

The SSAT

Secondary School Admissions Test



WHO TAKES THE SSAT?

For students seeking entry to independent and private schools, there are three levels of the exam:

Elementary Level for application to 4th and 5th grade

Middle Level for application to 6th through 8th grade

Upper Level for application to 9th through 12th grade

WHAT IS THE SSAT LIKE?

Section 1 | Writing Sample

On the Elementary Level, students are asked to look at an image and write a story about what happened in the picture. On the Middle/Upper Levels, students can choose to respond to an essay question, or to write a story whose opening sentence is provided by a prompt.

Section 2 | Quantitative

The SSAT math consists of a mixture of basic mathematical concepts. Included are questions on number sense, operations, algebra and functions, properties, geometry, measurement, and probability.

Section 3 | Reading Comprehension

Here, students will find various reading passages, followed by questions that combine careful reading skills with subjective inference abilities.

Section 4 | Verbal

This section tests a student's vocabulary, and the ability to deduce the meaning of words, in the form of synonym questions and analogy questions.

Section 5 | Quantitative 2

Only found in the Middle/Upper Level, this section is composed of questions similar to those in section 2.

WHEN IS THE SSAT?

The SSATs are held on eight Saturdays throughout the year, and students may register to take the SSAT up to eight times. Middle/Upper Level test-takers usually take their first SSAT in November and can improve their scores by taking it a second time in December or January. Elementary Level SSAT testing begins in December. Application deadlines for most independent schools are in late January.

HOW IS THE TEST SCORED?

Admission officers typically focus on the SSAT scaled score and the SSAT percentiles. The SSAT scaled score offers the most precise measure of a student's performance and is consistent over time (meaning a scaled score today means the same thing it did last year and 30 years ago). The SSAT percentile is useful in comparing your performance to that of others in the current testing year.

OUR PROCESS

Assessment

Set up a timetable

Overview of test logistics

Learn all necessary strategies

Test-specific executive functioning

Continuously enrich content gaps

Compile vocabulary / formula list

Ongoing sessions & homework

Monthly test simulations

Test-day preparation