



HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

New Jersey's High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) will be administered to all 11th grade public school students on March 6, 7, & 8, 2012.

The HSPA serves as the State's graduation test. It tests student knowledge and skills aligned with the State's academic standards, known as the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

The HSPA will be administered in 2 sections: mathematics and language arts literacy. Passing all sections is a requirement for a high school diploma.

HSPA Regular Testing:

March 6, 2012 Mathematics Section

March 7, 2012 Language Arts Literacy Section - Day 1

March 8, 2012 Language Arts Literacy Section – Day 2



HSPA Make-up Testing:

March 13, 2012 Mathematics Section

March 14, 2012 Language Arts Literacy Section - Day 1

March 15, 2012 Language Arts Literacy Section - Day 2

The following links download printable information and guides for the HSPA from the State of NJ:

The NJ HSPA Preparation Booklet is available at:

https://www.measinc.com/nj/Downloads/NJHSPA/2012_HSPA_Student_Preparation_Booklet.pdf

Math Preparation Booklet is available at:

https://www.measinc.com/nj/Downloads/NJHSPA/NJHSPA_Open_Ended_Questions_Scoring_manual_Math_2006.pdf

A Guide to the HSPA (English version and Spanish version) is available at:

https://www.measinc.com/nj/Downloads/NJHSPA/2012_Your_Guide_to_the_HSPA.pdf



REMINDERS TO STUDENTS:

- Get a good night's sleep.
- Dress comfortably.
- Eat a good breakfast.
- Get to school on time.
- Bring your own calculator for the math section. You are more likely to feel comfortable with your own than a loaner.
- Familiarize yourself with the content and format of the test.
- Understand the question. Look for key words.



REMINDERS TO PARENTS:

- Check the calendar for important test dates.
- Call SRHS Guidance Department for any questions on the HSPA.
- Remind your child to be prepared for the HSPA.
- Make sure your child is well rested and gets to school on time.



HSPA OVERVIEW:



THE LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY SECTION OF THE HSPA:

- will be administered over 2 days- March 7 & 8, 2012. On Day 1 the LAL test will consist of 10 multiple choice, 2 open-ended items, and one writing task. On Day 2 the LAL test will consist of 10 multiple choice, 2 open-ended items, and one writing task.

- will assess the following 2 cluster areas. Each of these clusters reflects knowledge and skills specified in New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards.

I. Writing

A. Writing/Persuade

Time: 60 minutes

A. Students will write in response to a current controversy related to an interpersonal, school/community, or societal issue. This piece of writing may be required to be in the form of a letter, a formal essay, an editorial, or a speech.

B. Writing/Expository

Time: 60 minutes

Students will read a prompt and be expected to explain something. This explanation may have the writer talk about his experience; react to a quote, etc. The Expository Essay may even ask you to take a position on a topic. In that case, you treat it as if it were a Persuasive Essay. The piece of writing may be required to be in the form of a letter or a formal essay and is written in with the same structure used when writing a persuasive essay.

II. Reading

A. Reading/Narrative Text

Time: 50 minutes

Students will read a previously published narrative story and answer 10 multiple-choice questions and 2 open-ended questions.

B. Reading/Persuasive Text

Time: 45 minutes

Students will read a persuasive piece from a previously published text and answer 10 multiple choice and 2 open-ended questions.



THE MATHEMATICS SECTION OF THE HSPA:

- will be administered in one day- March 6, 2012.
- will consist of 30 multiple choice and 6 open-ended questions.
- will be divided into 3 parts. The testing time for each part will be 40 minutes.
- will assess the following content clusters. Each of these clusters reflects knowledge and skills specified in New Jersey's Core Content Curriculum Standards.

Cluster 1: Number Sense, Concepts, and Applications

Students will show understanding of our number system and apply ratios, proportions, and percents in a variety of situations.

Cluster 2: Spatial Sense and Geometry

Students will recognize geometric properties, use coordinate geometry, and apply principles of measurement and geometry to solve problems.

Cluster 3: Data Analysis, Probability, Statistics, and Discrete Mathematics

Students will determine probabilities, interpret statistical distributions, analyze data, apply methods of discrete math, and use recursive patterns to model a variety of practical situations to solve problems.

Cluster 4: Patterns, Functions, and Algebra

Students will recognize and use various types of patterns, algebraic concepts, and processes to solve problems.



HSPA HELPFUL HINTS:

Math/Language Arts Literacy Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Each question is worth one point.
2. Do not leave an answer blank.
3. Try to eliminate incorrect choices to help select the best answer.
4. Use the math reference sheet for formulas and added information.

Math Open-Ended Questions:

1. Read the questions carefully.
2. Make sure to show all your work.
3. Try to give a written explanation accompanied by labeled diagrams.
4. If you can't answer completely, make an attempt. These questions are worth 0-3 points and even a partial answer can earn you some points.

Reading Open-Ended Questions:

1. Read the question twice to be sure you understand what is being asked.
2. Number the parts of the question.
3. Always start by restating the question.
4. Make a new paragraph for each question part.
5. Use transitional words.
6. Give specific examples from the passage.
7. Proofread and edit your answer.
8. Check the numbered parts of the question so that you are sure you answered everything.

Persuasive and Expository Essays:

1. Read the prompt twice to be sure you understand what is being asked.
2. Number the parts of the prompt and label TAP (Task, Audience, Purpose).
3. Write TIMES on your notes and be sure you include all of those parts:
Title, Introduction, Middle, Ending, and Search
4. If it is a letter, the title is your home address and salutation.
5. For the Persuasive Essay, choose only one side of an issue.
6. For the Expository Essay, make sure that your opening paragraph explains what you will talk about in the paper.
 - a. Sometimes Expository Essays ask you to take a position on a topic. If this happens, treat it just like a Persuasive Essay.
7. Have a hook to grab the reader's attention. (Every junior in the state will be writing about the same topic. Your paper needs to stand out.)
8. Make the thesis the last sentence of the introduction.
9. Use transitional words.
10. Show signs of revising/editing. Proofread to be sure that you have met the requirements of TAP and TIMES.