

High School Placement Test FAQ's

What is the HSPT?

The HSPT is a standardized, timed test required of every 8th grader applying to attend Lexington Catholic. It contains five sections that measure verbal ability, quantitative ability, reading comprehension, mathematics, and components of written language. The questions are designed to test students at their curriculum level.

How is this test used in the high school admissions process?

This assessment tool is used by high schools for admissions, scholarship selection, and course placement. Each high school has its own guidelines for evaluating applicants for admission, including performance on the HSPT.

Are accommodations available for students with a service plan, IEP, or a recent evaluation?

Yes, Scholastic Testing allows for an extended time to students with a documented need. When registering for the HSPT, there will be a yes or no question asking whether a student needs accommodations. If indicated yes, please email the documentation to mtowles@lexingtoncatholic.com. All documentation should date no earlier than the 5th-grade year and must be submitted by November 11, 2019.

What time does the HSPT start? When is it over?

Check-in begins at 8:30 am, and the test lasts from approximately 9:00 am to 12:20 pm.

What is the registration process for the HSPT?

You may [register](#) for the HSPT via Lexington Catholic website. When registering online, you will receive a confirmation number that should be brought with you the day of the test. If you cannot register online, please call Lexington Catholic directly to register. Students may walk in on testing day without registering in advance. However, students may not walk in and request accommodations the day of the test.

What is the payment process?

The cost of the HSPT is \$40. This fee can be paid online by credit card or on the testing day by cash only. The \$40 fee covers scoring the test and sending score reports to parents and high schools chosen by the student.

What is needed on testing day?

For those who registered and paid online, bring several sharpened #2 pencils, a water bottle, a small nut-free snack, and a sweatshirt or sweater. Calculators, mechanical pencils, and "hoodie" sweatshirts are not permitted by Scholastic Testing Service.

Walk-in students should also bring \$40 in cash or check, and all necessary personal information to register. Walk-ins may not request testing accommodations the day of the test.

Are breaks offered during the testing period?

Brief breaks are offered between the five sections of the test.

Are calculators permitted?

Students may not use a calculator as they are not permitted by Scholastic Testing Service on this assessment.

What happens if I arrive late to the test?

The HSPT is a timed test. Those who arrive late should register for another test date.

May I take the test more than once?

The HSPT may be taken only once during the 8th-grade year. A practice test may be given during the 7th grade.

Will there be a make-up test?

Alternative test dates will be set up in the winter and late spring.

When are score reports sent?

Score reports will be sent to parents about three weeks after the test date.

How do I read the scores?

The score report includes five sections – verbal, quantitative, reading comprehension, mathematics, and language. Each score is used to calculate a composite score. The subscores provide information on a student’s strength in these areas. It is important to review the full range of scores and not just the composite score. The HSPT compares each student’s correct score to the national norm (a large group of students of similar age across the U.S.). The score represents not the percentage correct, but where that score falls compared to the large group of students. For example, a score of 75% indicates that your correct answers are where 75% of the norm group scored; it does not mean that 75% of the questions were answered correctly. The score is a comparison of test performance, not a measure of actual performance. Any questions regarding interpretation of scores should be directed to the admissions office of your high school of choice.

Should I complete questions if I am not exactly sure of the correct answer?

Students should answer all questions, as they are not penalized for wrong answers. The proctor explains all details before the start of the test.

Are prep courses a good way to prepare for the HSPT?

STS administers the HSPT, and offers the following guidelines for students who want to prepare adequately:

Testing can be an anxious yet exciting experience for students and their parents. STS offers the following tips to best prepare for a successful testing experience:

- Listen to and read the directions for each subtest carefully.
- Pace yourself – time limits are set for each sub-test. Test administrators announce when time is halfway through so students can check their pace. Avoid spending too much time on one item.
- Read each question carefully.
- Work out the problem – Calculators are not permitted for the Mathematics subtest. Use scratch paper or the test booklet to do any figuring.
- Answer every question – If you are unsure of an answer, take your best guess. Your score is determined by the number of items answered correctly; there is no penalty for answering incorrectly.
- Check your work – If there is time left, go back and review your answers. Make sure each item has only one response. Throughout the test, check that the answer you are marking on your answer sheet corresponds to the item number in the test booklet.
- While many test prep guides, books, and courses are available for purchase, STS is not affiliated with any of these products and does not endorse them. STS believes that parents and teachers are best advised to avoid expensive preparation materials, trusting that a well-rounded education is the best form of test preparation.