

## Selective High School Placement Test for entry to Year 7 in 2018

### 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 3 for further information.)

#### What tests do the students do?

There are four tests. Three of the tests have multiple-choice questions and students answer in computer-marked answer booklets. 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.

To gain high marks for their writing students should write only about the topic, include interesting and imaginative ideas and communicate their ideas clearly. 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 writing markers need to be able to read the handwriting. The writing must be completed on a maximum of two pages. The writing 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.

#### When will the test be held?

The test will be held on **Thursday 9 March 2017 at 9.00am** at the allocated test centre.

#### How long does the test take?

The following is a sample timetable for the test. Parents should drop students off at the test centre by 9.00am and return promptly at 1.30pm to pick them up. Do not arrive before 8:30am as there is no supervision available.

Apart from the arrival time and duration of the tests this timetable is approximate and will vary according to the size and location of the test centre.

ACTIVITY	START	FINISH
Candidates arrive by	9.00am	
Candidates assemble in school	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

**Parents must not remain on the school grounds during the test unless specifically authorised by the Unit. Parents must collect students at 1.30pm.**

## How do students get to the test centre?

Parents must arrange transport to and from the test centre. Parents must be ready to collect students from the test centre by 1.30pm, the approximate dismissal time. **Parents must not park or wait on school premises unless authorised by the Unit prior to the test.** If the test finishes early and parents have not yet arrived to collect their children, students may return to the test room under supervision until 1.30pm. Students are not to be left waiting after the test.

## What should the students wear to the test?

Students should wear school uniform, including a jumper if it is a cool day and a hat for the break. Before the test the students will be assembled in primary school groups outside the test centre. The school uniform helps the supervisors running the test to organise the students more easily.

## What must the students bring to the test?

This year pens will be provided for all candidates sitting the test so students should **not** bring their own pens. Students should bring items that have been approved for them as special test provisions.

Students SHOULD bring:	Students SHOULD NOT bring:
Glasses and asthma inhaler if required. Any other medical device must be approved well before the test	Pens, pencil cases, erasers
Test authority letter or email from the High Performing Students Unit with their application number	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 rulers, 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.	Snacks containing nuts or nut products.

## How are the students identified at the test?

When students go to their desk they will find an answer booklet labelled with their name, date of birth and current school. They must tell a supervisor if the details are wrong. These identifying details are not provided to markers to ensure that all papers are marked anonymously. Answer booklets are linked back to the student using a unique booklet barcode.

## 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. Students will be given a chance to practise recording their answers. Students who need further help should raise their hands. This part of an answer booklet shows the boxes students will fill to show their answers.

Note that the answers are grouped according to the page number in the question booklet, e.g. question 1 and 2 are on page R2 and questions 3-4 are on page R3 of the question booklet.

TEST 1 READING																										
Page R2				Page R9				Page R17																		
1	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	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"/>	15	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"/>
Page R3				Page R11				Page R19																		
3	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"/>	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"/>	17	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	33	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
Page R4				Page R11				Page R19																		
5	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"/>	34	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
Page R5				Page R11				Page R19																		
6	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"/>	35	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	36	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"/>	37	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
									22	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	38	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

**Students must show their answers in the answer booklet** and not the question booklet unless authorised in advance as a special test 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 page 4 for how to change an answer.

## **What is expected of the students?**

Students must be careful not to look at the work of others during the test. Students suspected of cheating risk having the test marks not counted. Students must follow the presiding officer's and supervisor's instructions both during the tests and in the breaks. In a small number of cases parents will be advised if they are permitted to stay on the school grounds for student welfare reasons.

**Generally, parents are not permitted to enter the test centre and they are requested to leave the school grounds during the test.**

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

In the break between the mathematics and general ability tests students will leave the test room. During this period they should not run or play vigorous games, but they may eat food they have brought with them. The test centre's canteen facilities may not be available to candidates.

## **What happens if a student arrives late?**

Tests will start promptly. Students who arrive late may be allowed to take the test, but will be required to finish at the same time as other students.

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

The presiding officer will show students the test clock being used to time the test. If students cannot see the test centre clock, they should raise their hands and tell the presiding officer or supervisor. No time warnings will be given before the end of each test.

## **What if the student is unable to take the test or misses part of the test?**

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, lodge a request for consideration of illness/misadventure within 14 days of the test. Parents may lodge an illness/misadventure request if the student took the test while suffering from illness or because of misadventure which prevented them from doing their best. The form is available on the Unit's website. It is generally better to do the test and lodge an illness/misadventure request than to miss the test, as long as it does not put the child at risk of harm.

It is the responsibility of the parents to seek medical attention for the student **on the day of the test** if the child is ill on the test day. Attach a medical certificate and/or other evidence to the illness/misadventure form. Note: Ask the doctor to complete the *Independent evidence of illness* page of the illness/misadventure form.

## **What should students know about the test?**

- There is nothing you should study especially 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 shows you where to record the answers for each test.
- If you have any problems understanding the instructions put your hand up and the presiding officer or supervisor will answer your questions.
- 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 show you the kinds of questions on the tests and to make sure that you know how to show your answers. Work through these when you are told, and stop work when 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. Do not rush or you might make careless mistakes. 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. Mark 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 fill 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 coloured in.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**How to show an answer:**      A  B  C  D   
 Show your answers like this, B is your answer.

**How to show a correction:**      A  B  C  D       (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  B  C  D   
 B is your final answer.      (You decided that A was not correct and B was the correct answer after all so you circled B)

- Each multiple-choice test takes forty minutes, while the writing test takes 20 minutes. In the writing test, students must write about the topic or no marks will be given.
- In each multiple-choice test every question has equal value. Marks are awarded for each correct answer. Incorrect, double or blank answers score zero. Marks are not taken off for wrong answers. It is better to have a guess rather than leave an answer blank. Not leaving any answers blank helps you make sure you are answering on the correct line.
- Keep checking that the number of the question you are working on in the question booklet is the same as the number you are marking on the answer sheet. Check this with the 'Answer check' reminders throughout the tests (like the one shown below). If you find you are answering a question at the wrong place, put your hand up and tell your supervisor. The supervisor will record the details and report the problem to the selection committee. Start the next question at the correct place and come back to fix the problem if you have time, changing one question at a time. You should not cross out a whole group of answers at once as you could run out of time correcting them. Do not waste too much time trying to fix the problem before you have finished the last question.

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

- If you want to work anything out in the multiple-choice tests you can write on the question booklet. There is also space provided for planning in the writing task question booklet if you choose to use it. The question and answer booklets will be collected at the end of the tests, but any notes that you have made in the question booklet will not be marked.
- There will be no time warnings during the test. Once the test starts you will need to check the test centre's clock to find out how much time you have left. The presiding officer will tell you which test centre clock is the official one. Put your hand up if you cannot see it.
- Put your hand up if you have any other problems or any questions.

### Where can I find sample test papers?

Some sample test questions and the latest answer sheets are available on the Internet at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7/the-test>. Candidates can practise colouring in the answer boxes as they will do in the test.

**Students must bring their *Test authority* letter or email to the test centre on the day of the test.**

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