

**TEST INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS****1. THE OPPORTUNITY CLASS
PLACEMENT TEST**

Students seeking Year 5 opportunity class placement in 2010 must take the Opportunity Class Placement Test.

2. TEST FORMAT

There will be two test papers, each containing a mixture of English language, mathematics and general ability (thinking skills) questions. The tests will consist of multiple-choice questions with answers recorded on computer-marked answer sheets. Each test paper will be thirty minutes in length and will comprise thirty-five questions.

3. TEST DATE

Wednesday 5 August 2009

4. TEST TIMETABLE

Activity	Start	Finish
Candidates arrive	Before 9.00 am	
Administration and practice	9.00 am	9.50 am
Part 1 (30 minutes)	9.50 am	10.20 am
Short break	10.20 am	10.30 am
Part 2 (30 minutes)	10.30 am	11.00 am
Candidates are dismissed	11.10 am	11.15 am

This timetable is provided as an example. Apart from the arrival time and test duration this timetable is approximate and will vary according to the size and location of the test centre.

5. TRANSPORT

Parents must arrange transport to and from the test venue. All students must be collected from the test centre by 11:15 am. It is strictly forbidden for parents to park or wait on school premises unless invited by the school to do so.

6. CLOTHING

Students should wear school uniform including a warm jumper to the test.

7. EQUIPMENT

Students should bring two HB or B pencils, a pencil eraser, sharpener and the letter from the Selective High School and Opportunity Class Placement Unit which contains their student number. Materials may be carried in a clear plastic bag. No other materials or equipment will be allowed. This includes pencil cases, dictionaries, rulers, calculators, watches that calculate or are set to beep or mobile phones that are turned on. A clear plastic water bottle is permitted and is to be stored under the desk or chair.

**8. COMPUTER-MARKED ANSWER
SHEETS**

The presiding officer (the person in charge of the test centre) will show students how to fill out the computer-marked answer sheets at the beginning of the first test session. Students will be given a chance to practise recording their answers. Students who need further help should raise their hands.

9. CONDUCT

Students must be careful not to look at the work of others during the test. Students found to be cheating risk disqualification from the test. Students must follow the presiding officer's and supervisor's instructions both during the tests and in the breaks. Please remember that candidates for the Opportunity Class Placement Test and their families are guests at the test centre. Parents are not permitted to enter the test centre and must leave the school grounds during the test.

10. LATE ARRIVAL

Tests will start promptly. Students who arrive late may be allowed to take the test but will be required to finish at the same time as other students.

11. TEST MATERIALS

Students must leave all test materials in the room at the end of the test. No booklets may be removed by students under any circumstances.

12. TEST CENTRE CLOCKS

If students cannot see the test centre clock, they should raise their hands and tell the presiding officer or supervisor. No time warnings will be given.

13. ABSENCE FROM 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 you should contact the Unit or download an illness/misadventure form and return the completed form within 14 days of the test. Parents may submit illness/misadventure claims if the students took the test while suffering from an illness or misadventure which prevented them from doing their best. It is generally better to do the test and lodge a claim than to miss the test. Although there is an appeals process later in the year, appeals based on illness will be considered only in exceptional circumstances at that time.

HOW TO DO YOUR BEST IN THE TESTS

1. There is nothing you should study especially for the tests. It is most important to think clearly and to use your ability to deal with new problems and situations to arrive at an answer. These skills are usually developed over a long time, rather than through intensive practice or coaching. A sample of Opportunity Class Placement Tests are available on the Internet from: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6/assessments/oc_sampletest.php.
 2. Pay attention when the presiding officer talks to you and shows you where to record the answers for each part of the test.
 3. Do not look at the work of other students or talk to them. Your test results may not be counted if the selection committee believes you have cheated.
 4. Each part of the test takes 30 minutes. Each part has a set of instructions that the presiding officer will go through with you. At the beginning of the first part there will be some practice questions.
 5. Wait until the presiding officer has completed all instructions and tells you when to open the question booklet before you do so. If you have any problems understanding the instructions put your hand up and the presiding officer or a supervisor will answer your question.
 6. The test time will be determined by the test room clock. The presiding officer will tell you where the test room clock is. If you cannot see it, put your hand up. There will be no time warnings during the test. Once the test starts you will need to check the test room clock to find out how much time you have left.
 7. You should not spend too much time on any single question. Marks are awarded for each correct answer. Incorrect or blank answers score zero.
 8. Read each test question carefully before you start answering it. Think about what it asks you to do. Be careful not to make careless mistakes by rushing. Work steadily. Choose the answer that you think is best. If you find a question too difficult, do not spend a long time on it. Mark the answer you think is best and come back to that question if you have time.
 9. It is very important to mark your answers on the answer booklet, **not on the question booklet**.
 10. 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 in the answer booklet.
- As you work through the questions, you will see messages like this indicated by a picture of an owl to remind you:



ANSWER CHECK: Look at your answer sheet — was the last bubble you filled in for Question 12?

If it was, keep going. If it wasn't, put your hand up now for help.

- 11. If you want to work anything out you can write on the question booklet. The question booklets will be collected at the end of the tests, but anything you have written in them will not be counted.
- 12. Put your hand up if you have any problems or questions.

Note these important points about the computer-marked answer sheet:

- You will need a good quality eraser.
- Use only an HB or B pencil. Do not use ink, ball-point or felt pens, or fine-leaded propelling pencils on any part of your answer sheet. If your pencil breaks and you don't have a spare or a pencil sharpener, put your hand up.
- If you decide to change an answer, rub it out completely and fill the bubble of your new answer.
- Please do not fold or tear any part of the answer booklet.

Enquiries

Selective High School and Opportunity Class Placement Unit

Telephone: 9707 6262 or

Email: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6/assessments/ocplacement.php