Opportunity Class Placement Test for entry to Year 5 in 2020

Test information for parents and students

1. Who must sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test?

Students whose parents have applied for them to be placed in a Year 5 opportunity class in 2020 must take the Opportunity Class Placement Test unless they have a satisfactory explanation, e.g. illness. (See section 15 on pages 4 and 5 for further information.)

2. When and where will the test be held?

The test will be held on Wednesday 31 July 2019 at 9.00 am at the test centre you have been allocated.

3. What are the components of the test?

There are two parts to the test, each comprising 35 multiple-choice questions in English, mathematics and general ability (thinking skills). Students have 30 minutes to answer each part of the test. They answer on an answer booklet that is later marked by a computer.

4. How long does the test take?

The following is a sample timetable for the test. Parents should drop students off at the test centre by 9.00 am and return promptly at 11.15 am to pick them up. Do not arrive before 8:30 am as there is no supervision available. Apart from the arrival time and duration of the tests this timetable is approximate and will vary according to the size and location of the test centre. If the test is delayed, please wait quietly and take care to avoid disruption to the school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>START</th>
<th>FINISH</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candidates arrive by</td>
<td>9.00 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidates assemble in school groups</td>
<td>9.00 am</td>
<td>9.20 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and practice</td>
<td>9.20 am</td>
<td>9.50 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part 1 (30 minutes)</td>
<td>9.50 am</td>
<td>10.20 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short break</td>
<td>10.20 am</td>
<td>10.30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part 2 (30 minutes)</td>
<td>10.30 am</td>
<td>11.00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidates dismissed</td>
<td></td>
<td>11.15 am</td>
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5. How do students get to the test centre?

Parents must arrange transport to and from the test centre. Parents must observe any parking restrictions near the test centre. Parents must not park or wait on school premises unless authorised by the High Performing Students Team as part of a disability test provision prior to the test. Parents must be ready to collect students from the test centre by 11.15 am, the approximate dismissal time. If the test finishes early and parents have not yet arrived to collect their children, students may return to the test room under supervision until 11.15 am. Students are not to be left waiting after the test.

6. What should the students wear to the test?

Students should wear school uniform, including a warm jumper. Before the test the students will be assembled in primary school groups outside the test centre. The wearing of the school uniform helps the supervisors running the test to organise the students more easily.

7. What happens if a student arrives late?

Students who arrive late may be allowed to take the test, but will be required to finish at the same time as other students. No extra time will be given.
8. What must the students bring to the test?

Students MUST bring a printed copy of their Test authority letter with their application number.

Students who have been granted disability test provisions must bring any specially approved items.

If your child has an EpiPen or Anapen you must provide the Action plan for anaphylaxis and medication to the presiding officer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students SHOULD bring:</th>
<th>Students SHOULD NOT bring:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glasses, asthma inhaler and tissues, if required. Any other medical device must be approved before the test.</td>
<td>Pens, pencils, pencil cases, erasers, note paper or other material such as dictionaries or books.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear plastic water bottle – with no writing on it except for the brand name (to be stored under the seat to avoid spills).</td>
<td>Equipment such as rulers, calculators, computers, mobile phones, computer watches, watches that calculate or beep or any device that calculates, photographs or communicates. (Presiding officers have discretion not to allow any device suspected of breaching this rule.)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Pens will be provided for all candidates sitting the test.

9. How are the students identified at the test?

At their desks in the test room students will find an answer booklet labelled with their name, date of birth and current school. They must tell a supervisor if the details are wrong. Identifying details are not provided to markers so all papers are marked anonymously. Answer booklets are linked back to the student using a unique booklet barcode.

10. How do students show their answers?

The presiding officer (the person in charge of the test centre) will show students how to record their responses in the answer booklet before starting Part 1. Students will be given a chance to practise recording their answers. Students who need further help should raise their hands.

This part of an answer booklet shows the boxes students will colour to show their answers for the three guided practice questions.

Students will also be provided with the opportunity to do timed practice questions to give them practice with managing their time.

A sample answer sheet can be viewed on the Department’s website under ‘Test information’.

The answers for Part 1 of the test are grouped according to the page number in the question booklet, e.g. questions 1, 2 and 3 are on page 8 of the question booklet and questions 4 and 5 are on page 9 of the question booklet. This helps students to make sure they are answering each question on the right line of the answer page.

Students must show their answers in the answer booklet and not the question booklet unless authorised in advance as a disability test provision.

If students need to work anything out they may write in the question booklet but they must show answers in the answer booklet.
The answers for Part 2 of the test are also grouped according to the page number in the question booklet, e.g. questions 1, 2 and 3 are on page 2 and questions 4 and 5 are on page 3 of the question booklet.

11. What is expected of the students?

Students must be careful not to look at the work of others during the test. Students suspected of cheating risk having the test marks not counted. Students must follow the presiding officer’s and supervisors’ instructions both during the test and in the short break. In a small number of cases parents will be advised that they are permitted to stay on the school grounds for student wellbeing reasons. 

**Generally, parents are NOT permitted to enter the test centre and they must leave the school grounds during the test as the school needs to maintain its security.** Please do not photograph other students or attempt to take photographs of the inside of the test room (even through windows) as it can cause disturbance to the candidates.

12. What happens during the short break?

In the break between Part 1 and Part 2 of the test students will remain seated in the test room while supervisors complete administrative tasks in preparation for Part 2 of the test. During this period students may raise their hands if they need to go to the toilet.

13. How do the students know how much time they have in each test?

The presiding officer will show students the test clock being used to time the test. In most cases, the test centre clock is an analogue clock. Students must know how to read an analogue clock. If students cannot see the time on the test centre clock, they should raise their hands and tell the presiding officer or supervisor. No time warnings will be given before the end of each part of the test.

14. What should students know about the test?

- There is nothing you should study for the tests. It is important to think clearly and to use your ability to deal with new problems and situations to choose an answer.
- Pay attention when the presiding officer (the person in charge of the tests) talks to you and shows you where to record the answers for each test.
- If you have any problems understanding the instructions put your hand up and the presiding officer or supervisor will answer your questions.
- Do NOT open the question booklet until the presiding officer tells you to do so. When doing Part 2 do not go back to Part 1 for any reason. There are coloured strips down the side of each page so that supervisors can see which Part you are looking at.
- At the beginning of the first session there will be practice questions to help you become familiar with the kinds of questions in the tests and to make sure that you know how to show your answers in the test. Work through these when you are told, and stop work when you are told to.
- Read each test question carefully before you start answering it. Do not rush or you might make careless mistakes but don’t spend too much time on one question. Always choose the answer that you think is best. If you find a question too difficult mark the answer you think is best and come back to that question later if you have time.
- To change an answer, draw an X through the answer you don’t want and colour in the box of the new answer. If you want to choose an answer you previously crossed out, circle the answer you now want and draw an X over the latest answer you coloured in.
Every multiple choice question has equal value. Marks are awarded for each correct answer. Incorrect, double or blank answers score zero. Marks are not taken off for wrong answers. It is better to have a guess rather than leave an answer blank. Not leaving any answers blank helps you make sure you are answering on the correct line.

Keep checking that the number of the question you are working on in the question booklet is the same as the number you are marking on the answer sheet. Check this with the eight ‘Answer check’ reminders throughout the tests (like the one shown below). If you find you are answering a question at the wrong place, put your hand up and tell your supervisor. The supervisor will record the details for the selection committees to check later. Start the next question at the correct place and come back to fix the problem if you have time, changing one question at a time. You should not cross out a whole group of answers at once as you could run out of time correcting them. Do not spend too much time trying to fix the problem unless you have finished the last question.

**ANSWER CHECK Example**

*Look at your answer booklet - was the last box you filled in for Question 8? If it was, keep going. If it wasn’t, put your hand up now for help.*

If you want to work anything out in the multiple-choice tests you can write on the question booklet. The question and answer booklets will be collected at the end of the test, but any notes that you have made in the question booklet will not be marked.

There will be no time warnings during the test. Once the test starts you will need to check the test centre’s clock to find out how much time you have left. The presiding officer will tell you which test centre clock is the official one. Put your hand up if you cannot see the time on the clock. Do not use your own watch to keep track of the time.

15. **What if the student is unable to take the test or misses part of the test?**

Students unable to take the test will not be eligible for placement in an opportunity class unless there are exceptional circumstances. If your child misses the test because of exceptional circumstances, lodge a request for consideration of illness/misadventure within 14 days of the test. Parents may also lodge an illness/misadventure request if students took the test while suffering from illness or because of misadventure which prevented them from doing their best. The form is available on the Department’s website. It is generally better to do the test and lodge an illness/misadventure request than to miss the test, as long as it does not put the child at risk of harm.

Parents should seek medical attention for the student **on the day of the test** if the child is ill on the test day. Attach a medical certificate and/or other evidence to the *Illness/misadventure form*. Ask the doctor to complete the *Independent evidence of illness* page of the *Illness/misadventure form* as well.

16. **Where can I find sample test papers?**

Sample test papers are available on the Department’s website. There is also a 2019 answer sheet so that the candidates can practise colouring in the answer boxes as they are required to do in the test. Check the Department’s website for updated sample answer sheets under ‘Preparing for the test’. [https://education.nsw.gov.au/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/the-test](https://education.nsw.gov.au/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/the-test)

**Students must bring a printed copy of their Test authority letter or email to the test centre on test day.**

Enquiries: High Performing Students Team  Telephone: 1300 880 367 or Email: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au