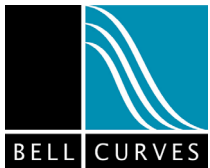


10 Winning Strategies

to beat the SHSAT



Bell Curves

Get Ahead of the Curve!

SHSAT Registration

How to register: Contact your guidance counselor before the end of September to register for the SHSAT. Within a few weeks, you will receive your SHSAT admission ticket.

When: The SHSAT is typically administered to 8th graders in late October, and to 9th graders one week later.

How often: The SHSAT may be taken once in the 8th grade and once in the 9th grade.

How much: Free!

For more info: <http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/resources/testing/SHSAT.htm>



Students are granted their top, available choice of school after all higher scorers have been given their top, available choice. Be sure to rank the schools in the order of your preference.

Get the facts!

There are many rumors about the SHSAT. The first step to a great score is learning what's true and what's not.

	True	False
The SHSAT is a test of a student's intelligence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The SHSAT is required for admissions to all New York City Specialized High Schools.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The SHSAT is the sole criterion for admissions for most of New York City's Specialized High Schools.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The SHSAT tests grammar and literary style.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The SHSAT favors students who score extremely well in one section and poorly in another, over those who simply do well in both.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The SHSAT allows the use of most calculators for the math sections.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The questions are arranged in increasing order of difficulty.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A student will earn more points by guessing randomly than by leaving a question blank.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Answers: F F T T F F F T

Research the Specialized High Schools in 8th and 9th grades and find out which school is right for you.

Know what you need!

The SHSAT is the sole factor used by most Specialized High Schools to determine which applicants are admitted. Applicants are ranked by their score, and the top-scorers are admitted. Since the SHSAT is so important, you must know what score will make you attractive to the schools you want to attend. Also, ranking the schools in order of preference is important, as some schools are in such high demand that if you do not rank it as your first choice you may not be admitted even if you score higher than the cutoff score. The chart below shows recent cut-off scores for several of the Specialized High Schools.

School	Lowest SHSAT Score Admitted in 2017
Stuyvesant High School	555
Bronx High School of Science	512
High School of American Studies at Lehman College	516
High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College	504
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College	507
Staten Island Technical High School	515
Brooklyn Technical High School	486
Brooklyn Latin School	479

With the exception of LaGuardia, which requires an audition, all Specialized High Schools disregard your grades and any factors other than your SHSAT score when determining who to admit. So, if your grades weren't so hot, this is a great chance to still get into a great school!

Build your endurance with real practice!

The SHSAT allows a total 180 minutes for the ELA section and the Math section, but recommends you use 90 minutes for each. Taking practice tests will not only build your endurance and stamina, but it will also help you learn to apportion your time appropriately. Like an athlete, you will perform at your best only if you train and practice realistically.

Number of Questions	Content	Total Point Value
9-11	Section 1: Revising/Editing	52
46-48	Section 1: Reading Comprehension	
5	Section 2: Grid-Ins	52
52	Section 2: Multiple Choice	
Total Points		104



Remember, you can flip to whichever section of the test you wish to at any time. If you're tired of Math, do some Reading!

Learn what will be tested!

Knowing what's going to be on the test allows you to prepare for the test. To get your best score, spend 2-3 months before the test reviewing rules and learning effective strategies.

Revising/Editing Part A

Part A questions test a student's ability to:

- identify and fix grammatical errors
- improve the standard of writing of a sentence or short paragraph

Revising/Editing Part B

Part B questions test a student's ability to:

- understand information presented in a passage
- improve the standard of writing of that passage

Reading Comprehension

The Reading section measures the ability to:

- understand an author's purpose and reasoning
- make multiple, layered inferences
- understand the central idea
- identify the relationship of ideas within and across different texts

Mathematics

The Mathematics section tests:

- number operations and definitions
- algebra
- geometry and measurement
- word problems and mathematical reasoning
- data analysis, statistics, and probability

Knowing what to expect on the SHSAT will make you more confident and enable you to do better!

Guess!

The SHSAT doesn't penalize students for guessing – in other words, blank answers and incorrect answers both receive 0 points. So, you should answer every question. But that doesn't mean you have to spend time on every question. While SHSAT questions are not in a predictable order of difficulty, you can skip the hard questions and try them later. If you run out of time, fill in random answers for the remaining questions and collect some free points!

SHSAT Scoring

Josefina Schmoe

Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Correct	B	H	C	K	C	F	E	G	D	F	D	H	C	G	D	F	B	J	B	K
Student	✓	J	✓	F	✓	J	✓	✓	✓	G	A	✓	B	✓	C	✓	D	✓	C	F
Question	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Correct	A	H	C	H	D	K	B	K	B	F	D	J	A	F	B	K	D	G	D	J
Student	B	✓	B	✓	✓	J	✓	G	A	✓	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Answered: 31

Correct: 15

Skipped: 9

Bell Curves Student

Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Correct	B	H	C	K	C	F	E	G	D	F	D	H	C	G	D	F	B	J	B	K
Student	✓	✓	✓	K	A	✓	✓	K	✓	G	C	G	✓	✓	B	G	✓	✓	C	✓
Question	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Correct	A	H	C	H	D	K	B	K	B	F	D	J	A	F	B	K	D	G	D	J
Student	✓	G	✓	K	✓	✓	C	✓	C	✓	C	✓	✓	K	✓	✓	✓	K	C	✓

*highlighted columns are guesses

Answered: 40

Correct: 23

Guessed: 13

Raw Scores

Correct Answers = +1
Wrong Answers = 0
Skipped Answers = 0

Use your time wisely to answer the number of questions that you need to achieve your target score.

Plug in your own numbers when variables are in the answer choices!

Multiple-Choice Questions

- Angelo has a markers. He has half as many markers as Carmen has. Together, Angelo and Carmen have 200 more markers than Mike. In terms of a , how many markers does Mike have?

A. $3a - 200$
B. $3a + 200$
C. $\frac{a}{2} + 200$
D. $a - 200$
- There are j tickets available to a concert at Venue A, and k tickets available at Venue B. Venue B has five more than three times as many seats as Venue A. What is the value of k in terms of j ?

E. $j + 5$
F. $3j + 5$
G. $3j - 5$
H. $5j + 5$
- Given that x is an even integer, which of the following cannot be an odd integer?

A. $\frac{x}{2}$
B. $2x - 1$
C. $2x + 1$
D. $\frac{x}{3}$

Answers: A, F, D

SHSAT math questions are often made more difficult by testing multiple concepts at the same time.

Answer Reading questions in your own words before looking at the choices!

Line

...For centuries before trading with Europe, the Swahili had sailed the African coast in small, seaworthy boats of their own design. They were expert navigators, and their
 5 knowledge of the dangerous coastal waters enabled them to expand their influence along 3,000 kilometers of East African coastline. In this region, known as the Swahili corridor, the Swahili traded salt, cloth, and
 10 iron products for a wide range of goods from groups living in the African interior.

15 In the ninth century, the Swahili began also trading with Persian Gulf merchants, who in turn traded with China.

1. What was most important in enabling the Swahili to establish their trade along the East African coast?
 - A. large holdings of gold and ivory
 - B. knowledge of the coastal waters
 - C. ability to trade with European countries
 - D. knowledge of European art

2. Who were the Swahilis' first trading partners?
 - E. the Chinese
 - F. European countries
 - G. other African societies
 - H. Red Sea merchants

Answers: B, H

75% of all answer choices are wrong, but they are designed to be close to the real answer. Avoid being fooled by wrong answer choices by answering yourself, in your own words, first.

Read only what you need to answer the given question!

Line In the 1940s and 1950s, millions cheered for
the first and, so far, the only professional female
baseball league in the United States. Concerned
that major-league teams might be shut down
because players were being drafted to serve
5 in World War II, Philip K. Wrigley, owner of the
major-league Chicago Cubs, chose the finest
players from the amateur women’s softball
leagues and established the American All-
Girl Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL)
10 in 1943. The quality of play in the women’s
league was so high that the games attracted
many loyal fans in a number of Midwestern
cities. In fact, in the best year of the league,
over a million spectators attended AAGPBL
15 games. Public interest fluctuated over the
years, however, and when television brought
major-league baseball into people’s homes in
the 1950s, it wiped out the AAGPBL and many
other minor league operations as well.

20 That most people had sexist attitudes toward
women’s athletics is evident from some of the
team names, most of which alluded more to
gender and appearance (Chicks, Peaches) than
ballplaying skills. But in their six games a week
25 (two on Sundays), the women demonstrated
that they were true athletes. The league quickly
advanced from a modified form of softball to a
serious game of baseball.

30 The women played hard and well, and major-
league players and managers spoke highly
of the league. One Hall of Famer called the
thrilling, fourteen-inning championship game in
1946 the greatest he had ever witnessed, male
or female.

1. What was the major reason for the end of the professional women’s baseball league?
 - A. The AAGPBL began using male ballplayers during the 1950s.
 - B. Women no longer competed against men after the war was over.
 - C. All-male minor leagues cut into the AAGPBL market.
 - D. Baseball fans lost interest in minor-league baseball during the 1950s.
2. What was Philip K. Wrigley’s chief motivation in starting the league?
 - E. a desire to publicize his major-league team
 - F. a desire to keep wartime morale high among women
 - G. a belief in the long-term future of women’s participation in baseball
 - H. a desire to keep baseball available despite the war

Answers: D, H

Don’t read the whole passage in one swoop. After reading a question, find and read only the information necessary to answer it.

Read the answer choices of Revising/Editing Questions to see what's being tested!

The grand jury, comprising seven women and three men, are studying the collected evidence and will render a verdict soon.

1. Which edit should be made to correct this sentence?
 - A. change comprising to comprised
 - B. change are studying to is studying
 - C. change collected to collect
 - D. change will render to have rendered

Why bother with a home phone, when a cell phone is capable of taking pictures, play music, and download attachments?

2. Which edit should be made to correct this sentence?
 - E. change is capable of taking to is able to take
 - F. change is capable of taking to can be used for taking
 - G. change play to playing
 - H. change download to downloading

3. (1) Benjamin Banneker was born in Baltimore County in 1731 to a free black mother and a freed slave father. (2) Different from most children his age, Banneker's childhood seems to be more appropriate for a college student than for a boy of little education. (3) Though he briefly attended a Quaker school, Banneker was largely self taught. (4) He taught himself farming, surveying, and enough astronomy to eventually write an almanac with correct predictions of celestial movements.

Which sentence should be revised to correct a misplaced modifier?

- A. sentence 1
- B. sentence 2
- C. sentence 3
- D. sentence 4

Answers: B, E, B

The Revising/Editing section tests how clearly and consistently things are expressed. The specific grammar rules most often tested are verb agreement and tense, punctuation usage, pronoun agreement, list consistency, comparison consistency, modifier clarity, and proper use of idioms.

Know the connotations of common transition words!

Common Conjunctions and Transition Words	
Or	...used to connect alternatives
If	...introduces a conditional clause
So	...therefore, in order to
Though	...despite, however
Thus	...as a result of
Nevertheless	...in spite of that, all the same
Until	...up to, as far as, till
Whereas	...when in fact, on the contrary
While	...during the time that, although
For	...with the object or purpose of
Moreover	...and further, besides
And	...connects clauses and sentences
But	...introduces a contrast
Because	...for the reason that
Furthermore	...in addition to
Although	...however, even though
Since	...for the reason that

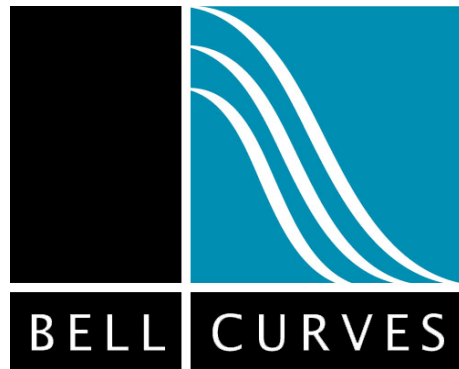
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was a famous German writer born in the 18th century. He was not always kind to the people in his life, he still issued the following advice: "Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them to become what they are capable of being."

Which transition should be added to the beginning of sentence 2?

- Although.
- Therefore
- However
- Yet

Answer: D

Style and Content questions on the Revising/Editing section focus on an author's ability to clearly and logically convey information. The flow of a passage and relevance of each sentence is key.



Contact us for SHSAT Courses and Tutoring!

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