



# Fact Sheet: Selective High School Placement Test

## Information for parents/carers and students

### 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. Parents must have submitted an application before the due date in order for their child to sit the test.

Students unable to take the test will not be eligible for selective high school placement unless they can prove there were exceptional circumstances which stopped them from attending.

### Test Components

There are four tests. Three of the tests consist of multiple-choice questions with answers recorded on computer-marked answer booklets. These three tests are: reading, mathematics and general ability, each of forty minutes duration.

The fourth test is a writing task of twenty minutes duration. The writing will be judged on the quality of the thinking about a topic, the organisation of ideas and the control of language shown in the writing task. The writing task is marked by trained markers.

Students are expected to produce writing that is their own original work in response to the topic in the writing test paper. Students are asked to write about a picture they are shown or a sentence, passage or heading they have to read on the test paper. Marks will not be awarded for writing that is not clearly based on the stimulus. Marks will also not be awarded where the writing of students is discovered to have elements in common with writing of other students or published works.

### Test Date

For the test date refer to the front cover of the printed application information booklet or to the department's website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/general-information>

### Test Timetable

Students must be at the test centre by 9am. There is a break at approximately 11:35am and a short rest break in between tests. In the break students will leave the test room. During this period they will not be allowed to run and play vigorous games, but they may eat food they have brought with them and will be given supervised access to the toilets.

The test is usually finished by approximately 1:30pm.

### Transport

Parents must arrange transport to and from the test centre. All students must be collected from the test centre by the finishing time. Please do not park or wait on the school premises unless invited by the school to do so.

## **Clothing**

Students should wear their school uniform so they can be easily identified by supervisors.

## **Equipment**

Students must bring the Test Authority letter from the High Performing Students Team which contains their application number. Pens will be provided for students to use so they should not bring their own pens or pencils. Students may bring water bottles provided there is no writing on them apart from the brand name. Water bottles must be stored under the student's seat to avoid spillage over test materials. No other material or equipment will be allowed into the test centre. This includes dictionaries, rulers, calculators and watches that compute, photograph, calculate or are set to beep. No mobile phones are allowed.

## **Computer-marked Answer Sheets**

Students will be given the opportunity to practise writing their answers.

Students must leave question booklets and answer sheets in the room at the end of the test. They must not be removed by students under any circumstances.

## **Conduct**

Students must be careful not to look at the work of others during the test. Students must follow the presiding officer's and supervisors' instructions both during the tests and in the break.

Students who need help at any time should raise their hands.

Supervisors will report any student who looks to be cheating. The selection committee has the right to deduct some or all of the marks for students considered to be cheating.

Please remember that candidates for the test and their families are guests at the test centre.

Parents are not permitted to enter the test centre and they must leave the school grounds during the test unless they have written permission to stay on the school grounds as part of a special test provision.

## **Absence from the Test**

If your child misses the test because of exceptional circumstances you can submit an illness/misadventure request. Go to the department's website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7/the-test#Illness8>

The address and the closing date for illness or misadventure claims are printed on the form. Forms are due by two weeks after the test.

## **Late Arrivals**

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.

## **Test Centre Problems**

If students have any problems during the test, such as not being able to see the test centre clock or marking answers in the wrong place, they should raise their hands and tell the presiding officer or supervisor.

## Further information

- Read the application information available on the website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7> or available at NSW primary schools.
- Speak to the principal of your child's primary school
- Contact individual selective high schools for information about assessment of academic merit for entry to Years 8-12
- Contact the High Performing Students Team

Email: [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au)

Telephone: 1300 880 367

Post: GPO Box 33, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/772251106301086/>

## TELEPHONE INTERPRETER SERVICE

If you would like further information contact the Principal or the High Performing Students Team. If you need an interpreter to assist with your enquiry please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.