

HAST-P

Higher Ability Selection Test – Primary

Student Information Sheet

What is the HAST-P test for?

HAST is a selection test used by schools to identify academically gifted students for participation in accelerated learning or enhancement programs. Secondary schools throughout Australia use the HAST test to select students for gifted programs. This is the primary version of the same test. The HAST tests are designed and marked by the *Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)*.

What information do I need from the school?

Once your school decides to run the HAST-P you will be given a test date and time for the test. You will also be told where the test will take place.

What should I take to the test?

- two **HB** or **B** pencils for the multiple-choice tests
- a good quality eraser
- a pencil sharpener
- two blue or black pens for the Writing test.

No other equipment will be needed. For example, you will not require a ruler, paper or calculator.

It is also a good idea to take a water bottle and snacks for the breaks.

How do I write my answers?

You will be given a special answer sheet for the multiple-choice tests in Reading Comprehension, Mathematical Reasoning and Abstract Reasoning, and lined paper for the Writing test.

For each question there are four small circles labelled A, B, C and D on the multiple choice answer sheet. Use a HB or B pencil to colour in the circle of your choice.

Example (Answer 'B' selected)

1. A B C D

If you wish to change your answer, carefully rub out the first mark and then mark your new choice. Please remember, when working on the multiple-choice answer sheet

Do not:

- × fold or tear the answer sheet
- × make marks anywhere other than in the designated areas on the answer sheet
- × use ink, ball-point pen or felt pen on any part of the answer sheet.

How do I make sure I do my best?

- Listen carefully to instructions.
- Read the instructions on the front cover of each test carefully.
- Read each test question carefully before answering it.
- Make sure you mark all of your answers on the answer sheet and not in the test booklet.
- Check that the answer you are marking matches the question number in your test booklet.
- Do not rush. If you find one question too difficult do not spend a long time on it. Leave it out but be sure you place your next answer in its right circle. Each question is of equal value.
- If you cannot decide between two answers in the multiple-choice tests, mark the letter of the answer you think is most likely correct. You may have time to go back to that question but in the meantime you have done the best you can. **No marks will be deducted for incorrect answers.**

• Do not worry if you have left questions out and cannot finish the tests. Remember that the tests *are* difficult.

What if I don't understand a question?

Take time to re-read the question carefully. Ask the teacher in charge if you are unclear about anything in the test.

The Test Time-Table

There will be either three separate tests. The time allowed for each and the order in which they will be taken are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1 Reading Comprehension | - 40 Minutes |
| 2 Mathematical Reasoning | - 40 Minutes |
| 3 Writing Test | - 30 Minutes |

There will be a short break between each test of about 15 minutes.

Students who arrive late for the first test will be admitted only at the discretion of the supervisor, and additional time will not be allowed.

TEST SESSION	Year 5
Orientation	5 minutes
Student Details	5 minutes
Reading Comprehension	45 minutes
Instructions	5 minutes
Writing time	40 minutes
B R E A K	15 minutes
Mathematical Reasoning	45 minutes
Instructions	5 minutes
Writing time	40 minutes
B R E A K	15 minutes

Writing Test	35 minutes
Instructions	5 minutes
Writing time	30 minutes
Final instructions	5 minutes
Total Time:	2 hours 50 minutes



What if I am sick on the test date?

Your school may help you to sit the test at a later date, however this cannot be guaranteed. Discuss it with your school to see if they can help you to sit the test again.

What are the tests like?

The test items attempt to assess the following skills: analysis, comprehension, interpretation and reasoning. The topics for the material may be drawn from many subject areas such as English, Maths, Science and Social Studies; though no special knowledge in these areas is needed. All the information you need to answer the questions is printed on the paper, so if you do not know or fully understand something you may be able to work out what it means from the information given to you in the question.

1. Reading Comprehension Test

This test measures how well you can understand and interpret ideas in language. The test asks you to look at written and visual material and answer questions on it. Overall there will be 30 multiple-choice questions in this test.

Example: Letters to the editor

Both of these children have written letters to a magazine about bullfighting.

Read them and then answer the multiple-choice questions.

Dear Editor

I think bullfighting is a cruel sport because the bulls get hurt, and usually they are killed. I saw a bullfight on television and the bull looked scared and then angry. I don't think it is fair on the bull.

James (aged 8)

Dear Editor

I am from Spain and I have been to lots of bullfights. They are very exciting and special events in my country. I once saw a matador get caught on the bull's horns. It was scary. I think matadors are brave and skilful.

Luis (aged 9)

Now answer these questions:

- The two letters have
 - the same ideas about bullfights.
 - come from Spain.
 - only mentioned bulls.
 - different ideas about bullfights.
- James thinks bullfighting is cruel because
 - the matador might get hurt.
 - you only see it on television.
 - he is not from Spain.
 - the bull suffers pain.
- By 'special event' Luis means
 - something he does not like.
 - something that is not ordinary.
 - something that happens every day.
 - something that happens in another country.

(Reading Answers: 1 D; 2 D; 3 B).

2. Mathematical Reasoning Test

This test attempts to measure mathematical ability, in contrast to a test of school achievement in mathematics. Consequently, the material used for the questions in this test is selected from a wide variety of sources, and may differ from standard school-based curriculum materials.

The test consists of 30 multiple-choice questions.

Mathematical Reasoning example:

1.



The number missing at X is

- 185
- 187
- 192
- 197

2.

MORNING BUS TIMETABLE

Depot	6.00 am	6.20 am	6.40 am	7.00 am
Rowan St	6.05 am	6.25 am	6.45 am	7.05 am
Swan St	6.07 am	6.27 am	6.47 am	7.07 am
Ibis Ave	6.14 am	6.34 am	6.54 am	7.14 am
Station	6.17 am	6.37 am	6.57 am	7.17 am

What is the time of the latest bus Ian can catch at Rowan St to get to Ibis Ave by 6.55 am?

- 6.14 am
- 6.20 am
- 6.40 am
- 6.45 am

3.

Chen says, 'In seven years, I will be half as old again as I am now.' How old will Chen be two years from now?

- 9
- 14
- 16
- 21

4.

A farmer kept a small number of sheep and ducks on her property. If there were 94 legs and 34 heads in total, this means that there were

- 13 sheep and 21 ducks
- 16 sheep and 18 ducks
- 17 sheep and 17 ducks
- 20 sheep and 14 ducks

(Maths Answers: 1 C; 2 D; 3 C; 4 A).

3. Writing Test

This test is concerned with your ability to express your thoughts and feelings in writing.

You will be given a picture **or** a statement which must be the basis of your writing. You should respond to the stimulus in the way that is most interesting to you, and which best displays your ability to write and express yourself.

You will be given 3 pages on which to write your response. It is not expected that your work will be longer than this, however, if you have not finished your response and need more space to complete it, additional paper will be provided.

Writing Test (example)



Use this picture as an idea for a story.

It can be the most important idea in the story, or just part of the story. You may write a story about something that really happened, or you can make up a story.

Give your story a title.

Write your story on the lined pages in your answer booklet.