The HSPT: five subtests, 298 questions, 141 minutes

Scholastic Testing Service's High School Placement Test, for eighth graders entering ninth grade; used by Catholic and other private high schools for admissions, scholarships and placement. Multiple choice, no calculator, no penalty for guessing: the score is the number right.

Subtest	Questions	Minutes	Seconds each	What it tests
Verbal Skills	60	16	16	Synonyms, antonyms, analogies, logic, verbal classification
Quantitative Skills	52	30	35	Number series, geometric and non-geometric comparisons, number manipulation
Reading	62	25	24	Comprehension of passages; vocabulary in context
Mathematics	64	45	42	Arithmetic, elementary algebra and geometry concepts and problems
Language	60	25	25	Punctuation, capitalisation, usage, spelling, composition
Total	298	141		About two and a half hours with directions and breaks

How it is scored (STS)

Score	What it is
Raw score	Questions right in each subtest; nothing subtracted for wrong answers
Standard score and national percentile	Raw converted by STS; percentiles 1 to 99, 50 exactly average
Total Cognitive Skills	Verbal Skills + Quantitative Skills (learning ability)
Total Basic Skills	Reading + Mathematics + Language (what has been learned)
Battery Composite	All five subtests; the percentile schools quote most
Cognitive Skills Quotient (CSQ)	An ability index from the cognitive subtests and age; 95 to 100 is average
Grade equivalents	For the basic skills subtests

Each school evaluates the scores in its own way (STS). Competitive admission commonly sits in the 70s and above and scholarship consideration in the 90s; the admitting school is the only source for its line.

From sciencewithshobha.com/blog/hspt-high-school-placement-test-the-five-subtests-with-question-counts-and-times-298-questions-how-it-is-scored-the-composites-and-how-to-prepare/ · 1-on-1 online tutoring for US families, Grade 1 to AP, free 30-minute first class.

STS's own advice, the pacing plan and eight weeks

What STS tells families

[ ] Listen to and read the directions for each subtest.
[ ] Pace yourself: every subtest is timed, and the administrator should announce the halfway point.
[ ] Read each question carefully; work problems on scratch paper (no calculators).
[ ] Answer every question: no penalty for guessing.
[ ] Check your work if time is left, and that the answer-sheet line matches the question number.
[ ] STS is not affiliated with any prep product; a well-rounded education is the best preparation.

Pacing

Subtest	Plan
Verbal, 16 s	Answer on sight; mark and skip anything over ten seconds; return at the end
Quantitative, 35 s	Write the next term; estimate and compare rather than compute exactly
Reading, 24 s	Questions first, passage once; vocabulary from the sentence
Mathematics, 42 s	Eighth-grade maths: pre-algebra and Algebra 1 concepts, geometry basics, percent, ratio, fractions; estimate, eliminate, move on
Language, 25 s	Read for one error type at a time; 'no error' is an answer

Eight weeks

Weeks	What to do
1	One full-length timed practice: find the subtest that costs most and the pace that is unrealistic.
2-6	Mathematics gaps first (slowest to fix, most valuable for placement); then language rules; vocabulary every day.
7-8	Two more timed sittings, the second on a Saturday morning under real conditions; nothing new in the last three days.

My plan

Test date and schools coded: _____

Practice 1 percentiles by subtest: _____

Weakest subtest and its two weakest topics: _____

Practice 2 and 3 dates: _____