Understanding the SSAT

Test Options and Preparation Strategy
Agenda

SSAT — SSAT.org

1. Overview
2. Testing Options
3. SSAT Preparation
4. Post-Test
5. Interpreting the Score Report
SSAT Overview
The SSAT is . . .

- an admission assessment
- designed to measure broad academic skills:
  - verbal reasoning
  - reading comprehension
  - mathematics
- helps predict first-year academic success
- a common measure of all applicants

. . . for independent schools.
Standardized = Consistent

Developed

Administered

Scored
SSAT Levels

**Elementary Level**
Students currently in Grades 3 or 4

**Middle Level**
Students currently in Grades 5–7

**Upper Level**
Students currently in Grades 8–11
## Elementary Level SSAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th># of Questions</th>
<th>Time Allotted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative (Math)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental</td>
<td>15–17</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Time:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2 hours, 5 minutes</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Writing Sample: Elementary Level

15 Minutes, **NOT Scored**

Students respond to a creative (picture) prompt:

*Look at this picture and tell a story about what happened. Make sure your story has a beginning, middle, and end.*
# Middle & Upper Level SSAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th># of Questions</th>
<th>Time Allotted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing Sample</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 1 - Quantitative (Math)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2 - Reading</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3 - Verbal</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 4 - Quantitative (Math)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Time:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>3 hours, 10 minutes</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Writing Sample: Middle Level

25 Minutes, NOT Scored

Students choose one of two prompts:

**Creative Story**
Sample: Well, I had really gotten myself into a mess this time.

**Personal Essay**
Sample: Describe a time you made a really big decision. What were the options? What was the outcome? Do you think you made the right choice?
The Writing Sample: Upper Level

25 Minutes, NOT Scored

Students choose one of two prompts:

**Personal Essay**
Sample: If you could have any fictional character for a best friend, who would it be and why?

**General Essay**
Sample: Is honesty always the best policy or are there some situations in which it is better not to tell the truth? Support your answer with reasons and examples.
Quantitative

Topics:

- Basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, division
- Place value
- Ordering of numbers (greater than, less than)
- Fractions
- Basic concepts of geometry (shapes and their attributes)

2 × 2 = 4

Topics:

- Basic concepts of measurement
- Interpretation of graphs
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Percentages, fractions, and decimals
Reading

7-9 passages with related questions. Measures students’ ability to understand what they read.

Questions ask about:
- Content
- Author’s style
- Intent
- Point of view
Verbal: Synonyms and Analogies

**Synonyms**: Test the strength of your vocabulary.

- Large
- Small
- Big
- Colossal
- Tiny
- Immense

**Analogies**: Measure your ability to relate ideas to each other logically.
SSAT Testing Options
2022–2023 Standard SSAT Dates

October 15, 2022
November 5, 2022
December 10, 2022
January 7, 2023
February 4, 2023
Elementary Level SSAT

- Students currently in grades 3 and 4
- No Computer-Based SSAT Option

**Paper SSAT Only**

Students may take up to:
2 Standard Tests* and 1 Flex Test

*Select Standard dates available outside the U.S. and Canada
Middle & Upper Level SSAT

Paper SSAT Options

Paper-Based

Students may take up to:
5 Standard Tests and
1 Flex Test

Standard dates Oct 2022–Feb 2023

Computer SSAT Options

At Home

Available every 4 weeks,
weekdays & weekends

Prometric Center

Available daily,
weekdays & weekends

Students may take up to:
2 Computer-Based Tests*

* Combined total of 2 Prometric and/or At Home

Available year-round Aug 2022–July 2023
Testing with Accommodations

- Submit a request for accommodations in advance (2–3 weeks for approval)
- **Get accommodations approval first—then register**
- Limited sites
- Not indicated on score reports

SSAT.org/TA
SSAT Preparation
Elementary Level: Free SSAT Study Guides

Free SSAT Study Guides

Prepare with The Official SSAT Study Guide for elementary grades three and four. Available for free via the buttons below, the guides include section overviews, study tips, and practice test questions.

Grade 3 Guide  Grade 4 Guide

https://www.ssat.org/about/school-level/elementary-level-ssat
Middle & Upper Level Practice

- 30 questions
- Instant report
- See what to study!
Middle & Upper Level Practice

The Official Study Guides

- 4 full-length practice tests
- Scoring explanations
- Descriptions and exercises for each question type
- Test-taking strategies
- Bundle with SSAT Practice Online to access all official SSAT practice materials and SAVE!

SSAT.org/officialguide
Middle & Upper Level Practice Online

Welcome to the Official SSAT Practice

The SSAT is a standardized admission test used by private and independent schools. The SSAT measures the basic verbal, math, and reading skills students need for successful performance in independent schools. Learn more about the SSAT here.

How Online Practice Works

- **Take the Free 30-Question test.** Stop, start and retake as needed. Start Now
- **Get results and topics to study.** Scored instantly, see exactly what you need to study.
- **Upgrade for more tests and quizzes to keep practicing!** Access quizzes, section or full practice tests. Upgrade Now

Take a Free Mini SSAT Practice Test

Upper Level Practice (Currently Grade 8-11)

Start the Free Practice Test

Practice Online only available for Middle and Upper Levels
Middle & Upper Level Practice Online

Tests & Quizzes

- Free Practice Test
  - Take and retake a 30-question test across all SSAT sections.
  - 1 test available
  - Practice the Test

- 15 Section Tests
  - Take and retake practice tests on each section of the SSAT to focus on your strengths.
  - 5 quantitative section tests
    - Upper Level Quantitative Section Test - 1
    - Upper Level Quantitative Section Test - 2
    - Upper Level Quantitative Section Test - 3
    - Upper Level Quantitative Section Test - 4
    - Upper Level Quantitative Section Test - 5
  - 5 verbal section tests
    - Upper Level Verbal Section Test - 1
    - Upper Level Verbal Section Test - 2
    - Upper Level Verbal Section Test - 3
    - Upper Level Verbal Section Test - 4
    - Upper Level Verbal Section Test - 5

- 4 Full-Length Tests
  - Take and retake full-length tests to assess your knowledge of all topics.
  - 2 sessions
    - Upper Level Full Practice Test - 1
    - Upper Level Full Practice Test - 2
    - Upper Level Full Practice Test - 3
    - Upper Level Full Practice Test - 4

Sample Dashboard

Top 10 Highest and Lowest Scores Overall
We’ve aggregated your highest and lowest scoring topics based off of all full-length tests, sections tests, the free mini test, and quizzes.

- Quantitative
- Reading
- Verbal

Highest Scoring Topics
- Exponential Expressions
  - Study & Quiz
- Functions
  - Study & Quiz
- Linear Equations
  - Study & Quiz
- Radical Expressions
  - Study & Quiz
- Ratio & Proportions
  - Study & Quiz

Lowest Scoring Topics
- Fiction
  - Study & Quiz
- Arithmetics
  - Study & Quiz
- Social Studies
  - Study & Quiz
- Synonyms
  - Study & Quiz
- Perimeter, Area & Volume
  - Study & Quiz

Completed Practice Tests
Select a Test to View Details
Sort by:
- Most Recent Tests Completed

Test Name / Section / Topic | Time Spent | Actions
--- | --- | ---
Upper Level Quantitative Section Test - 1 10/25/2022 | 00:00:57 | See Answers
Upper Level Mini SSAT Practice Test 10/25/2022 | 00:01:00 | See Answers
Before the Test

- Get plenty of rest
- Eat a good dinner and breakfast
- Check the test time and/or print the admission ticket, depending on test mode
- Sharpen pencils (if taking a paper test)
- Try to relax
What should students bring?

- Clear water bottle
- Snack in a labeled plastic bag
- For the **paper test**:
  - Three #2 pencils with erasers
  - SSAT admission ticket
- Read and follow all guidelines and instructions for the type of SSAT being taken.
What should stay at home?

- Hats
- **ALL** electronics (including ALL watches; rooms will have clocks visible)
- Bags, backpacks, and handbags
- Books, notes, and paper – *Note for SSAT at Home, you may use two sheets of blank paper.*
- Pens, mechanical pencils, rulers, calculators

**Cell phones** – If taking the test in person, leave phones at home or turn it off and put it in the restricted items area. If taking the test at home, keep phones away from the testing space.

*Read and follow all guidelines and instructions for the type of SSAT you’re taking.*
SSAT Score Release Schedule for 2022–2023

**Paper Standard**
SSAT scores are released up to 2 weeks after the test day. Schools receive the results on Tuesday and families on Wednesday.

**Paper Flex**
SSAT scores are processed and released to schools and families within 2 weeks of when EMA receives results from test.

**SSAT at Prometric Test Centers**
SSAT results are released weekly to schools every Wednesday and families every Thursday.

**SSAT at Home**
SSAT results are released the week following the test date (3–4 business days). Schools receive results on Wednesday and families on Thursday.
You Choose When to Send Scores

The **Testing Experience Statement** ensures a fair testing experience by providing families with the opportunity to report any irregularities or issues that interfered with the student’s ability to complete the SSAT.

**Scores can be sent to schools:**
1. When you register for the test
2. After you take the test
3. After you receive and review your scores

Scores are **FREE** to send and can be sent to as many schools as you wish.

*When you decide to share your scores with schools, they are delivered instantly.*

[SSAT.org/scores](http://SSAT.org/scores)
SSAT Score Report

5
How is the SSAT scored for Middle and Upper levels?

✓ 1 point for every correct answer
✓ 0 points for skipped questions
✓ – ¼ point for each incorrect answer

SSAT.org/scores
How is the SSAT scored for the Elementary Level?

✓ 1 point for every correct answer

✓ 0 points for incorrect answer

SSAT.org/scores
Is it good to guess?

On the Middle and Upper Level SSAT, students lose $\frac{1}{4}$ point for every incorrect answer, but there’s no penalty for questions left blank.

• “Active” test taking
• The educated guess
• Know when to move on—use a question mark and skip that bubble!

On the Elementary Level SSAT, there’s no penalty for incorrect answers, so the goal should be to answer every question, even if by guessing.

admission.org/advice/guessing-on-the-ssat-good-or-bad
Sample SSAT Score Report
Your Student’s Score

Jordan’s Total SSAT Score Summary

1. Your Score 2100
   - Total Score
   - Average 8th Grade Score: 2010
   - *All scores fall between 1500 and 2400 (with 2400 being a perfect score)
   - Jordan scored equal to or higher than 73% of students in grade 8

2. 73rd Percentile
   - Section Scores

- Verbal: 56th Percentile
  - Your Score 674
  - Average 8th Grade Score: 655
  - If taken multiple times, your score would fall between 662–687

- Quantitative: 72nd Percentile
  - Your Score 719
  - Average 8th Grade Score: 680
  - If taken multiple times, your score would fall between 707–732

- Reading: 84th Percentile
  - Your Score 707
  - Average 8th Grade Score: 655
  - If taken multiple times, your score would fall between 695–720
Score Ranges

Upper Level SSAT
- Scaled Score Range of 500–800 / section
- Midpoint of the Scale (Verbal, Quant, Reading) is 650

Middle Level SSAT
- Scaled Score Range of 440–710 / section
- Midpoint of the Scale (Verbal, Quant, Reading) is 575

Elementary Level SSAT
- Scaled Score Range of 300–600 / section
- Midpoint of the Scale (Verbal, Quant, Reading) is 450
SSAT Percentiles

Jordan’s Total SSAT Score Summary

Your Score 2100

1500*

Average 8th Grade Score: 2010

*All scores fall between 1500 and 2400 (with 2400 being a perfect score)

73rd Percentile

Jordan scored equal to or higher than 73% of students in grade 8

Verbal 56th Percentile

Your Score 674

Average 8th Grade Score: 655

If taken multiple times, your score would fall between 662—687

Quantitative 72nd Percentile

Your Score 719

Average 8th Grade Score: 680

If taken multiple times, your score would fall between 707—722

Reading 84th Percentile

Your Score 707

Average 8th Grade Score: 655

If taken multiple times, your score would fall between 695—720
# Item Scoring

- **✓ 1 point for every correct answer**
- **✓ 0 points for omitted questions**
- **✓ Minus ¼ point for each incorrect answer**

*Middle & Upper Level SSAT Only*
Family Support Team

Call: (609) 683-4440
Email: info@ssat.org
Hours: 9 am - 4:30 pm EST

Help Center
Admission.org/help
Questions?