

Pass the SHSAT!

Specialized High School Admissions Test Study Guide

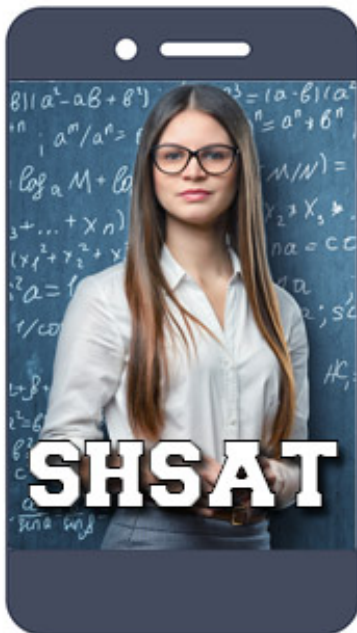




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Published by
Complete Test Preparation Inc.
Victoria BC Canada

Visit us on the web at <https://www.test-preparation.ca>
Printed in the USA

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ISBN-13: 978-1927358795

ISBN-10: 1927358795

Version 7.5 July 2020

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Getting Started

CONGRATULATIONS! By deciding to take the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT®), you have taken the first step toward a great future! Of course, there is no point in taking this important examination unless you intend to do your best to earn the highest grade you possibly can. That means getting yourself organized and discovering the best approaches, methods and strategies to master the material. Yes, that will require real effort and dedication on your part, but if you are willing to focus your energy and devote the study time necessary, before you know it you will be opening that letter of acceptance to the school of your dreams!

We know that taking on a new endeavour can be scary, and it is easy to feel unsure of where to begin. That's where we come in. This study guide is designed to help you improve your test-taking skills, show you a few tricks of the trade and increase both your competency and confidence.

The Specialized High School Admissions Test

The SHSAT® exam has two sections, section 1 comprises scrambled paragraphs, logical reasoning, reading comprehension, and section 2 is mathematics. The scrambled paragraph section tests your knowledge of paragraph organization, structure and English grammar. The reading comprehension tests your ability to summarize, draw logical conclusions and make inferences. The logical reasoning section tests your logical reasoning skills, for example, drawing conclusions, identifying assumptions, figuring out a code and determining position. The mathematics section covers basic math and algebra, geometry, probability and statistics.

While we seek to make our guide as comprehensive as possible, note that like all exams, the SHSAT® Exam might be adjusted at some future point. New material might be added, or content that is no longer relevant or applicable might be removed. It is always a good idea to give the materials you receive when you register to take the SHSAT® a careful review.

How this study guide is organized

This study guide is divided into three sections. The first section, Self-Assessments, which will help you recognize your areas of strength and weaknesses. This will be a boon when it comes to managing your study time most

efficiently; there is not much point of focusing on material you have already got firmly under control. Instead, taking the self-assessments will show you where that time could be much better spent. In this area you will begin with a few questions to evaluate quickly your understanding of material that is likely to appear on the SHSAT®. If you do poorly in certain areas, simply work carefully through those sections in the tutorials and then try the self-assessment again.

The second section, Tutorials, offers information in each of the content areas, as well as strategies to help you master that material. The tutorials are not intended to be a complete course, but cover general principles. If you find that you do not understand the tutorials, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction.

Third, we offer two sets of practice test questions, similar to those on the SHSAT® Exam.

The SHSAT® Study Plan

Now that you have made the decision to take the SHSAT®, it is time to get started. Before you do another thing, you will need to figure out a plan of attack. The very best study tip is to start early! The longer the time period you devote to regular study practice, the likelier you will retain the material and access it quickly. If you thought that 1x20 is the same as 2x10, guess what? It really is not, when it comes to study time. Reviewing material for just an hour per day over the course of 20 days is far better than studying for two hours a day for only 10 days. The more often you revisit a particular piece of information, the better you will know it. Not only will your grasp and understanding be better, but your ability to reach into your brain and quickly and efficiently pull out the tidbit you need, will be greatly enhanced as well.

The great Chinese scholar and philosopher Confucius believed that true knowledge could be defined as knowing what you know and what you do not know. The first step in preparing for the SHSAT® is to assess your strengths and weaknesses. You may already have an idea of what you know and what you do not know, but evaluating yourself using our Self- Assessment modules for each of the three areas, Math, Writing and Quantitative skills, will clarify the details.

Making a Study Schedule

To make your study time the most productive, you will need to develop a study plan. The purpose of the plan is to organize all the bits of pieces of information in such a way that you will not feel overwhelmed. Rome was

not built in a day, and learning everything you will need to know to pass the SHSAT® is going to take time, too. Arranging the material you need to learn into manageable chunks is the best way to go. Each study session should make you feel as though you have accomplished your goal, or at least are a little closer, and your goal is simply to learn what you planned to learn during that particular session. Try to organize the content in such a way that each study session builds upon previous ones. That way, you will retain the information, be better able to access it, and review the previous bits and pieces at the same time.

Self-assessment

The Best Study Tip! The very best study tip is to start early! The longer you study regularly, the more you will retain and ‘learn’ the material. Studying for 1 hour per day for 20 days is far better than studying for 2 hours for 10 days.

What don’t you know?

The first step is to assess your strengths and weaknesses. You may already have an idea of where your weaknesses are, or you can take our Self-assessment modules for each of the content areas.

Exam Component	Rate 1 to 5
Scrambled Paragraphs	
Logical Reasoning	
Reading Comprehension	
Mathematics	
Basic Math & Arithmetic	
Algebra	
Geometry	
Reading Comprehension	

Making a Study Schedule

The key to a successful study plan is to divide the material you need to learn into manageable sized pieces and learn it, while at the same time reviewing the material that you already know.

Using the table above, any scores of 3 or below, mean you need to spend time learning, reviewing and practicing this subject area. A score of 4 means you need to review the material, but you don't have to spend time re-learning. A score of 5 and you are OK with just an occasional review before the exam. A score of 0 or 1 means you really need to work on this should allocate the most time and the highest priority. Some students prefer a 5-day plan and others a 10-day plan. It also depends on how much time you have until the exam.

Here is an example of a 5-day plan based on an example from the table above:

Scrambled Paragraphs: 1- Study 1 hour everyday – review on last day

Logical Reasoning: 4 - Review every second day

Geometry: 2 - Study 1 hour first day – then $\frac{1}{2}$ hour everyday

Algebra: 5 - Review for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour every other day

Reading Comp.: 5 - Review for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour every other day

Using this example, reading comprehension and algebra are good and only need occasional review. Geometry is good and needs 'some' review. Logical Reasoning needs a bit of work, and Scrambled Paragraphs are very weak and need the majority of time. Based on this, here is a sample study plan:

Scrambled Paragraphs

THIS CHAPTER CONTAINS A SELF-ASSESSMENT AND SCRAMBLED PARAGRAPHS TUTORIAL. The tutorials are designed to familiarize general principles and the self-assessment contains general questions similar to the scrambled paragraphs questions likely to be on the SHSAT®, but are not intended to be identical to the exam questions. If you do not understand the questions, or the tutorial, or find the tutorial difficult, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction.

Note that these questions are for skill practice only.

Tour of the SHSAT Scrambled Paragraphs

The SHSAT® scrambled paragraphs section has 5 paragraphs. Below is a list of the things that generally appear in this section. The scrambled paragraph section will ask you to create a paragraph that is:

- Grammatically correct
- Logically structured
- Coherent
- Unified around the topic sentence

The questions below are not the same as you will find on the SHSAT® - that would be too easy! And nobody knows what the questions will be and they change all the time. Mostly the changes consist of substituting new questions for old, but the changes can be new question formats or styles, changes to the number of questions in each section, changes to the time limits for each section and combining sections.

Please Note: Below are general scrambled paragraphs questions that cover the same areas as the SHSAT®. So, while the format and exact wording of the questions may differ slightly, and change from year to year, if you can answer the questions below, you will have no problem with the scrambled paragraphs section of the SHSAT®.

Scrambled Paragraphs Self-Assessment

The purpose of the self-assessment is:

- Identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop your personalized study plan (above)
- Get accustomed to the SHSAT® format
- Extra practice – the self-assessments are almost a full 3rd practice test!
- Provide a baseline score for preparing your study schedule.

Since this is a self-assessment, and depending on how confident you are with scrambled paragraphs, timing is optional. The SHSAT® has 5 scrambled paragraphs questions to be answered in about 10 minutes. The self-assessment has 5 scrambled paragraphs, so allow about 10 minutes to complete this assessment.

The timing is not exact, as the scrambled paragraphs are included with the logical reasoning and reading comprehension questions in the Verbal Skills section. For the entire verbal skills section, there are a total of 45 questions to be answered in 75 minutes.

Once complete, use the table below to assess your understanding of the content, and prepare your study schedule described in chapter 1.

80% - 100%	Excellent – you have mastered the content
60 – 79%	Good. You have a working knowledge. Even though you can just pass this section, you may want to review the tutorials and do some extra practice to see if you can improve your mark.
40% - 59%	Below Average. You do not understand the scrambled paragraph problems. Review the tutorials, and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the practice test questions.
Less than 40%	Poor. You have a very limited understanding of the scrambled paragraph problems. Please review the tutorials, and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the practice test questions.

Scrambled Paragraphs Self-Assessment Answer Sheet

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Logical Reasoning

THIS CHAPTER CONTAINS A SELF-ASSESSMENT AND LOGICAL REASONING TUTORIAL. The tutorials are designed to familiarize general principles and the self-assessment contains general questions similar to the logical reasoning questions likely to be on the SHSAT, but are not intended to be identical to the exam questions. The tutorials are not designed to be a complete logical reasoning course, and it is assumed that students have some familiarity with logical reasoning questions. If you do not understand parts of the tutorial, or find the tutorial difficult, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction.

Note that these questions are for skill practice only.

Tour of the SHSAT Logical Reasoning

The SHSAT® logical reasoning section has 10 questions. Below is a detailed list of the types of logical reasoning questions that generally appear on the SHSAT®.

- Drawing conclusions from information given
- Identifying assumptions
- Ordering items based on partial information
- Deciphering coded statements

The questions below are not the same as you will find on the SHSAT® - that would be too easy! And nobody knows what the questions will be and they change all the time. Mostly the changes consist of substituting new questions for old, but the changes can be new question formats or styles, changes to the number of questions in each section, changes to the time limits for each section and combining sections.

Please Note: Below are general logical reasoning questions that cover the same areas as the SHSAT, and are for skill practice. So, while the format and exact wording of the questions may differ slightly, and change from year to year, if you can answer the questions below, you will have no problem with the logical reasoning section of the SHSAT.

Logical Reasoning Self-Assessment

The purpose of the self-assessment is:

- Identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop your personalized study plan (above)
- Get accustomed to the SHSAT® format
- Extra practice – the self-assessments are almost a full 3rd practice test!
- Provide a baseline score for preparing your study schedule.

Since this is a self-assessment, and depending on how confident you are with logical reasoning, timing is optional. The SHSAT® has 10 Logical Reasoning questions to be answered in about 15 minutes. The self-assessment has 10 questions, so allow about 15 minutes to complete this assessment.

The timing is not exact, as the logical reasoning section is included with the scrambled paragraphs and reading comprehension questions. For the entire section, a total of 45 questions to be answered in 75 minutes.

Once complete, use the table below to assess your understanding of the content, and prepare your study schedule described in chapter 1.

80% - 100%	Excellent – you have mastered the content
60 – 79%	Good. You have a working knowledge. Even though you can just pass this section, you may want to review the tutorials and do some extra practice to see if you can improve your mark.
40% - 59%	Below Average. You do not understand logical reasoning problems. Review the tutorials, and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the practice test questions.
Less than 40%	Poor. You have a very limited understanding of logical reasoning problems. Please review the tutorials , and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the practice test questions.

Logical Reasoning Self-Assessment Answer Sheet

- | | | | |
|----|------|-------|-----------|
| 1. | True | False | Uncertain |
| 2. | True | False | Uncertain |
| 3. | True | False | Uncertain |
| 4. | True | False | Uncertain |
| 5. | True | False | Uncertain |

6. (A) (B) (C) (D)

7. (A) (B) (C) (D)

8. (A) (B) (C) (D)

9. (A) (B) (C) (D)

10. (A) (B) (C) (D)

Reading Comprehension

THIS CHAPTER CONTAINS A SELF-ASSESSMENT AND READING COMPREHENSION TUTORIAL. The tutorials are designed to familiarize general principles and the self-assessment contains general questions similar to the reading questions likely to be on the SHSAT®, but are not intended to be identical to the exam questions. The tutorials are not designed to be a complete reading comprehension course, and it is assumed that students have some familiarity with reading comprehension questions. If you do not understand parts of the tutorial, or find the tutorial difficult, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction.

Note that these questions are for skill practice only.

Tour of the SHSAT Reading Comprehension Content

Below is more detailed list of the types of reading comprehension questions that generally appear on the SHSAT®. Make sure you understand all of these points at a very minimum.

- Drawing logical conclusions
- Make predictions
- Analyze and evaluate the use of text structure to solve problems or identify sequences
- Vocabulary - Give the definition of a word from context
- Summarizing

The questions below are not the same as you will find on the SHSAT® - that would be too easy! And nobody knows what the questions will be and they change all the time. Mostly the changes consist of substituting new questions for old, but the changes can be new question formats or styles, changes to the number of questions in each section, changes to the time limits for each section and combining sections.

Please Note: Below are general reading comprehension questions that cover the same areas as the SHSAT for skill practice. So, while the format and exact wording of the questions may differ slightly, and change from year to year, if you can answer the questions below, you will have no problem with the reading comprehension section of the SHSAT®.

Reading Self-Assessment

The purpose of the self-assessment is:

- Identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop your personalized study plan (above)
- Get accustomed to the SHSAT® format
- Extra practice – the self-assessments are almost a full 3rd practice test!
- Provide a baseline score for preparing your study schedule.

Since this is a self-assessment, and depending on how confident you are with reading comprehension, timing is optional. The SHSAT® has 30 reading comprehension questions to be answered in 45 minutes. The self-assessment has 18 questions, so allow about 25 minutes to complete this assessment.

The timing is not exact, as the reading comprehension section is included with the scrambled paragraphs and logical reasoning questions. For the entire section, a total of 45 questions to be answered in 75 minutes.

Once complete, use the table below to assess your understanding of the content, and prepare your study schedule described in chapter 1.

For more practice with reading comprehension, see our Multiple Choice Secrets book at www.multiple-choice.ca.

80% - 100%	Excellent – you have mastered the content
60 – 79%	Good. You have a working knowledge. Even though you can just pass this section, you may want to review the tutorials and do some extra practice to see if you can improve your mark.
40% - 59%	Below Average. You do not understand reading comprehension problems. Review the tutorials, and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the practice test questions.
Less than 40%	Poor. You have a very limited understanding of reading comprehension problems. Please review the tutorials, and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the practice test questions.

Reading Self-Assessment Answer Sheet

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 11. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 12. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 3. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 13. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 4. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 14. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 5. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 15. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 6. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 16. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 7. (A) (B) (C) (D) | |
| 8. (A) (B) (C) (D) | |
| 9. (A) (B) (C) (D) | |
| 10. (A) (B) (C) (D) | |

Directions: The following questions are based on several reading passages. A series of questions follow each passage. Read each passage carefully, and then answer the questions based on it. You may reread the passage as often as you wish. When you have finished answering the questions based on one passage, go right onto the next passage. Choose the best answer based on the information given and implied.

Questions 1 – 4 refer to the following passage.

Passage 1 - Who Was Anne Frank?

You may have heard mention of the word Holocaust in your History or English classes. The Holocaust took place from 1939-1945. It was an attempt by the Nazi party to purify the human race, by eliminating Jews, Gypsies, Catholics, homosexuals and others they deemed inferior to their “perfect” Aryan race. The Nazis used Concentration Camps, which were sometimes used as Death Camps, to exterminate the people they held in the camps. The saddest fact about the Holocaust was the over one million children under the age of sixteen died in a Nazi concentration camp. Just a few weeks before World War II was over, Anne Frank was one of those children to die.

Before the Nazi party began its persecution of the Jews, Anne Frank had a happy life. She was born in June of 1929. In June of 1942, for her 13th birthday, she was given a simple present which would go onto impact the lives of millions of people around the world. That gift was a small red diary that she called Kitty. This diary was to become Anne’s most treasured possession when she and her family hid from the Nazi’s in a secret annex above her father’s office building in Amsterdam.

For 25 months, Anne, her sister Margot, her parents, another family, and an elderly Jewish dentist hid from the Nazis in this tiny annex. They were never permitted to go outside, and their food and supplies were brought to them by Miep Gies and her husband, who did not believe in the Nazi persecution of the Jews. It was a very difficult life for young Anne and she used Kitty as an outlet to describe her life in hiding.

After 2 years, Anne and her family were betrayed and arrested by the Nazis. To this day, nobody is exactly sure who betrayed the Frank family and the other annex residents. Anne, her mother, and her sister were separated from Otto Frank, Anne’s father. Then, Anne and Margot were separated from their mother. In March of 1945, Margot Frank died of starvation in a Concentration Camp. A few days later, at the age of 15, Anne Frank died of typhus. Of all the people who hid in the Annex, only Otto Frank survived the Holocaust.

Otto Frank returned to the Annex after World War II. It was there that he found Kitty, filled with Anne’s thoughts and feelings about being a persecuted Jewish girl. Otto Frank had Anne’s diary published in 1947 and it has remained continuously in print ever since. Today, the diary has been published

in over 55 languages and more than 24 million copies have been sold around the world. The Diary of Anne Frank tells the story of a brave young woman who tried to see the good in all people.

1. From the context clues in the passage, what does annex mean?

- a. Attic
- b. Bedroom
- c. Basement
- d. Kitchen

2. Why do you think Anne's diary has been published in 55 languages?

- a. So everyone could understand it.
- b. So people around the world could learn more about the horrors of the Holocaust.
- c. Because Anne was Jewish but hid in Amsterdam and died in Germany.
- d. Because Otto Frank spoke many languages.

3. From the description of Anne and Margot's deaths in the passage, what can we assume typhus is?

- a. The same as starving to death.
- b. An infection the Germans gave to Anne.
- c. A disease Anne caught in the concentration camp.
- d. Poison gas used by the Germans to kill Anne.

4. In the third paragraph, what does outlet mean?

- a. A place to plug things into the wall
- b. A store where Miep bought cheap supplies for the Frank family
- c. A hiding space similar to an Annex
- d. A place where Anne could express her private thoughts.

Answer Key**1. A**

We know that an annex is like an attic because the text states the annex was above Otto Frank's building.

Choice B is incorrect because an office building doesn't have bedrooms. Choice C is incorrect because a basement would be below the office building. Choice D is incorrect because there would not be a kitchen in an office building.

2. B

The diary has been published in 55 languages so people all over the world can learn about Anne. That is why the passage says it has been continuously in print.

Choice A is incorrect because it is too vague. Choice C is incorrect because it was published after Anne died and she did not write in all three languages. Choice D is incorrect because the passage does not give us any information about what languages Otto Frank spoke.

3. C

Use the process of elimination to figure this out.

Choice A cannot be the correct answer because otherwise the passage would have simply said that Anne and Margot both died of starvation. Choices B and D cannot be correct because if the Germans had done something specifically to murder Anne, the passage would have stated that directly. By the process of elimination, choice C has to be the correct answer.

4. D

We can figure this out using context clues. The paragraph is talking about Anne's diary and so, outlet in this instance is a place where Anne can pour her feelings.

Choice A is incorrect answer. That is the literal meaning of the word outlet and the passage is using the figurative meaning. Choice B is incorrect because that is the secondary literal meaning of the word outlet, as in an outlet mall. Again, we are looking for figurative meaning. Choice C is incorrect because there are no clues in the text to support that answer.

Help with Reading Comprehension

Reading Comprehension Video Tutorials

<https://www.test-preparation.ca/making-inferences-and-drawing-conclusions-video-tutorial/>

At first sight, reading comprehension tests look challenging especially if you are given long essays to answer only two to three questions. While reading, you might notice your attention wandering, or you may feel sleepy. Do not be discouraged because there are various tactics and long-range strategies that make comprehending even long, boring essays easier.

Your friends before your foes. It is always best to start with passages with familiar subjects rather than those with unfamiliar ones. This approach applies the same logic as tackling easy questions before hard ones. Skip passages that do not interest you and leave them for later.

Don't use 'special' reading techniques. This is not the time for speed-reading or anything like that – just plain ordinary reading – not too slow and not too fast.



Mathematics

THIS CHAPTER CONTAINS A MATHEMATICS SELF-ASSESSMENT AND TUTORIALS. The tutorials are designed to familiarize general principles and the self-assessment contains general questions similar to the mathematics questions likely to be on the SHSAT® exam, but are not intended to be identical to the exam questions. The tutorials are not designed to be a complete math course, and it is assumed that students have some familiarity with math. If you do not understand parts of the tutorial, or find the tutorials difficult, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction.

Tour of the SHSAT Mathematics Content

The SHSAT® mathematics section has 50 questions. Below is a detailed list of the mathematics topics likely to appear on the SHSAT®. Make sure that you understand these topics at the very minimum.

- Convert decimals, percent and fractions
- Basic arithmetic functions
- Probability and statistics
- Operations using fractions, percent and fractions
- Geometry
- Algebra
- Exponents

The questions in the self-assessment are not the same as you will find on the SHSAT® - that would be too easy! And nobody knows what the questions will be and they change all the time. Mostly, the changes consist of substituting new questions for old, but the changes also can be new question formats or styles, changes to the number of questions in each section, changes to the

time limits for each section, and combining sections. So, while the format and exact wording of the questions may differ slightly, and changes from year to year, if you can answer the questions below, you will have no problem with the mathematics section of the SHSAT®.

Mathematics Self-Assessment

The purpose of the self-assessment is:

- Identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop your personalized study plan (above)
- Get accustomed to the SHSAT® format
- Extra practice – the self-assessments are almost a full 3rd practice test!
- Provide a baseline score for preparing your study schedule.

Since this is a Self-assessment, and depending on how confident you are with Mathematics, timing yourself is optional. The SHSAT® has 50 questions, to be answered in 75 minutes. This self-assessment has 50 questions, so allow about 75 minutes to complete.

Once complete, use the table below to assess your understanding of the content, and prepare your study schedule described in chapter 1.

80% - 100%	Excellent – you have mastered the content
60 – 79%	Good. You have a working knowledge. Even though you can just pass this section, you may want to review the tutorials and do some extra practice to see if you can improve your mark.
40% - 59%	Below Average. You do not understand the content. Review the tutorials, and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the practice test questions.
Less than 40%	Poor. You have a very limited understanding. Please review the tutorials, and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the practice test questions.

Math Self-Assessment Answer Sheet

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 18. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 35. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 19. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 36. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
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Math Self-Assessment

1. What number is 10 times $\frac{1}{2}$ of 40?

- a. 100
- b. 200
- c. 300
- d. 400

2. A boy has 5 red balls, 3 white balls and 2 yellow balls. What percent of the balls are yellow?

- a. 2%
- b. 8%
- c. 20%
- d. 12%

3. The length a rectangle is twice its width and its area is equal to the area of a square of side 12 cm. What will be the perimeter of the rectangle near to the nearest whole number?

- a. 36 cm
- b. 46 cm
- c. 51 cm
- d. 56 cm

4. There are 15 yellow and 35 orange balls in a basket. How many more yellow balls must be added to make yellow balls 65%?

- a. 35
- b. 50
- c. 65
- d. 70

Answer Key**1.B**

$$\frac{1}{2} \text{ of } 40 = 20 \times 10 = 200$$

2.C

Total no. of balls = 10, number of yellow balls = 2, so, $\frac{2}{10} \times 100 = 20\%$

3.C

Area of the square = $12 \times 12 = 144 \text{ cm}^2$. Let x be the width so $2x$ will be the length of rectangle. The area will be 2×2 and the perimeter will be $2(2x + x) = 6x$. According to the condition $2 \times 2 = 144$ then $x = 8.48 \text{ cm}$. The perimeter will be $6 \times 8.48 = 50.88 = 51 \text{ cm}$.

4.B

There are 50 balls in the basket now. Let x be the yellow balls that are to be added to make it 65%. So the equation becomes $\frac{X + 15}{X + 50} = \frac{65}{100}$. $X = 50$.

Basic math Video Tutorials

<https://www.test-preparation.ca/basic-math-video-tutorials/>

Fraction Tips, Tricks and Shortcuts

When you are writing an exam, time is precious, so anything you can do to answer questions faster is a real advantage.

Here are some ideas, shortcuts, tips and tricks that can speed up answering fraction problems.

Remember that a fraction is just a number which names a portion of something. For instance, instead of having a whole pie, a fraction says you have a part of a pie--such as a half of one or a fourth of one.

Two numbers make up a fraction. The number on top is the numerator. The number on the bottom is the denominator.

To remember which is which, just remember that “denominator” and “down” both start with a “d.” And the “downstairs” number is the denominator. So for instance, in $\frac{1}{2}$, the numerator is 1, and the denominator (or “downstairs”) number is 2.

Adding Fractions

It's easy to add two fractions if they have the same denominator. Just add the digits on top and leave the bottom one the same: $\frac{1}{10} + \frac{6}{10} = \frac{7}{10}$.

It's the same with subtracting fractions with the same denominator: $\frac{7}{10} - \frac{6}{10} = \frac{1}{10}$.

Adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators is a little more complicated.

First, you have to arrange the fractions so they have the same denominators.

The easiest way to do this is to multiply the denominators: For $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{2}$ multiply 5 by 2. Now you have a denominator of 10.

But now you have to change the top numbers too. Since you multiplied the 5 in $\frac{2}{5}$ by 2, you also multiply the 2 by 2, to get 4. So the first fraction is now $\frac{4}{10}$.

In the second fraction, you multiplied the denominator by 5, you have to multiply the numerator by 5 also, to get $\frac{5}{10}$.



Practice Test Questions Set 1

THE QUESTIONS BELOW ARE NOT THE SAME AS YOU WILL FIND ON THE SHSAT® - THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY! And nobody knows what the questions will be and they change all the time. Below are general questions that cover the same subject areas as the SHSAT®. So, while the format and exact wording of the questions may differ slightly, and change from year to year, if you can answer the questions below, you will have no problem with the SHSAT®.

For the best results, take these practice test questions as if it were the real exam. Set aside time when you will not be disturbed, and a location that is quiet and free of distractions. Read the instructions carefully, read each question carefully, and answer to the best of your ability.

Use the bubble answer sheets provided. When you have completed the practice questions, check your answer against the Answer Key and read the explanation provided.

Do not attempt more than one set of practice test questions in one day. After completing the first practice test, wait two or three days before attempting the second set of questions.

Section I – Verbal

Questions: 45

Time: 75 Minutes

Section II – Mathematics

Questions: 75

Time: 50 Minutes

Verbal Skills Answer Sheet

1. ____ _

2. ____ _

3. ____ _

4. ____ _

5. ____ _

6. (A) (B) (C) (D)

7. (A) (B) (C) (D)

8. (A) (B) (C) (D)

9. (A) (B) (C) (D)

10. (A) (B) (C) (D)

11. (A) (B) (C) (D)

12. (A) (B) (C) (D)

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14. (A) (B) (C) (D)

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43. (A) (B) (C) (D)

44. (A) (B) (C) (D)

45. (A) (B) (C) (D)

Mathematics Answer Sheet

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 18. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 35. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
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Section I - Verbal Skills**Part I - Scrambled Paragraphs**

Instructions: The first sentence of a paragraph is given below, followed by additional sentences in the paragraph, listed in no particular order. Order the sentences to create the best paragraph. Make sure the paragraph is properly organized and grammatically correct.

1. Peyton Manning is one of the most recognizable and respected football players in the history of the game.

A. After graduating, he played quarterback for the Indianapolis Colts for 14 years before he moved to Denver to lead the Broncos in 2012.

B. Over the course of his years on the gridiron, he has earned many honors, including being named the NFL Player of the Decade for the years between 2000-2010.

C. His other honors include being named the Most Valuable Player in the NFL in 2009 and being selected to 12 Pro Bowl teams.

E. He first appeared on the national football radar as the quarterback for the Volunteers of the University of Tennessee, where he helped lead the team to an SEC Championship in 1997.

D. During his time with the Colts, he was the MVP of Superbowl XLI when the Colt defeated the Chicago Bears in 2007.

2. Roller coasters have been popular amusements for over 100 years.

A. A few years later in 2003, Top Thrill Dragster was built to the height of 420 feet which is a long way from the small hills riders enjoyed 120 years before.

B. The first American roller coaster opened in 1884 at Coney Island.

C. Since that first ride was created, engineers have competed to design and build taller and faster coasters, like the first Giga-coaster, Millennium Force, which has a 310-foot hill and was built in 2000.

D. It is only a matter of time before roller coaster engineers create something bigger and taller to bring more fun to thrill seekers all over the world.

E. This early coaster was 600 feet long and operated with a switchback system where riders went one direction and then were sent back the way that they came.

Part II - Logical Reasoning

Directions: Below two sentences are given. Determine if the third sentence is true, false, or uncertain, if the first two sentences are true.

6. Whenever I swim in the ocean I get cold. I went swimming today. I will be getting cold very soon. If the first 2 statements are true, then the third statement is:

True False Uncertain

7. Fish can't breathe out of the water. Fish use their gills to breathe. Gills don't work out of water. If the first 2 statements are true, then the third statement is:

True False Uncertain

8. I eat steak when I am hungry. I ate steak last night. I was hungry last night. If the first 2 statements are true, then the third statement is:

True False Uncertain

Part III - Reading Comprehension

Directions: Read each passage below carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Be careful to choose the best answer, given the four choices and only base your answer on the information given in the passage.

Questions 21 – 24 refer to the following passage.

Passage 1 - The Life of Helen Keller

Many people have heard of Helen Keller. She is famous because she was unable to see or hear, but learned to speak and read and went onto attend college and earn a degree. Her life is a very interesting story, one that she developed into an autobiography, which was then adapted into both a stage play and

a movie. How did Helen Keller overcome her disabilities to become a famous woman? Read on to find out.

Helen Keller was not born blind and deaf. When she was a small baby, she had a very high fever for several days. As a result of her sudden illness, baby Helen lost her eyesight and her hearing. Because she was so young when she went deaf and blind, Helen Keller never had any recollection of being able to see or hear. Since she could not hear, she could not learn to talk. Since she could not see, it was difficult for her to move around. For the first six years of her life, her world was very still and dark.

Imagine what Helen's childhood was like. She could not hear her mother's voice. She could not see the beauty of her parent's farm. She could not recognize who was giving her a hug, or a bath or even where her bedroom was each night. Sadly, she could not communicate with her parents in any way. She could not express her feelings or tell them the things she wanted. It must have been a very sad childhood.

When Helen was six years old, her parents hired her a teacher named Anne Sullivan. Anne was a young woman who was almost blind. However, she could hear and she could read Braille, so she was a perfect teacher for young Helen. At first, Anne had a very hard time teaching Helen anything. She described her first impression of Helen as a "wild thing, not a child." Helen did not like Anne at first either. She bit and hit Anne when Anne tried to teach her. However, the two of them eventually came to have a great deal of love and respect.

Anne taught Helen to hear by putting her hands on people's throats. She could feel the sounds people made. In time, Helen learned to feel what people said. Next, Anne taught Helen to read Braille, which is a way that books are written for the blind. Finally, Anne taught Helen to talk. Although Helen did learn to talk, it was hard for anyone but Anne to understand her.

As Helen grew older, more and more people were amazed by her story. She went to college and wrote books about her life. She gave talks to the public, with Anne at her side, translating her words. Today, both Anne Sullivan and Helen Keller are famous women who are respected for their lives' work.

21. Helen Keller could not see and hear and so, what was her biggest problem in childhood?

- a. Inability to communicate
- b. Inability to walk
- c. Inability to play
- d. Inability to eat

22. Helen learned to hear by feeling the vibrations people made when they spoke. What were these vibrations were felt through?

- a. Mouth
- b. Throat
- c. Ears
- d. Lips

23. From the passage, we can infer that Anne Sullivan was a patient teacher. We can infer this because

- a. Helen hit and bit her and Anne remained her teacher.
- b. Anne taught Helen to read only.
- c. Anne was hard of hearing too.
- d. Anne wanted to be a teacher.

24. Helen Keller learned to speak but Anne translated her words when she spoke in public. The reason Helen needed a translator was because

- a. Helen spoke another language.
- b. Helen's words were hard for people to understand.
- c. Helen spoke very quietly.
- d. Helen did not speak but only used sign language.

10. In a class of 83 students, 72 are present. What percent of the students are absent? Provide answer up to two significant digits.

- a. 12
- b. 13
- c. 14
- d. 15

11. A driver traveled from city A to city B in 1 hour and 13 minutes. On the way, he had to stop at 5 traffic signals, with an average time of 80 seconds. If the distance between the cities is 65 kilometers then what was the average driving speed?

- a. 56.42
- b. 58.77
- c. 60.34
- d. 63.25

12. Mr. Micheal runs a factory. His total assets are \$256,800 that consists of a building worth \$80,500, machinery worth \$125,000 and \$51,300 cash. After one year what will be the value of his total assets if he has additional cash of \$75,600 and the value of his building has increased by 10% per year, and his machinery depreciated by 20% per year?

- a. \$24,3450
- b. \$25,2450
- c. \$26,4150
- d. \$27,2350

13. Martin earns \$25,000 as basic pay, \$500 rent and \$860 for medical insurance. He spends 40% of his total earning on food and clothing, 10% on children's education and pays \$800 for utility bills. What percent of his earning he is saving?

- a. 54%
- b. 50%
- c. 47%
- d. 44%

14. Prize money of \$1,050 is to be shared among top three contestants in ratio of 7:5:3 as 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively. How much more money will the 1st prize contestant receive than the 3rd prize contestant?

- a. \$210
- b. \$280
- c. \$350
- d. \$490

15. The manager of a weaving factory estimates that if 10 machines run on 100% efficiency for 8 hours, they will produce 1450 meters of cloth. Due to some technical problems, 4 machines run of 95% efficiency and the remaining 6 at 90% efficiency. How many meters of cloth can these machines will produce in 8 hours?

- a. 1479 meters
- b. 1310 meters
- c. 1300 meters
- d. 1285 meters

Answer Key**Verbal Skills****Part 1 - Scrambled Paragraphs****1. E A B D C**

Chronologically, sentence E is first, due to the reference to Manning's college career. Sentence A has to follow because it discusses what he did after graduation. Sentence B follows because it directly refers to his NFL career and indicates that more is to come. Sentence D talks about his time with the Colts and the year 2007. Sentence C chronologically must be last because it mentions the year 2010.

2. B E C A D

Sentence B includes the clue "first" which denotes its place chronologically. Sentence E contains more detail about the first coaster. Sentence C uses a transition to hint that it comes after the first coaster. Sentence A includes the year 2000 which chronologically comes after 2003. Sentence D concludes the paragraph.

Part II - Logical Reasoning

6. Uncertain.

It does not say where they went swimming.

7. True

It must be true that if fish use their gills to breathe, and fish can't breathe out of water, then gills don't work out of water.

8. Uncertain.

It does not say that they eat steak every time they are hungry.

Part III – Reading**21. A**

The correct answer because that fact is stated directly in the passage. The passage explains that Anne taught Helen to hear by allowing her to feel the vibrations in her throat.

22. B

We can infer that Anne is a patient teacher because she did not leave or lose her temper when Helen bit or hit her; she just kept trying to teach Helen. Choice B is incorrect because Anne taught Helen to read and talk. Choice C is incorrect because Anne could hear. She was partially blind, not deaf. Choice D is incorrect because it does not have to do with patience.

23. A

The passage states that it was hard for anyone but Anne to understand Helen when she spoke. Choice A is incorrect because the passage does not men-

tion Helen spoke a foreign language. Choice C is incorrect because there is no mention of how quiet or loud Helen's voice was. Choice D is incorrect because we know from reading the passage that Helen did learn to speak.

24. B

This question tests the reader's summarization skills. The other choices A, B, and C focus on portions of the second paragraph that are too narrow and do not relate to the specific portion of text in question. The complexity of the sentence may mislead students into selecting one of these answers, but rearranging or restating the sentence will lead the reader to the correct answer. In addition, choice A makes an assumption that may or may not be true about the intentions of the company, choice B focuses on one product rather than the idea of the products, and choice C makes an assumption about women that may or may not be true and is not supported by the text.

10. B

Absent students = $83 - 72 = 11$

Percent of absent students = $11/83 \times 100 = 13.25$

Reducing up to two significant digits will be 13.

Day	Absent	Present	% Attendance
Monday	5	40	88.88%
Tuesday	9	36	80.00%
Wednesday	4	41	91.11%
Thursday	10	35	77.77%
Friday	6	39	86.66%

11. B

Time taken to travel from A to B in seconds = $3600 + (13 \times 60) = 3600 + 780 = 4380$ seconds.

Total time spent at traffic signals = $80 \times 5 = 400$ seconds.

The remaining driving time = $4380 - 400 = 3980$ seconds = $3980/3600 = 1.106$ hours

The speed will be $65/1.106 = 58.77$ km/hr

12. C

Cash assets = 75600

Building assets after one year = $80500 \times 1.1 = \$88550$

Machinery assets after one year = $125000 \times 0.8 = 100,000$

Total value of assets = 264150

13. C

Total earnings = $25000 + 500 + 860 = \$26360$

Food and Clothing expenses = $0.4 \times 26360 = 10544$

Children's education expense = $26360 \times 0.1 = \$2636$

Utility Bills = \$800

Savings = $26360 - 10544 - 2636 - 800 = \12380

Percent savings = $100 \times 12380/26360 = 47\%$

14. B

1st prize winner receives, $7 \times 1050/15 = \$490$

3rd price winner receives, $3 \times 1050/15 = \$210$

Difference = $490 - 210 = \$280$

15. A

At 100% efficiency 1 machine produces $1450/10 = 145$ m of cloth.

At 95% efficiency, 4 machines produce $4 \times 0.95 \times 145 = 551$ m of cloth.

At 90% efficiency, 6 machines produce $6 \times 0.90 \times 145 = 783$ m of cloth.

Total cloth produced = $145 + 551 + 783 = 1479$ m



Practice Test Questions Set 2

The questions below are not the same as you will find on the SHSAT® - that would be too easy! And nobody knows what the questions will be and they change all the time. Below are general questions that cover the same subject areas as the SHSAT®. So, while the format and exact wording of the questions may differ slightly, and change from year to year, if you can answer the questions below, you will have no problem with the SHSAT®.

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Do not attempt more than one set of practice test questions in one day. After completing the first practice test, wait two or three days before attempting the second set of questions.

Section I – Verbal

Questions: 45

Time: 75 Minutes

Section II – Mathematics

Questions: 75

Time: 50 Minutes

Verbal Skills Answer Sheet

1. ____ _

2. ____ _

3. ____ _

4. ____ _

5. ____ _

6. (A) (B) (C) (D)

7. (A) (B) (C) (D)

8. (A) (B) (C) (D)

9. (A) (B) (C) (D)

10. (A) (B) (C) (D)

11. (A) (B) (C) (D)

12. (A) (B) (C) (D)

13. (A) (B) (C) (D)

14. (A) (B) (C) (D)

15. (A) (B) (C) (D)

16. (A) (B) (C) (D)

17. (A) (B) (C) (D)

18. (A) (B) (C) (D)

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36. (A) (B) (C) (D)

37. (A) (B) (C) (D)

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44. (A) (B) (C) (D)

45. (A) (B) (C) (D)

46. (A) (B) (C) (D)

47. (A) (B) (C) (D)

48. (A) (B) (C) (D)

49. (A) (B) (C) (D)

50. (A) (B) (C) (D)

Mathematics Answer Sheet

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 18. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 35. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 19. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 36. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
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| 4. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 21. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 38. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 5. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 22. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 39. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 6. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 23. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 40. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 7. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 24. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 41. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 8. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 25. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 42. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 9. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 26. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 43. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 10. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 27. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 44. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 11. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 28. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 45. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 12. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 29. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 46. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 13. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 30. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 47. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 14. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 31. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 48. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 15. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 32. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 49. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 16. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 33. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 50. (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 17. (A) (B) (C) (D) | 34. (A) (B) (C) (D) | |

Conclusion

CONGRATULATIONS! You have made it this far because you have applied yourself diligently to practicing for the exam and no doubt improved your potential score considerably! Getting into a good school is a huge step in a journey that might be challenging at times but will be many times more rewarding and fulfilling. That is why being prepared is so important.

Study then Practice and then Succeed!

Good Luck!

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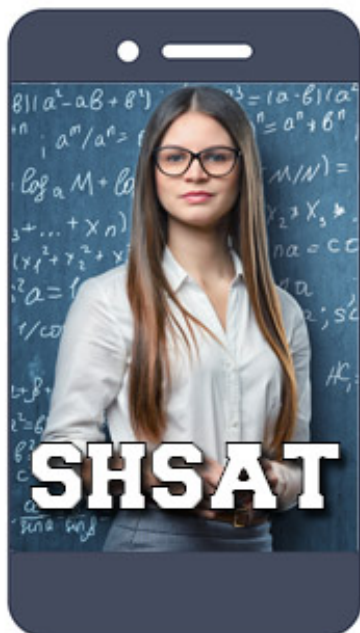
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