The SHSAT
Specialized High School Admissions Test

HartmanTutoring
FROM THE ABCs TO THE SATs

WHO TAKES THE SHSAT?

The SHSAT is the sole admissions criteria for gaining admission to NYC's specialized high schools (with the exception of LaGuardia, which requires an audition. All eighth or ninth grade students, who are current NYC residents, are eligible to take the exam.

WHAT IS THE SHSAT LIKE?

The SHSAT is a standardized ELA and Math test, with a three-hour time limit. Students are tested on their abilities to comprehend English prose, to convey understanding of revising and editing writing, and to use problem-solving skills in mathematics. The test is composed of 114 questions in total (94 scored and 20 unscored).

Part 1 | ELA

All multiple choice (4 answer options per question)

•Revising/Editing (sentences and paragraphs)
•Reading Comprehension (3-4 informational texts, 1-2 literary prose texts, 1 poem)

Part 2 | Math

Multiple choice (4 answer options per question) and grid-in questions

•Focus on word problems
•Calculators are not permitted

WHEN IS THE SHSAT?

The SHSAT is customarily held on the last Saturday of October, so our preferred start time is the previous spring. Ideally, students have 4-8 months of consistent test prep leading up to the SHSAT. Registration begins in September and ends in early October. Students should contact school counselors to register. We are very careful to pace our prep programs properly, ensuring that students neither burn out or peak too early.

HOW IS THE TEST SCORED?

All questions are worth one point. Raw Math and ELA scores are converted to scaled scores. The cutoff score varies by school and by year. Students are ranked according to their score on the test and assigned to a school depending on their rank, the priority in which they placed schools on their application, and the seats available at each school.

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