

## About the SSAT

The SSAT (Secondary School Admission Test) is an admissions test administered to students in grades 5-11 to help determine placement into private independent schools.

The SSAT has two tests, depending on the students current grade:

- Lower Level (for students currently in grades 5-7)
- Upper Level (for students currently in grades 8-11)

The SSAT consists of:

- A 25 minute essay
- A 40 minute reading comprehension section (multiple choice)
- Two 30 minute math sections (multiple choice)
- A 30 minute verbal section (multiple choice)

The following is a breakdown of the SSAT:

| Section | Question     | Length |
|---------|--------------|--------|
| Math I  | 25 questions | 30 min |
| Verbal  | 60 questions | 30 min |
| Reading | 40 questions | 40 min |
| Math II | 25 questions | 30 min |
| Essay   | one essay    | 25 min |

- The total test time is 2 hours and 35 min (not including breaks).
- All questions are multiple choice (A) to (E), except the essay.
- You are not allowed to use calculators, dictionaries or rulers.

### Essay

In the essay part of the test, students will be asked to support or argue against a topic statement by using examples from personal experience, history, literature and current events. The essay section is 25 minutes long and students are given one side of a paper to write this essay.

### Mathematics Section

There are two 25 minute math sections with 25 questions each that require basic computations including some basic algebra.

## Verbal Section

The verbal section is 30 minutes long and consists of 30 synonym and 30 analogy questions.

## Reading Comprehension Section

The 40 minute reading comprehension section has 40 questions based around seven given reading passages. These questions not only require test takers to read quickly but also comprehend what they are reading.

## How many times can I take the SSAT?

In Ontario, you may register for the SSAT only once in any given academic year. The results of any subsequent exams will not be reported.

## Scoring

All questions on the SSAT are equal in value and scores are based on the number of questions correctly answered subtracted by one-quarter point for each question you answer incorrectly. No points are awarded or deducted for questions left unanswered. The scaled score for the Upper Level is 500- 800 (each section), 1500-2400 (total) For the Lower Level, the scale is 440- 710 (each section), 1320-2130 (total).

The SSAT score report provides scaled scores for each section as well as percentile ranks for each category, comparing a students score to others who have taken the test in the past three years. Also in the score report are estimated national percentile ranks for 5-9 grade test takers and projected 12th grade SAT scores for test takers in grades 7-10.

Scores are mailed to you and your school about two or three weeks after taking the test. Upon receiving their scores, students can send the results to the independent schools they wish to apply to. Each school then evaluates the scores according to its own standards and requirements.

## Median scores

Lower Level: 50th Percentile

|             | Grade | Reading | Verbal | Math |
|-------------|-------|---------|--------|------|
| Lower Level | 5     | 569     | 584    | 563  |
|             | 6     | 593     | 614    | 593  |
|             | 7     | 611     | 638    | 614  |
| Upper Level | 8     | 629     | 662    | 647  |
|             | 9     | 644     | 683    | 668  |
|             | 10    | 656     | 695    | 686  |

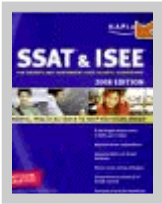
## Recommended Study Guides



**Preparing and Applying** by SSAT Board



**Cracking the SSAT & ISEE** by Princeton Review



**SSAT & ISEE** by Kaplan