Complete HSPT®

High School Placement Test Study Guide &
Practice Test Questions

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Conclusion
Congratulations! By deciding to take the High School Placement Test (HSPT®), 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 on your way to a brighter future!

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 High School Placement Test

The HSPT® is composed of five sections, verbal skills, quantitative skills, reading, mathematics and language skills. The verbal skills section consists of analogies, synonyms and antonyms, logic and verbal classification. The quantitative skills section consists of number series, geometric and non geometric comparisons, and basic math. The reading section consists of reading comprehension and vocabulary questions. The mathematics section consists of problem solving questions or word problems. The language skills section consists of punctuation and capitalization, English usage, spelling and composition.

While we seek to make our guide as comprehensive as possible, note that like all exams, the HSPT® 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 HSPT® 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 quickly evaluate your understanding of material that is likely to appear on the HSPT®. 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 HSPT® Exam.

**The HSPT® Study Plan**

Now that you have made the decision to take the HSPT®, it is time to get started. Before you do another thing, you will need to figure out a plan of attack. The best study tip is to start early! The longer the time period you devote to regular study practice, the more likely you will be to retain the material and be able to 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 both what you know and what you do not know. The first step in preparing for the HSPT® 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.
**Verbal Skills**

This section contains a self-assessment and verbal skills tutorial. The tutorials are designed to familiarize general principles and the self-assessment contains general questions similar to the verbal skills questions likely to be on the HSPT®, but are not intended to be identical to the exam questions. The tutorials are not designed to be a complete reading course, and it is assumed that students have some familiarity with verbal skills questions. If you do not understand parts of the tutorial, or find the tutorial difficult, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction.

**Tour of the HSPT Verbal Skills**

The HSPT® verbal skills section has 60 questions. Below is a detailed list of the types of reading questions that generally appear on the HSPT®.

- Verbal Analogies
- Synonyms and antonyms
- Sentence logic
- Verbal Classification

The questions below are not the same as you will find on the HSPT® - 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. Below are general verbal skills questions that cover the same areas as the HSPT®. 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 verbal skills section of the HSPT®.

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Verbal Skills Self-Assessment Answer Sheet

1. A B C D
2. A B C D
3. A B C D
4. A B C D
5. A B C D
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
19. A B C D
20. A B C D
21. A B C D
22. A B C D
23. A B C D
24. A B C D
25. A B C D
26. A B C D
27. A B C D
28. A B C D
29. A B C D
30. A B C D
31. A B C D
32. A B C D
33. A B C D
34. A B C D
35. A B C D
36. A B C D
37. A B C D
38. A B C D
39. A B C D
40. A B C D
41. A B C D
42. A B C D
43. A B C D
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

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Part I – Verbal Analogies

Instructions: Select the pair with the same relationship.

1. Nest : Bird
   a. Cave : Bear
   b. Flower : Petal
   c. Window : House
   d. Dog : Basket

2. Teacher : School
   a. Businessman : Money
   b. Waitress : Coffee shop
   c. Dentist : Tooth
   d. Fish : Water

3. Pebble : Boulder
   a. Pond : Ocean
   b. River : Rapids
   c. Fish : Elephant
   d. Feather : Bird

4. Poodle : Dog
   a. Shark : Great White
   b. Dalmatian : Great Dane
   c. Money : Stock Market
   d. Horse : Pony

5. Fox : Chicken
   a. Rat : Mouse
   b. Cat : mouse
   c. Dog : cat
   d. Rabbit : hen
Answer Key
Part I – Verbal Analogies

1. A
This is a functional relationship. A bird lives in a nest, the way a bear lives in a cave.

2. B
This is a functional relationship. A teacher works in a school in the same way a waitress works in a coffee shop.

3. A
This is a degree relationship. A boulder is a very large pebble - both are rocks, in the same way an ocean is a very large pond - both are bodies of water.

4. A
This is a type relationship. A poodle is a type of dog in the same way a great white is a type of shark.

5. B
This is a predator/prey relationship. Foxes eat chickens in the same way as cats eat mice.

Part II – Synonyms

11. C
Antagonist and enemy are synonyms.

12. C
Memento and reminder are synonyms.
Verbal Skills Tutorials

Verbal Analogies and Classification Tutorial

Verbal analogies can be tricky for anyone, which is why it is important to have strategies to have a better chance of choosing the correct answer. The following verbal analogies strategies will help you to excel with these types of tests and/or problems:

1. **The only way to become better at anything is to practice and the same is true for verbal analogies.** There really is not any other way to study for verbal analogies than by practicing them. You can start up to a month in advance practicing an hour a day.

2. **It does not matter how many relationships you can find between the words given in a verbal analogy, what is important is that you give the answer the test-maker is looking for.** This strategy is to give the exact answer. Many times, the relationships you think you see are much more in depth than what the test maker is looking for. The following is an example of what this means:

   **Bigotry/Hatred**
   
   a. sweetness: bitterness
   b. segregation: integration
   c. equality: government
   d. fanaticism: intolerance

   You might automatically think that ‘bigot’ is to ‘hate’ or that ‘bigots hate’ is very similar to ‘c,’ as equality is normally associated with the government or ‘d,’ ad fanatics are often seen as intolerable. The problem is that this way of thinking is subjective or prejudiced and that not everyone thinks like this, so how can those choices be true. You will notice though, choices ‘b,’ and ‘d,’ are not a subjective thought but rather a social extreme, just as ‘Bigotry/hatred’ is. The way to narrow down the choices more is by looking at the words in accordance to one another, ‘bigotry and hatred’ are similar terms, but choice ‘b,’ is not, they are opposite words. ‘d,’ would be the correct choice because they are also similar terms.

3. **Another strategy you can use with verbal analogies is to pick out a word or words that are similar to those in the analogy.** This means to find a word that will name the relationship of the given words. The main relationships found in analogies and are listed below:

   • **Purpose:** This means that ‘A’ is used for ‘B’ the same way that ‘X’ is used for ‘Y’.
Quantitative Skills

This section contains a self-assessment and quantitative skills tutorial. The tutorials are designed to familiarize general principles and the self-assessment contains general questions similar to the quantitative skills questions likely to be on the HSPT®, but are not intended to be identical to the exam questions. The tutorials are not designed to be a complete quantitative skills course, and it is assumed that students have some familiarity with quantitative skills questions. If you do not understand parts of the tutorial, or find the tutorial difficult, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction.

Tour of the HSPT Quantitative Skills Content

The HSPT® quantitative skills section has 50 reading questions which include quantitative skills and vocabulary. Below is a detailed list of the types of quantitative skills questions that generally appear on the HSPT®.

- Drawing logical conclusions
- Identify the author’s purpose to persuade, inform, entertain, or otherwise
- 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
- Summarize

The questions below are not the same as you will find on the HSPT® - 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. Below are general quantitative skills questions that cover the same areas as the HSPT®. So 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 quantitative skills section of the HSPT®.
Quantitative skills Self-Assessment Answer Sheet

1. A B C D
2. A B C D
3. A B C D
4. A B C D
5. A B C D
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
19. A B C D
20. A B C D
21. A B C D
22. A B C D
23. A B C D
24. A B C D
25. A B C D

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Section 1 – Number Series

1. Consider the following series: 6, 12, 24, 48. What number should come next?
   a. 48
   b. 64
   c. 60
   d. 96

2. Consider the following series: 5, 6, 11, 17. What number should come next?
   a. 28
   b. 34
   c. 36
   d. 27

3. Consider the following series: 26, 21, ..., 11, 6. What is the missing number?
   a. 27
   b. 23
   c. 16
   d. 29

4. Consider the following series: 23, ..., 31, 37. What is the missing number?
   a. 19
   b. 27
   c. 29
   d. 30
14. Examine (A), (B) and (C) and find the best answer.

![Images of (A), (B), (C)]

a. The shaded area in (A) is equal to (C)
b. The shaded area in (C) is greater than (B)
c. The shaded area in (A) is equal to (C)
d. The shaded area in (B) is equal to (C)

15. Examine (A), (B) and (C) and find the best answer.

![Images of (A), (B), (C)]

a. The shaded area in (A) is equal to (C)
b. The shaded area in (C) is greater than (B)
c. The shaded area in (A) is greater than (C)
d. The shaded area in (B) is equal to (C)

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Section III – Non-Geometric Comparison

17. Examine the following and find the best answer.

1. \((3 \times 4) - 7\)
2. \((3 \times 4) - 3\)
3. \((3 \times 5) - 10\)

a. 1 and 3 are equal
b. 1 and 3 are not equal
c. 1 and 2 are equal
d. 2 and 3 are equal
**Answer Key**

**Section I – Number Series**

1. **D**  
The numbers double each time.

2. **A**  
Each number is the sum of the previous two numbers.

3. **C**  
The numbers decrease by 5 each time.

4. **C**  
The numbers are primes (divisible only by 1 and themselves).

5.  

Section II – Geometric Comparison

14. B
15. A

Section III – Non-Geometric Comparisons

17. A
#1 = 5
#2 = 9
#3 = 5
1 and 3 are equal.

18.
Quantitative Skills Tutorials

Number Series Tutorial

Number series questions appear on most High School exams. An example is: Consider the following series: 26, 21, 0, 11, 6. What is the missing number?

a. 27
b. 23
c. 16
d. 29

Looking carefully at the sequence, we can see right away that each number is 5 less than the previous number, so the missing number is 16.

We can re-write this sequence in mathematical notation as, \(a_1, a_2, a_3, \ldots a_n\), where \(n\) is an integer and \(a_n\) is called its \(n\)th term. And we can write the sequence in the form of a formula, where an integer is substituted in the place of the variable in the formula and the terms are obtained.

For example, let us consider the sequence 5,10,15,20,...

- Here, \(a_n = 5n\). The formula \(a_n = 5n\).
- The \(n\)th term of a sequence can be found by plugging \(n\) in the explicit formula for the sequence. So for example if we wanted to find the 100th number in this sequence, we would substitute \(n = 100\) in the formula and get 500.

Type of Number Sequence problems

1. Simple addition or subtraction – each number in the sequence is obtained by adding a number to the previous number.

For example, 2, 5, 8, 11, 14
Each number in the sequence is obtained by adding 3 to the previous number, which we could write as, \(a_{n+1} = a_n + 3\).

2. Simple multiplication - each number in the sequence is obtained by multiplying the previous number by a whole number or fraction.

For example, 3, 6, 18, 54

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THIS SECTION CONTAINS A SELF-ASSESSMENT AND READING 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 HSPT®, but are not intended to be identical to the exam questions. The tutorials are not designed to be a complete reading course, and it is assumed that students have some familiarity with reading comprehension and vocabulary questions. If you do not understand parts of the tutorial, or find the tutorial difficult, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction.

For addition practice and help with reading comprehension see our Multiple Choice Secrets books at www.multiple-choice.ca.

Tour of the Reading Content

Below is a detailed list of the types of reading questions that generally appear on your exam.

- 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
- Summarize

The questions below are not the same as you will find on the exam - 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. Below are general reading and vocabulary questions that cover the same areas as the exam. So 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 section.
Reading and Vocabulary Self-Assessment Answer Sheet

1. A B C D
2. A B C D
3. A B C D
4. A B C D
5. A B C D
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
19. A B C D
20. A B C D
21. A B C D
22. A B C D
23. A B C D
24. A B C D
25. A B C D
26. A B C D
27. A B C D
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42. A B C D
43. A B C D
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

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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.
Part II - Vocabulary

15. Choose the noun that means, self evident or clear obvious truth.
   a. Truism
   b. Catharsis
   c. Libertine
   d. Tractable

16. Choose the best definition for: virago
   a. A loud domineering woman
   b. A quiet woman
   c. A loud domineering Man
   d. A quiet man

17. When Joe broke his _____ in a skiing accident, his entire leg was in a cast.
   a. Ankle
   b. Humerus
   c. Wrist
   d. Femur
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.
Part II - Vocabulary

15. A
Truism: n. self-evident or clear obvious truth.

16. A
Virago: Given to undue belligerence or ill manner at the slightest provocation; a shrew, a termagant.

17. D
Femur: n. The bone of the thigh or upper hind limb, articulating at the hip and the knee.
Help with Reading Comprehension

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 essays or 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.

**Read through the entire passage and the questions before you do anything.** Many students try reading the questions first and then looking for answers in the passage thinking this approach is more efficient. What these students do not realize is that it is often hard to navigate in unfamiliar roads. If you do not familiarize yourself with the passage first, looking for answers become not only time-consuming but also dangerous because you might miss the context of the answer you are looking for. If you read the questions first you will only confuse yourself and lose valuable time.

Familiarize yourself with reading comprehension questions. If you are familiar with the common types of reading questions, you are able to take note of important parts of the passage, saving time. There are six major kinds of reading questions.

- **Main Idea** - Questions that ask for the central thought or significance of the passage.

- **Specific Details** - Questions that asks for explicitly stated ideas.

- **Drawing Inferences** - Questions that ask for a statement’s intended meaning.

- **Tone or Attitude** - Questions that test your ability to sense the emotional state of the author.

- **Context Meaning** – Questions that ask for the meaning of a word depending on the context.

- **Technique** – Questions that ask for the method of organization or the writing style of the author.
Tour of the HSPT Mathematics Content

Below is a detailed list of the mathematics topics likely to appear on the exam. Make sure that you understand these topics at the very minimum.

- Convert decimals, percent, roman numerals and fractions
- Solve word problems
- Calculate percent and ratio
- Operations using fractions, percent and fractions
- Analyze and interpret tables, graphs and charts
- Data and Statistics
- Geometry and measurement
- Understand and solve simple algebra problems

The questions in the self-assessment are not the same as you will find on the exam - 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 math-
ematics section.

**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 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
Math, timing yourself is optional. This self-assessment has 60 questions, so
allow about 60 minutes to complete.

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>80% - 100%</td>
<td>Excellent – you have mastered the content</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 – 79%</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>40% - 59%</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than 40%</td>
<td>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.</td>
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Math Self-Assessment Answer Sheet

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57. A   B   C   D
58. A   B   C   D
59. A   B   C   D
60. A   B   C   D

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Math Self-Assessment

1. Assuming the figure with a 2 cm side is square, what is the perimeter of the above shape?
   a. 12 cm
   b. 16 cm
   c. 6 cm
   d. 20 cm

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 of 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 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

Note: Figure not drawn to scale
Mathematics
Self-Assessment
Answer Key

1. B
We see that there is a square with side 2 cm and a rectangle adjacent to it, with one side 2 cm (common side with the square) and the other side 4 cm. The perimeter of a shape is found by summing up all sides surrounding the shape, not adding the ones inside the shape. Three 2 cm sides from the square, and two 4 cm sides and one 2 cm side from the rectangle contribute the perimeter.

So, the perimeter of the shape is: $2 + 2 + 2 + 4 + 2 + 4 = 16$ cm.

2. C
Total no. of balls = 10, number of yellow balls = 2, so, $2/10 \times 100 = 20\%$

3. C
Area of the square = $12 \times 12 = 144$ cm$^2$. Let $x$ be the width so $2x$ will be the length of rectangle. The area will be $2 \times 2$ and the perimeter will be $2(2x + x) = 6x$. According to the condition $2 \times 2 = 144$ then $x = 8.48$ cm. The perimeter will be $6 \times 8.48 = 50.88 = 51$ 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 $X + 15 /X + 50 = 65/100$. $X = 50$. 

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How to Solve Word Problems

Most students find math word problems difficult. Solving word problems is much easier if you have a systematic approach which we outline below.

Here is the biggest tip for studying word problems.

**Practice regularly and systematically.** Sounds simple and easy right? Yes it is, and yes it really does work.

Word problems are a way of thinking and require you to translate a real world problem into mathematical terms.

Some math instructors go so far as to say that learning how to think mathematically is the main reason for teaching word problems.

So what do we mean by practice regularly and systematically? Studying word problems and math in general requires a logical and mathematical frame of mind. The only way that you can get this is by practicing regularly, which means everyday.

It is critical that you practice word problems everyday for the 5 days before the exam as a bare minimum.

If you practice and miss a day, you have lost the mathematical frame of mind and the benefit of your previous practice is pretty much gone. Anyone who has done math will agree – you have to practice everyday.

**Everything is important.** The other critical point about word problems is that all the information given in the problem has some purpose. There is no unnecessary information! Word problems are typically around 50 words in 1 to 3 sentences. If the sometimes complicated relationships are to be explained in that short an explanation, every word has to count. Make sure that you use every piece of information.

**Here are 9 simple steps to solving word problems.**

**Step 1** – Read through the problem at least three times. The first reading should be a quick scan, and the next two readings should be done slowly to find answers to these questions:

What does the problem ask? (Usually located towards the end of the problem)

What does the problem imply? (This is usually a point you were asked to remember).

Mark all information, and underline all important words or phrases.

**Step 2** – Try to make a pictorial representation of the problem such as a circle and an arrow to show travel. This makes the problem a bit more real and sensible to you.
This section contains an English Language Arts self-assessment. The tutorials are designed to familiarize general principles and the self-assessment contains general questions similar to the language arts questions likely to be on the exam, but are not intended to be identical to the exam questions. The tutorials are not designed to be a complete course, and it is assumed that students have some familiarity with English grammar and usage. If you do not understand parts of the tutorial, or find the tutorial difficult, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction.

Tour of the English Language Arts Content

Below is a detailed list of the topics likely to appear on the exam.

- Capitalization
- Spelling
- Punctuation
- English usage
- English grammar
- Sentence structure

The questions in the self-assessment are not the same as you will find on the exam - 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 lim-
its for each section, and combining sections. So 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 Language Arts section.

**Language Arts Self-Assessment**

The purpose of the self-assessment is:

- Identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop your personalized study plan (above)
- Get accustomed to the 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 language arts, timing yourself is optional. This self-assessment has 60 questions, so allow 30 minutes to complete.
Language Arts Self-Assessment Answer Sheet

2. A B C D 22. A B C D 42. A B C D
7. A B C D 27. A B C D 47. A B C D
10. A B C D 30. A B C D 50. A B C D
15. A B C D 35. A B C D 55. A B C D
17. A B C D 37. A B C D 57. A B C D
20. A B C D 40. A B C D 60. A B C D
Part 1 - Punctuation and Capitalization

1. Ted and Janice who had been friends for years went on vacation together every summer.
   a. Ted and Janice, who had been friends for years, went on vacation together every summer.
   b. Ted and Janice who had been friends for years, went on vacation together every summer.
   c. Ted, and Janice who had been friends for years, went on vacation together every summer.
   d. None of the choices are correct.

2. None of us want to go to the party not even if there will be live music.
   a. None of us want to go to the party not even, if there will be live music.
   b. None of us want to go to the party, not even if there will be live music.
   c. None of us want to go to the party; not even if there will be live music.
   d. None of the choice are correct.

3. John, Maurice, and Thomas, quit school two months before graduation.
   a. John, Maurice, and Thomas quit school two months before graduation.
   b. John, Maurice and Thomas quit school two months before graduation.
   c. John Maurice and Thomas, quit school two months before graduation.
   d. None of the choice are correct.

4. “My father said that he would be there on Sunday,” Lee explained.
   a. “My father said that he would be there on Sunday” Lee explained.
   b. None of the choices are correct.
   c. “My father said that he would be there on Sunday,” Lee explained.
   d. “My father said that he would be there on Sunday.” Lee explained.
Answer Key

1. A
Use a comma to separate phrases.

2. B
Use a comma separates independent clauses. None of us wants to go to the party, not even if there will be live music.

3. B
Don’t use a comma before ‘and’ in a list.

4. C
Commas always go with a quote and the use of said, explained etc.

English Usage
English Grammar and Punctuation Tutorials

Capitalization

Although many of the rules for capitalization are pretty straight forward, there are several tricky points that are important to review.

Starting a Sentence

Everyone knows that you need to capitalize the first letter of the first word in a sentence, but is it really all that easy to figure out where one sentence starts and another stops? Take these three examples:

That was the moment it really sunk in: There would be no hockey this year.

It was April and that could mean only one thing: baseball.

We played for hours before heading home; everyone felt tired and happy.

In the first example, the first letter after the colon is capitalized while in the second example it is not. That is because everything after the first example’s colon is a complete sentence, while after example two’s colon there is only one word. In example three you have what could be a complete sentence (“everyone felt tired and happy”), but which is not because it follows a semicolon, making it just another clause instead.

Within a sentence you can have an additional complete sentence if the sentence follows a colon. However, if what could be a complete sentence follows a semicolon, it is a clause and does not get capitalized.

Remember that the same rules apply for quotation marks that apply for colons: A complete sentence inside quotation marks is capitalized, but a single word or phrase is not.

Proper Nouns

The first letter of all proper nouns needs to be capitalized. There are many categories of proper noun. The most common proper nouns are the specific names of people (such as Bill), places (such as Germany) or things (such as Honda Civic). However, there are several less obvious categories of words that should be capitalized as proper nouns.

Historical events such as World War II or the California Gold Rush need to be capitalized.

The names of celestial bodies such as Orion’s Belt need to be capitalized.

The names of ethnicities such as African-American or Hispanic need to be
The questions below are not the same as you will find on the HSPT® - 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 HSPT®. 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 HSPT®.

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 Skills**

**Questions:** 50  
**Time:** 16 Minutes

**Section II – Quantitative Skills**

**Questions:** 50  
**Time:** 30 Minutes

**Section III – Reading & Vocabulary**

**Questions:** 60  
**Time:** 25 Minutes

**Section IV – Mathematics**

**Questions:** 60  
**Time:** 45 Minutes

**Section V – English and Language Arts**

**Questions:** 60  
**Time:** 25 Minutes
Verbal Skills

1.  A  B  C  D
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Quantitative Skills

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# Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary

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Mathematics

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10. A B C D  30. A B C D  50. A B C D
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## Language Arts

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The questions below are not the same as you will find on the HSPT® - 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 HSPT®. So 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 HSPT®.

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 Skills

Questions: 50  
Time: 16 Minutes

Section II – Quantitative Skills

Questions: 50  
Time: 30 Minutes

Section III – Reading & Vocabulary

Questions: 60  
Time: 25 Minutes

Section IV – Math

Questions: 60  
Time: 45 Minutes

Section V – Language

Questions: 60  
Time: 25 Minutes
Verbal Skills

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Quantitative Skills

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Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary

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Mathematics

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Language Arts

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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.

Good Luck!

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