

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR A STANDARDIZED TEST: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Stanford Achievement Test:

Week of April 16

This April, your child will take the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) Battery. You can help your child prepare.

THE STANFORD ACHIEVEMENT TEST BATTERY: WHAT IS IT?

The Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) was designed to assess what children have learned in 6 areas: reading, math, language, spelling, listening and environment (a blend of social studies and science). It covers many subjects, but your child will not have to spend too much time on any one day taking the test. Instead, your child will take different parts of the test battery on different days. Some sample questions are included in this brochure to illustrate the test's format.

SAT scores can be used to help you and your child's teachers determine how your child is progressing in school. You will receive a report of your child's scores before the end of the school year. This report will tell you about your child's achievement.

Additionally, in accordance with state guidelines, the test results are used to screen students as part of the first step in the identification of gifted children.

TALKING ABOUT THE TEST WITH YOUR CHILD

Some questions your child might ask are:

1. Why do I have to take this test?

Sometimes your teacher gives you an assignment or a test to see what you learned. This is just another way to find out what you have been learning in school. This test is different from your teacher's tests because all the children in your grade take the same test. This helps parents and teachers know how you and everyone else in your grade are doing at the same time on the same test.

2. How will this test be used?

It will help your teacher know what you do best in school and what you may need extra help on.

3. Do I have to study for this test?

No, you don't. Continue to do your best in school every day. Your teacher will talk to you about the test. Remember what he/she says about it.

GOOD TEST TAKING STRATEGIES TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHILD

- Following directions.** Reading and following directions is an important skill in everyday life and when taking a test. Opportunities for you to practice reading and following directions together are everywhere: on food packages, booklets that come with toys, rules for games...
 - Reading questions carefully.** The first step to answering a question correctly is to know what the question is asking. When your child is doing homework or answering a question you have asked, stop to make sure he/she knows what is being asked. Ask your child to tell you what you just asked.
 - Using time effectively.** Your child shouldn't rush through the test, but he/she shouldn't spend too much time on any one question either.
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MAKING SURE YOUR CHILD IS READY THE DAY OF THE TEST

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep.
- Provide a nutritious breakfast on the day of testing.
- Express your confidence in your child and your high expectation that he/she will do his/her best.

Information About the Test

SAT READING

The Primary 2 Reading Test (the test for students in the 2nd half of 2nd grade) contains 3 subtests:

Subtest	Number of questions	Recommended Time	Number of Answer Choices per question
Word Study Skills	30	20 minutes	3
Reading Vocabulary	30	24 minutes	4
Reading Comprehension	40	40 minutes	4

All questions are multiple-choice questions; there are 3 or 4 choices for each question. Some Word Study questions will be dictated by your child's teacher and your child will select answer choices from the test booklet. For Reading Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension, your child will work on his/her own.

Here are some sample questions:¹

¹ Note: All sample questions were developed by Dale Whittington to simulate actual SAT questions.

Word Study Skills. This assesses your child's skill with compound words, word endings, and contractions.

Teacher: *One of these words has two words in it. Mark the space next to the word that has two words in it.*

1

- airport pencil supper

Reading Vocabulary. This assesses your child's skill with word meanings, words with multiple meanings and synonyms. The sample question below asks one to pick the sentence that is using "back" with the same meaning that "back" is used in the sentence in the box.

2

She walked to the back of the room.

- Did you talk back to your teacher?
- When do we come back from spring vacation?
- Does your back hurt?
- Who is in the back of the line?

Reading Comprehension. There are different types of reading passages: Directions, descriptions, stories, poetry.

There are 3 to 5 questions about each passage.

There Was a Little Turtle

By Anonymous

There was a little turtle.
He lived in a box.
He swam in a puddle.
He climbed on the rocks.
He snapped at a mosquito.
He snapped at a flea.
He snapped at a minnow.
He snapped at me.
He caught the mosquito.
He caught the flea.
He caught the minnow.

But ... he didn't catch me!



3

The turtle's home is in

- a box
- a puddle
- a rock
- the woods

SAT MATH

The Primary 2 math test contains 2 subtests:

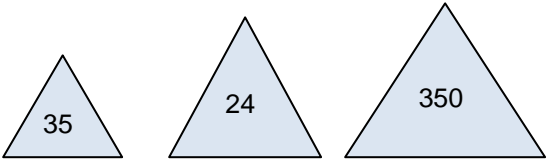
Subtest	Number of questions	Recommended Time	Number of Answer Choices per Question
Problem Solving	44	50 minutes	4
Math Procedures	30	30 minutes	5

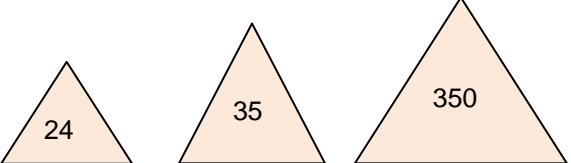
All questions are multiple-choice questions. The questions will be fully or partially dictated by your child's teacher. Your child will be selecting answer choices from the test booklet.

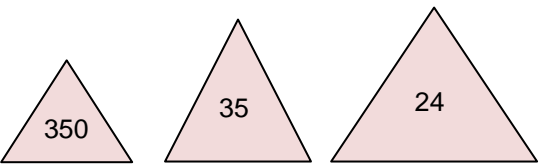
Problem Solving

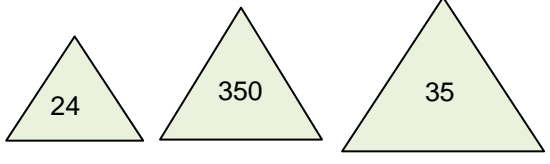
Teacher: Look at the triangles below. Which set of triangles has the smallest number in the smallest triangle, the middle-sized number in the middle-sized triangle, and the largest number in the largest triangle?

4









Math Procedures

Teacher: Look at the problem and decide on an answer. Then mark the space for your answer. If the answer is not here, mark the space for NH².

5				
	7 + <input type="text"/> = 12			
3	4	19	NH	
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

SPELLING

The spelling test has 36 multiple-choice questions and is estimated to take about 30 minutes to administer. Each question presents a sentence in which 3 words are underlined. One of the words is misspelled. Your child will need to identify that misspelled word.

Students must work on their own without the teacher reading out loud.

6			
	The <u>monky</u> is eating <u>leaves</u> from that <u>tree</u> .		
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SAT LANGUAGE

The language test has 48 multiple-choice questions and is estimated to take about 45 minutes to administer. Some questions focus on language mechanics (i.e. punctuation, capitalization, tenses). Others focus on writing strategies that

² NH means “not here.”

relate to problems like sentence fragments or run-on sentences. Finally some items assess understanding about the way that paragraphs are written. Each question has 3 answer choices and the teacher will dictate all of the questions.

Teacher: Go to number 7. "Tasha is writing a story about walking to school in the winter. Which idea should be first? Seeing the principal...Crossing the street...or Putting on her coat. Mark your answer.

7 Tasha is writing a story about walking to school in the winter. Which idea should be first?

- Seeing the principal
- Crossing the street
- Putting on her coat

SAT LISTENING

The listening test has 40 multiple-choice questions and is estimated to take about 30 minutes to administer. Some questions focus on vocabulary by picking word(s) that complete a read-aloud sentence or best restate what a word means. Listening comprehension questions involve answering questions about an orally read passage. The answer choices are pictures or phrases. Each question has 3 answer choices and the teacher will dictate the questions.

Teacher: Listen to this announcement from the principal, Mr. Spencer. There will be three questions about what Mr. Spencer said.

Good morning Greenview students! Tonight is Math Fun Night. When you get home this afternoon, please remind your parents to come and have fun doing math puzzles with you. You can bring your younger sisters or brothers. Show them what you know about math. Math Fun Night will begin at 7 PM.

When did Mr. Spencer make his announcement?

- 8
- In the morning
 - In the afternoon
 - At night

SAT ENVIRONMENT

The environment test has 40 multiple-choice questions and is estimated to take about 30 minutes to administer. Questions focus on general social science and science concepts that children learn through their experiences with the natural and social world. Each question has 3 answer choices that are pictures and the teacher will dictate the questions.

Teacher: *Which of these could survive outside during a long cold winter?*

Mark the space under your answer.

