Priory Enrollment Management: SSAT Middle Level Test Guide

Priory offers the SSAT for prospective students on Saturday, December 5

Register HERE using this code: 9P-8V3B-2O0Z

About the SSAT Middle Level Test

The Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT) is a standardized exam used by independent schools to assess a student's academic readiness. Students applying to Priory for grades 6 through 8 must take the Middle Level SSAT, which is administered in paper-and-pencil format.

Test Format:

- **Writing Sample** – 1 prompt (not scored, but sent to schools)
- **Quantitative (Math)** – 2 sections covering arithmetic, geometry, and basic algebra
- **Reading Comprehension** – passages with questions testing understanding and inference
- **Verbal** – synonyms and analogies to assess vocabulary and verbal reasoning
- **Experimental Section** – unscored, used for test development

Timing: Approximately **3 hours** (including breaks)

Tips & Strategies for Test Takers

- **Know the Scoring Rules:**

    - **+1 point** for each correct answer
    - **–1/4 point** for each incorrect answer
    - **No deduction for unanswered (blank) questions**

- **Understand the Grade-Level Norming:** All test takers currently in grades 5 through 7 take the *same* Middle Level test. This means that younger students will naturally find the questions more challenging than older students. Scores are normed to grade level, so students are compared only to peers in the same grade.

- **Familiarize Yourself:** Review the structure of each section before test day.

- **Pace Yourself:** Don't spend too long on one question—mark it and return if time allows.

- **Use Process of Elimination:** Cross out clearly wrong answers before deciding whether to guess.

- **Stay Calm and Focused:** Take deep breaths, read directions carefully, and double-check your work.

- **Read Daily:** Build vocabulary and comprehension by reading a wide variety of material.

Free Online Practice Test

Students are encouraged to try the official SSAT online practice test to get familiar with the format and question styles.

Take the Free Practice Test Here

Simple Prep Strategy for Middle Level Test Takers

1. **Start Early:** Begin light review 4 weeks before the test.

2. **Practice Weekly:** Complete one timed practice section each week (math, verbal, reading).

3. **Build Vocabulary:** Learn 5–10 new words daily using flashcards or a vocabulary app.

4. **Review Mistakes:** Go over every incorrect question to enhance understanding.

5. **Simulate Test Conditions:** Take one full-length timed practice test to build stamina and confidence.

Extra Free Practice Resources:

- **Ivy Global** – Free downloadable Middle Level SSAT test PDF with answers.
- **Varsity Tutors** – Free section-specific practice quizzes (math, verbal, reading).
- **PrepMaven** – Free SSAT-style question bank for all sections.

These are free resources. Families are always welcome to purchase additional practice materials directly from the SSAT website if they prefer.