

# Preparing for the HSPT Placement Exam

## Test Days:

Friday, December 1  
(4:00 pm - approx. 7:45 pm)

Saturday, December 2  
(9:00 am - approx. 12:45 pm)



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is the HSPT?

The High School Placement Test (HSPT) is required for all 8th grade applicants to Jesuit High School. Jesuit enrolls students from over 80 feeder schools. Placement test scores are used to place students in classes/learning support programs and gauge their academic preparedness for a college-prep curriculum.

### What do I need to take the exam?

Nothing. We will provide a pencil and snacks (vegetarian and gluten-free options available). No calculators or other devices may be used.

### Can I take the exam from any location?

The test can be taken at any other test location, as long as results are forwarded to Jesuit Admissions Office by early February.

### When is the exam and how long is the exam?

The exam will be administered at Jesuit on Friday, December 1 (doors open at 3:45 pm) and Saturday, December 2 (doors open at 8:00 am).

The actual test time is about 2.5 hours. The approximate four-hour window allows time for check-in with the proctor, writing sample, completing demographic information, and several breaks. Students must remain for the entire duration of the test, as each section is strictly timed.

### Is extended time offered on the test?

For students who qualify for extended time on tests and who submit qualifying professional documentation (IEP, ILP, psychoeducational testing, learning difference diagnosis, etc.), we can offer an extended time version of the test (1.5x) on Saturday, December 2. Please indicate on your test registration that you qualify for extended time and upload your documentation by November 27.

### Is there an essay component to the exam?

There will be a 10-minute writing sample at the beginning of the exam period. Students will be given several writing topics from which to choose and are not expected to study or know anything specific in order to answer the question.

## What is covered on the test?

### Reading

- Vocabulary in context: recognizing the meaning of words or their opposite meaning in the context of sentences.
- Literal Comprehension: identifying details, sequence of events, cause and effect in a reading passage
- Critical Comprehension: distinguishing between fact and opinion, identifying author's purpose or theme, comparing features between elements in a reading passage
- Vocabulary: basic recognition of meaning

### Language

- Punctuation: applying appropriate rules of punctuation for such elements as periods, commas, colons, apostrophes, and so forth.
- Capitalizing: applying appropriate rules of capitalization for such elements as proper nouns, first word in quotation and so forth.
- Incorrect usage: recognizing incorrect pronouns, verb forms, prepositions, and so forth in the context of sentences.
- Correct usage: recognizing the correct form or most acceptable language expression for such elements as subject-verb agreement, pronoun case, multiple tenses within a sentence, and so forth
- Spelling: identifying words spelled incorrectly in the context of sentences.
- Composition: recognizing topic sentences in paragraphs, logical order of sentences, identifying connectives between thoughts, most effective expression of an idea, and so forth.

### Cognitive Skills, Verbal

- Analogy: recognizing essential relationships based upon word meanings.
- Syllogism (logic): drawing logical conclusions based upon a particular set of given facts.
- Analyses (verbal classification): analyzing groups of words to determine similarities and diversities of meaning.
- Synonyms: recognizing words which are most similar in meaning.
- Antonyms: recognizing which are essentially opposite in meaning.

### Cognitive Skills, Quantitative

- Sequence: identifying patterns in a series of numbers, determining the next/missing number in the series.
- Reasoning: solving numeric word problems by analyzing the stated relationships or conditions.
- Geometric Comparison: examining geometric or figural elements and identifying the statement which best describes the pictured relationship.
- Non-geometric Comparison: examining numeric elements and identifying the statement which best describes the numerical relationship.

### Mathematics

- Conceptual: understanding and identifying basic mathematical concepts
- Procedural: computation and problem solving using whole numbers, percentages, roots and exponents, measurements and basic algebra and geometry.
- Applications: solving words problems and everyday problems using complex geometry and algebra.

## What is the time breakdown of the test?

Verbal	18 minutes
Quantitative	30 minutes
Stretch Break	
Reading	25 minutes
Refreshment Break	
Math	45 minutes
Language	25 minutes

## When will I know my test results?

Jesuit will upload your test results to your admissions account by mid-January.

## How do I share my test results with other high schools?

We are happy to share your test results and writing samples with any other high school if requested via your test registration.

## Tips and Reminders

- Please do not worry about this test. There is no need to study for it. We recommend that students get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast before the test.
- We understand that the placement test can cause anxiety. Please know that HPST is only one small part of Jesuit's holistic admissions process. We know that one test score does not necessarily accurately predict a student's success in high school and should be viewed in conjunction with other academic records.

## Further Questions?

Contact the Jesuit High School Admissions Office at [admissions@jesuitportland.org](mailto:admissions@jesuitportland.org) or call 503.291.5423.

You can also visit our website: [www.jesuitportland.org/admissions](http://www.jesuitportland.org/admissions)