

Hunter HS

Hunter High School Entrance Exam



WHO TAKES THE HUNTER EXAM?

In order to qualify to take the Hunter HS test, students must score above a certain threshold on their NYS 5th grade ELA and mathematics tests. The qualifying scores needed to apply to Hunter change from year to year, but cutoffs are generally around the 90th percentile. Those who do not take the NYS 5th grade tests (because they either attend private school or “opt out”) may alternatively submit a score from a different standardized 5th grade exam. Hunter provides a list of approved options.

WHAT IS THE HUNTER TEST LIKE?

The test contains three sections: 50 multiple-choice English language arts questions, a writing assignment, and 30 multiple-choice math questions. Students are given three hours to complete the test.

Section 1 | English Language Arts

Students read five or six passages of varying lengths, chosen to reflect a range of writing styles from different time periods. Each passage is followed by a group of multiple-choice questions designed to show a student’s ability to understand, interpret, and analyze the text.

Section 2 | Writing Assignment

Students are asked to write a two-page essay or creative piece based on a given topic. Unlike that of many standardized tests, the writing portion of the Hunter test is graded in part based on the originality of a student’s writing.

Section 3 | Math

This section tests a student’s problem-solving ability. Some of the key skills assessed include: estimation; computation with fractions, decimals, and percents (including negative numbers); rules of divisibility; simple probability; rate; average; ratio; time; money; area of shaded regions; perimeter; counting; visual and numerical pattern recognition; and three dimensional figures. The problems require the use of logical reasoning and higher-level thinking in addition to rote academic knowledge.

WHEN IS THE TEST?

The test is administered once per year only, in early January, with no make-up dates (except in the case of inclement weather). All students take the exam at the same time.

HOW IS THE TEST SCORED?

All multiple-choice questions are computer scored and manually checked for accuracy. A cutoff score is then established, and the top 500 scorers’ essays are read by a panel of Hunter HS English faculty. The students who write the top 170 or so essays are selected for admission. Students who fail to make the initial cutoff are automatically disqualified, and their essays will not be read.

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