or other students at risk of harm.

If your child is ill on test day you should seek medical attention **on the day of the test**. Ask for a medical certificate covering the test day and also the 'Independent evidence of illness' form.

### Test information for students

- There is nothing you should study for the tests. It is most important to think clearly and to use your ability to deal with new problems and situations to choose an answer.
- Pay attention when the presiding officer (the person in charge of the tests) talks to you and tells you where to show the answers for each test.
- Put your hand up if you have any problems understanding the instructions and the presiding officer or supervisor will answer your questions.
- Be careful not to look at the work of others during the test. If suspected of cheating you risk having the test marks not counted.
- Do NOT open the question booklet until the presiding officer tells you to do so.
- At the beginning of the first Session there will be practice questions to make sure that you know how to show your answers. Start and stop work as soon as you are told to.

- Read each test question carefully before you start answering it. Think about what it asks you to do. Use your time wisely. Work steadily. Choose the answer that you think is best. If you find a question too difficult, do not spend a long time on it. Shade in the answer you think is best and come back to that question later if you have time.
- To change an answer, draw an X through the answer you don't want and shade in the box of the new answer. If you want to choose an answer you previously crossed out, circle the answer you now want and draw an X over the latest answer you shaded in.

INSTRUCTIONS:			
How to show an answer:	A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Show your answers like this. B is your answer.		
How to show a correction:	A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/>		(B was your first answer but you crossed it out and now A is your answer)
	A is your answer.		
How to show you now want an answer you previously crossed out:	A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/>		(You decided that A was not correct and B was the correct answer after all so you circled B)
	B is your final answer.		

If you then change your mind about the answer you circled put a new X right over the circle and then choose a new answer.

- In the multiple-choice tests every question has equal value. Marks are given for correct answers. Marks are not taken off for wrong answers. Incorrect, double or blank answers score zero. It is better to have a guess rather than leave an answer blank as this helps you make sure you are answering on the correct line. If you wish to remember the questions you want to check later, put a small dot beside those numbers on the answer booklet.
- In the writing test, you must write about the topic or no marks will be given. The writing must be all your own work.
- Keep checking that the number of the question you are working on in the question booklet is the same as the number you are shading on the answer booklet. Check this with the 'Answer check' reminders throughout the tests, for example:

ANSWER CHECK (Reading No. 1)  
 Look at your answer booklet — was the last box you filled in for Question 18?  
 If it was, keep going. If it wasn't, put your hand up now for help.

If you find you are answering a question at the wrong place, put your hand up and tell a supervisor. The supervisor will record the question numbers affected so the selection committees can investigate later. Start the next question at the correct place and come back to fix the problem later if you have time, changing one question at a time.

- If you want to work anything out in the multiple-choice tests you can write on the question booklet. For the writing test there is a page for planning in the red section of the question booklet that you can use if you wish. Any notes that you have made in the question booklet or on the writing planning page will not be marked.
- There will be no time warnings during the test. You will need to check the test centre's official clock to find out how much time you have left. Put your hand up if you cannot see it clearly.
- Put your hand up if you have any other problems or any questions at any time. Any problems should be written by a supervisor on the back page of your answer booklet.
- If you have a disability provision organised for the test you may be given just a question booklet and not an answer booklet. You will have your own instructions for showing answers.
- Practise using sample test questions and sample answer sheets at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7/the-test>.

Enquiries: High Performing Students Team. Email: [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au). Telephone: 1300 880 367  
 Website: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7>