

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





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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.

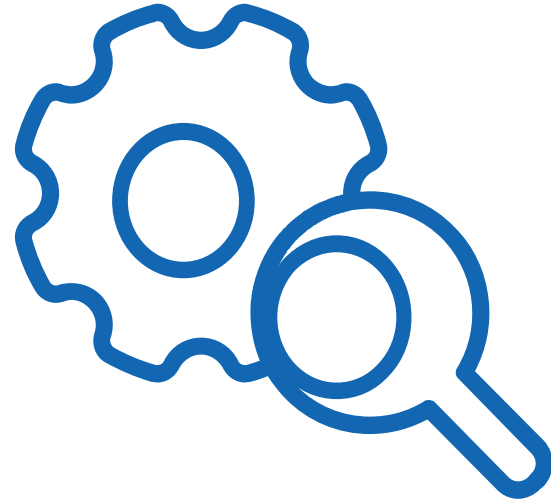
Standardized = Consistent



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

Section	# of Questions	Time Allotted
Quantitative (Math)	30	30 minutes
Verbal	30	20 minutes
Break		15 minutes
Reading	28	30 minutes
Writing	1	15 minutes
Experimental	15-17	15 minutes
Total Time:		2 hours, 5 minutes



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

Section	# of Questions	Time Allotted
Writing Sample	1	25 minutes
Break		10 minutes
Section 1 - Quantitative (Math)	25	30 minutes
Section 2 - Reading	40	40 minutes
Break		10 minutes
Section 3 - Verbal	60	30 minutes
Section 4 - Quantitative (Math)	25	30 minutes
Experimental	16	15 minutes
Total Time:		3 hours, 10 minutes



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:

$$2 \times 2 = 4$$

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



Topics:

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

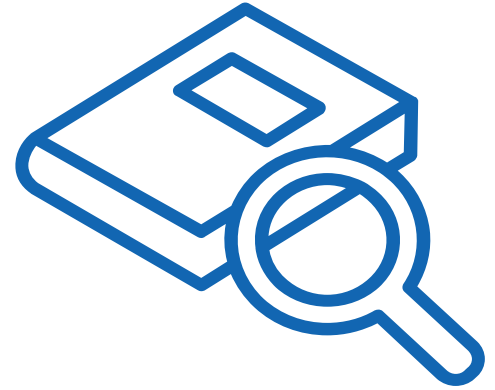


Reading

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

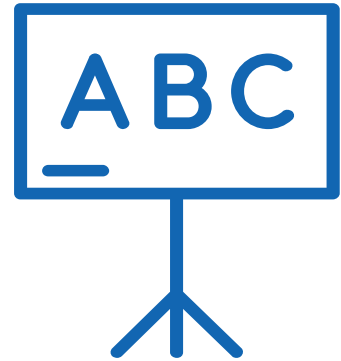


Verbal: Synonyms and Analogies

Synonyms: Test the strength of your vocabulary.

Large
Small
Big

Colossal
Tiny
Immense



Analogies: Measure your ability to relate ideas to each other logically.



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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



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**

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

Middle & Upper Level SSAT

Paper SSAT Options



Paper-Based

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

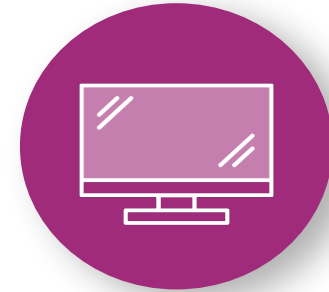
**Standard dates Oct 2022–Feb
2023**

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](https://ssat.org/TA)





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SSAT Preparation

Elementary Level: Free SSAT Study Guides



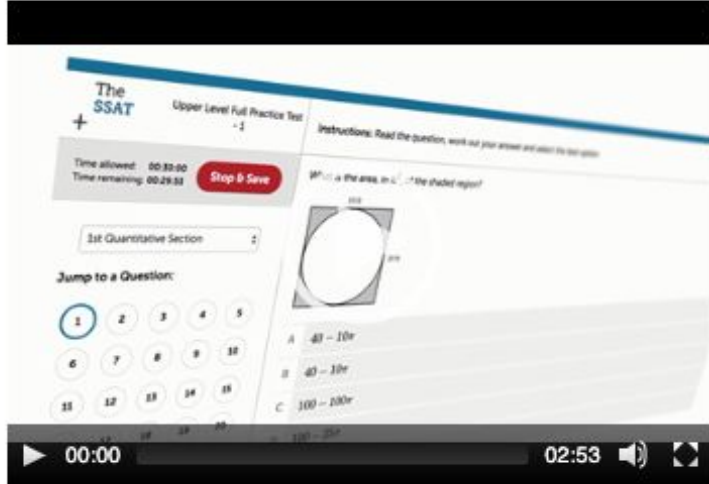
Free SSAT Study Guides

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



Take a Free Mini SSAT Practice Test

Upper Level Practice (Currently Grade 8-11) ▾

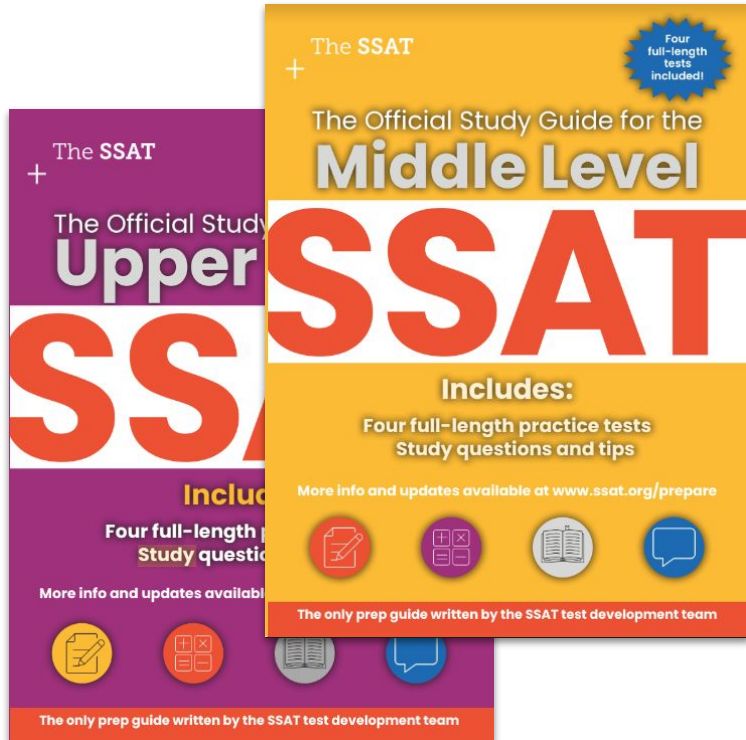
Start the Free Practice Test

Practice Online only available for Middle and Upper Levels

- 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

- SSAT Testing
- SSAT Practice
- SSAT Scores
- The Snapshot
- Apply to Schools
- Admission Academy
- My Profile

[Back to Portal Home](#)

Upper Level
 Applying to Grade 8-11
 Middle Level
 Applying to Grade 5-7

[Practice Home](#)

[Practice Tests](#)

[Study & Quiz](#)

[Purchase Practice](#)

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.

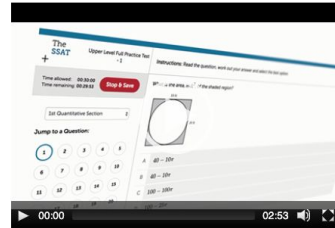
Stop, start and retake as needed
[Start Now](#)

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

30
mins

Free Practice Test

Take and retake a 30-question test across all SSAT sections.

1 TEST AVAILABLE

Retake the Practice Test ✔

<40
mins

15 Section Tests

Take and retake practice tests on each section of the SSAT to focus your studies.

5 QUANTITATIVE SECTION TESTS

- Retake 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 READING SECTION TESTS

- Upper Level Reading Section Test - 1
- Upper Level Reading Section Test - 2
- Upper Level Reading Section Test - 3
- Upper Level Reading Section Test - 4
- Upper Level Reading 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


2+
hrs

4 Full-Length Tests

Take and retake full-length tests to assess your knowledge of all topics.

4 FULL-LENGTH TESTS

- Upper Level Full Practice Test - 1
- Upper Level Full Practice Test - 2
- Upper Level Full Practice Test - 3
- Upper Level Full Practice Test - 4



Take a Quiz

- Quiz by subject.
- Check answers as you go.
- Quiz questions are just like actual test questions.
- Take and re-take quizzes. 5 different questions provided each time.

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
 🔍 Small # of answers ?
★ High Score
 ▲ Low Score

★ 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 >](#)
- Analogies ▲ [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 > Retake Test >
Upper Level Mini SSAT Practice Test 10/25/2022 >	00:01:00	See Answers > Retake Test >

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.



4

SSAT Post-Test

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](https://ssat.org/scores)



5

SSAT Score Report

How is the SSAT scored for Middle and Upper levels?

- ✓ 1 point for every correct answer
- ✓ 0 points for skipped questions
- ✓ - $\frac{1}{4}$ point for each incorrect answer

[SSAT.org/scores](https://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](https://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.

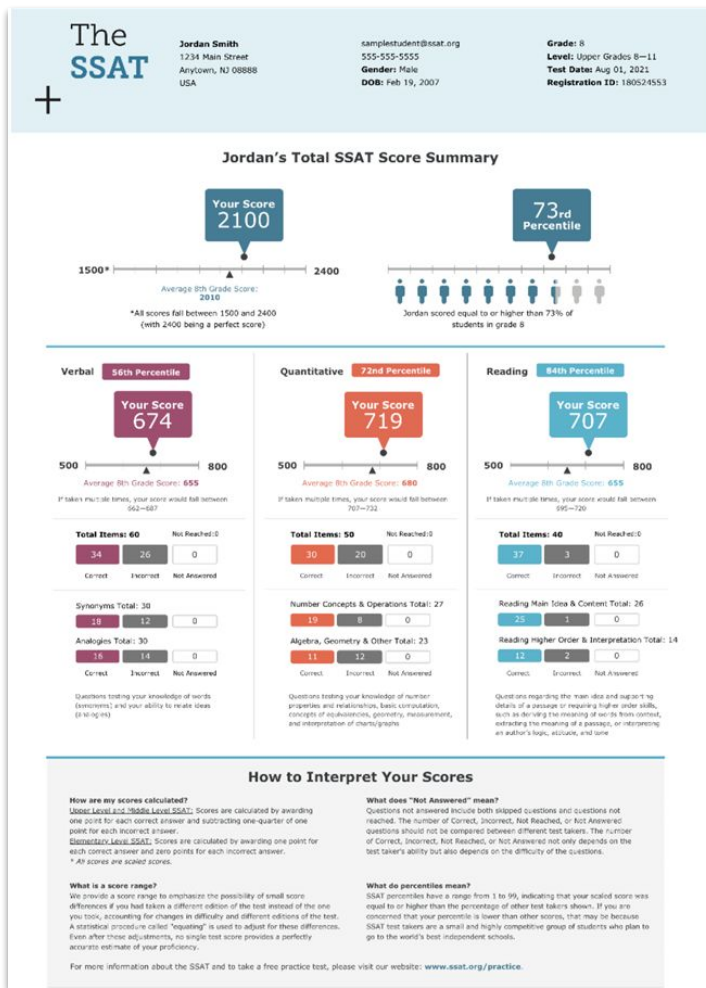
- “Active” test taking
- The educated guess
- Know when to move on—use a question mark and skip that bubble!



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.

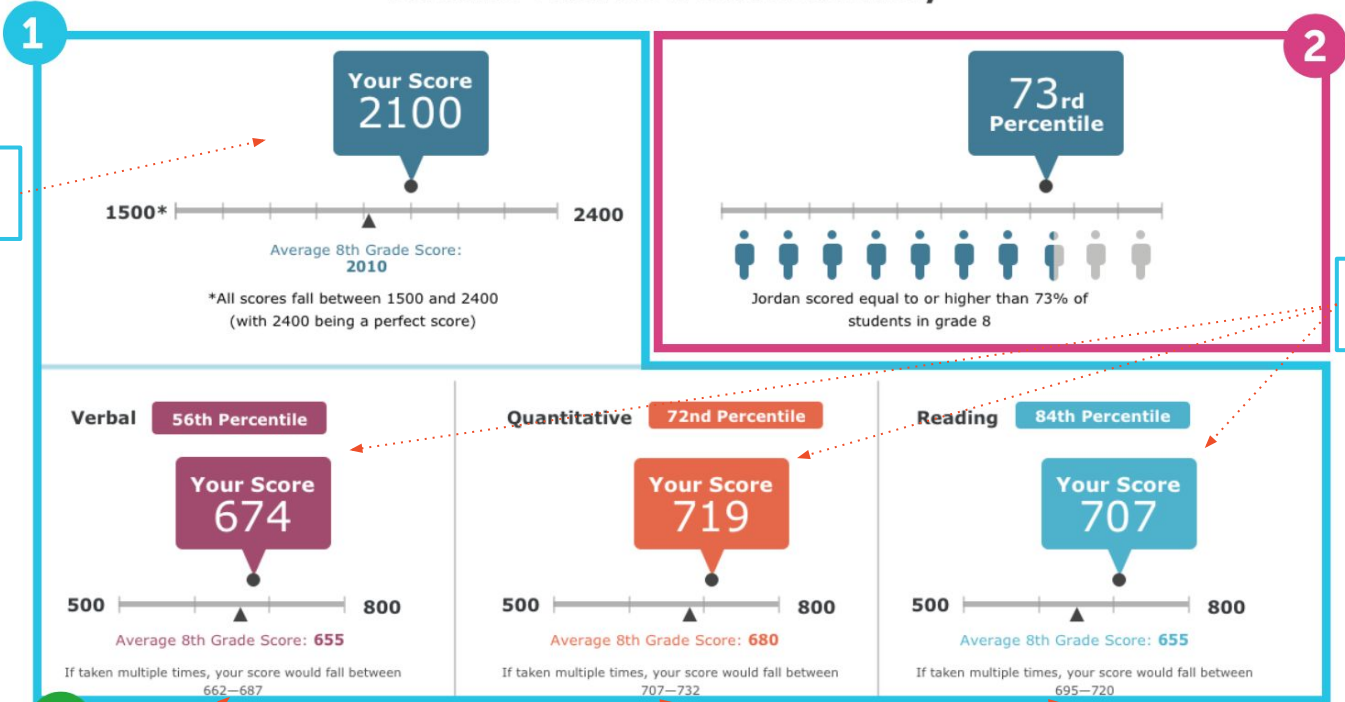
admission.org/advice/guessing-on-the-ssat-good-or-bad

Sample SSAT Score Report



Your Student's Score

Jordan's Total SSAT Score Summary



Total Score

Section Scores

Score Range

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

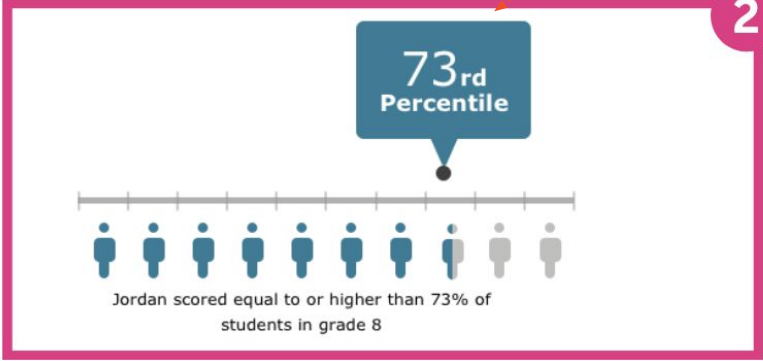
Percentiles

Jordan's Total SSAT Score Summary

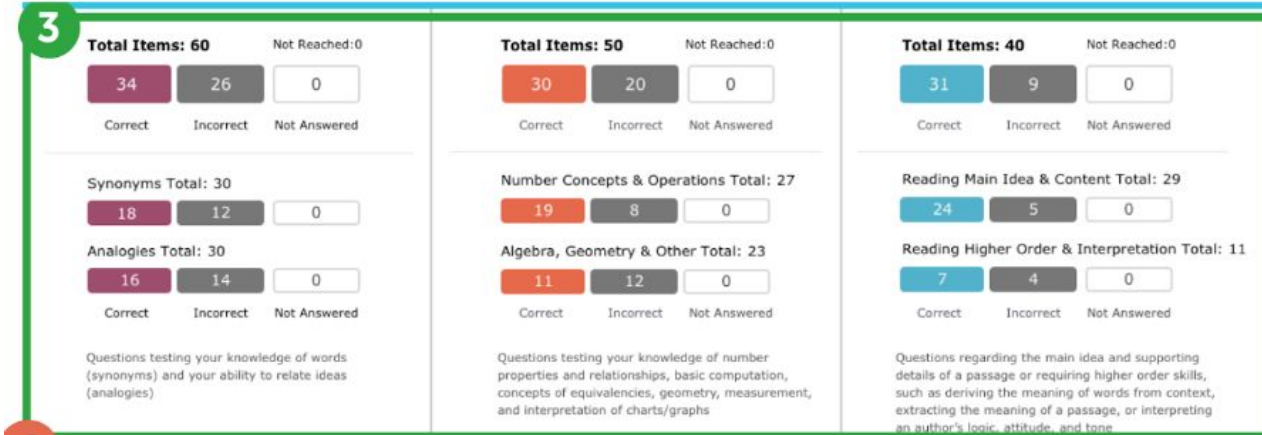
1



2



Item Scoring



- ✓ 1 point for every correct answer
- ✓ 0 points for omitted questions
- ✓ Minus $\frac{1}{4}$ 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](https://admission.org/help)

Questions?