

# HAST-P

Higher Ability Selection Test – Primary

## Student Information Sheet

### What is the HAST-P test for?

HAST is a selection test used by schools to identify academically gifted students for participation in accelerated learning or enhancement programs. Secondary schools throughout Australia use the HAST test to select students for gifted programs. This is the primary version of the same test. The HAST tests are designed and marked by the *Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)*.

### What information do I need from the school?

Once your school decides to run the HAST-P you will be given a test date and time for the test. You will also be told where the test will take place.

### What should I take to the test?

- two **HB** or **B** pencils for the multiple-choice tests
- a good quality eraser
- a pencil sharpener
- two blue or black pens for the Writing test.

No other equipment will be needed. For example, you will not require a ruler, paper or calculator.

It is also a good idea to take a water bottle and snacks for the breaks.

### How do I write my answers?

You will be given a special answer sheet for the multiple-choice tests in Reading Comprehension, Mathematical Reasoning and Abstract Reasoning, and lined paper for the Writing test.

For each question there are four small circles labelled A, B, C and D on the multiple choice answer sheet. Use a HB or B pencil to colour in the circle of your choice.

Example (Answer 'B' selected)

|           |                         |                                    |                         |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>1.</b> | <input type="radio"/> A | <input checked="" type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|

If you wish to change your answer, carefully rub out the first mark and then mark your new choice. Please remember, when working on the multiple-choice answer sheet

#### Do not:

- × fold or tear the answer sheet
- × make marks anywhere other than in the designated areas on the answer sheet
- × use ink, ball-point pen or felt pen on any part of the answer sheet.

### How do I make sure I do my best?

- Listen carefully to instructions.
- Read the instructions on the front cover of each test carefully.
- Read each test question carefully before answering it.
- Make sure you mark all of your answers on the answer sheet and not in the test booklet.
- Check that the answer you are marking matches the question number in your test booklet.
- Do not rush. If you find one question too difficult do not spend a long time on it. Leave it out but be sure you place your next answer in its right circle. Each question is of equal value.
- If you cannot decide between two answers in the multiple-choice tests, mark the letter of the answer you think is most likely correct. You may have time to go back to that question but in the meantime you have done the best you can. **No marks will be deducted for incorrect answers.**

- Do not worry if you have left questions out and cannot finish the tests. Remember that the tests *are* difficult.

### What if I don't understand a question?

Take time to re-read the question carefully. Ask the teacher in charge if you are unclear about anything in the test.

### The Test Time-Table

There will be either three or four separate tests, depending on what package your school selects. The time allowed for each and the order in which they will be taken are as follows:

- 1 Reading Comprehension - 30 Minutes
- 2 Mathematical Reasoning - 30 Minutes
- 3 Writing Test - 30 Minutes

*Plus an optional test your school may choose:*

- 4 Abstract Reasoning - 30 Minutes

There will be a short break between each test of about 15 minutes.

Students who arrive late for the first test will be admitted only at the discretion of the supervisor, and additional time will not be allowed.

| <b>TEST SESSION</b>           | <b>Years 3, 4 &amp; 5</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Orientation</b>            | <b>5 minutes</b>          |
| <b>Student Details</b>        | <b>5 minutes</b>          |
| <b>Reading Comprehension</b>  | <b>35 minutes</b>         |
| Instructions                  | 5 minutes                 |
| Writing time                  | 30 minutes                |
| <b>B R E A K</b>              | <b>15 minutes</b>         |
| <b>Mathematical Reasoning</b> | <b>35 minutes</b>         |
| Instructions                  | 5 minutes                 |
| Writing time                  | 30 minutes                |
| <b>B R E A K</b>              | <b>15 minutes</b>         |

|                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Writing Test</b> | <b>35 minutes</b>         |
| Instructions        | 5 minutes                 |
| Writing time        | 30 minutes                |
| <b>FINISH -</b>     |                           |
| <b>Total Time:</b>  | <b>2 hours 25 minutes</b> |

Some schools may choose to add an extra test called the 'Abstract Reasoning Test'.

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>B R E A K</b>                             | <b>15 minutes</b>         |
| <b>Abstract Reasoning Test</b><br>(optional) | <b>35 minutes</b>         |
| Instructions                                 | 5 minutes                 |
| Writing time                                 | 30 minutes                |
| <b>Collecting materials</b>                  | <b>5 minutes</b>          |
| <b>FINISH -</b>                              |                           |
| <b>Total Time:</b>                           | <b>3 hours 20 minutes</b> |

### What if I am sick on the test date?

Your school may help you to sit the test at a later date, however this cannot be guaranteed. Discuss it with your school to see if they can help you to sit the test again.

### What are the tests like?

The test items attempt to assess the following skills: analysis, comprehension, interpretation and reasoning. The topics for the material may be drawn from many subject areas such as English, Maths, Science and Social Studies; though no special knowledge in these areas is needed. All the information you need to answer the questions is printed on the paper, so if you do not know or fully understand something you may be able to work out what it means from the information given to you in the question.

**1. Reading Comprehension Test**

This test measures how well you can understand and interpret ideas in language. The test asks you to look at written and visual material and answer questions on it. Overall there will be 25 multiple-choice questions in this test.

**Example: Letters to the editor**

Both of these children have written letters to a magazine about bullfighting.

Read them and then answer the multiple-choice questions.

*Dear Editor*

*I think bullfighting is a cruel sport because the bulls get hurt, and usually they are killed. I saw a bullfight on television and the bull looked scared and then angry. I don't think it is fair on the bull.*

*James (aged 8)*

*Dear Editor*

*I am from Spain and I have been to lots of bullfights. They are very exciting and special events in my country. I once saw a matador get caught on the bull's horns. It was scary. I think matadors are brave and skilful.*

*Luis (aged 9)*

**Now answer these questions:**

- The two letters have
  - the same ideas about bullfights.
  - come from Spain.
  - only mentioned bulls.
  - different ideas about bullfights.
- James thinks bullfighting is cruel because
  - the matador might get hurt.
  - you only see it on television.
  - he is not from Spain.
  - the bull suffers pain.
- By 'special event' Luis means
  - something he does not like.
  - something that is not ordinary.
  - something that happens every day.
  - something that happens in another country.

**(Reading Answers: 1 D; 2 D; 3 B).**

**2. Mathematical Reasoning Test**

This test attempts to measure mathematical ability, in contrast to a test of school achievement in mathematics. Consequently, the material used for the questions in this test is selected from a wide variety of sources, and may differ from standard school-based curriculum materials.

The test consists of 25 multiple-choice questions.

**Mathematical Reasoning example:**

1.



The number missing at X is

- 185
- 187
- 192
- 197

2.

**MORNING BUS TIMETABLE**

|          |         |         |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Depot    | 6.00 am | 6.20 am | 6.40 am | 7.00 am |
| Rowan St | 6.05 am | 6.25 am | 6.45 am | 7.05 am |
| Swan St  | 6.07 am | 6.27 am | 6.47 am | 7.07 am |
| Ibis Ave | 6.14 am | 6.34 am | 6.54 am | 7.14 am |
| Station  | 6.17 am | 6.37 am | 6.57 am | 7.17 am |

What is the time of the latest bus Ian can catch at Rowan St to get to Ibis Ave by 6.55 am?

- 6.14 am
- 6.20 am
- 6.40 am
- 6.45 am

3.

Chen says, 'In seven years, I will be half as old again as I am now.' How old will Chen be two years from now?

- 9
- 14
- 16
- 21

4.

A farmer kept a small number of sheep and ducks on her property. If there were 94 legs and 34 heads in total, this means that there were

- 13 sheep and 21 ducks
- 16 sheep and 18 ducks
- 17 sheep and 17 ducks
- 20 sheep and 14 ducks

**(Maths Answers: 1 C; 2 D; 3 C; 4 A).**

**3. Writing Test**

This test is concerned with your ability to express your thoughts and feelings in writing.

You will be given a picture which must be the basis of your writing. You should respond to the picture stimulus in the way that is most interesting to you, and which best displays your ability to write and express yourself.

You will be given 3 pages to write your story on. It is not expected that your story will be longer than this, however, if you have not finished your story and need more space to complete it, additional paper will be provided.

**Writing Test (example)**



Use this picture as an idea for a story.

It can be the most important idea in the story, or just part of the story. You may write a story about something that really happened, or you can make up a story.

Give your story a title.

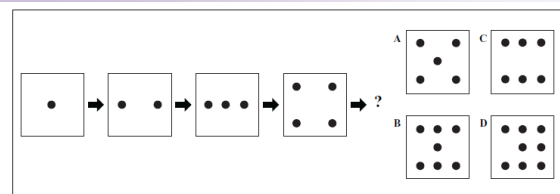
Write your story on the lined pages in your answer booklet.

**4. Abstract Reasoning Test**

This is a word-less, picture based test that measures abstract reasoning skills, including the capacity to make sense of complex situations, to draw meaning out of events, to perceive and think clearly. The test will ask you to identify and complete various picture sequences and patterns. You will ‘complete the pattern’ or identify the ‘next in sequence’. Altogether there will be 30 multiple-choice questions.

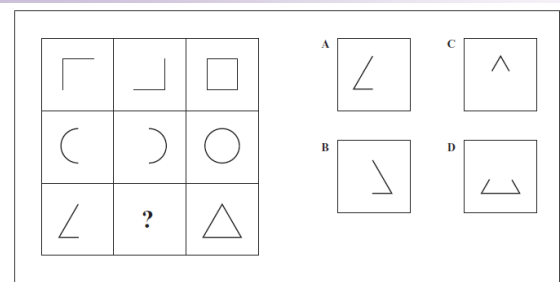
**Abstract Reasoning Test (examples)**

1.



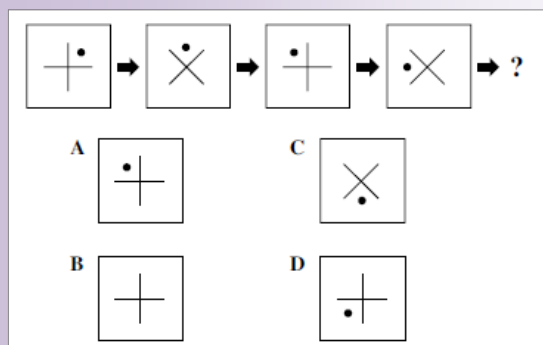
In this question you need to identify the rule for the sequence given and choose from **A,B,C, or D** the one that most logically and simply comes next. In this example the rule is that one dot is added to each box going from left to right.

2.



In this example you need to identify which of **A,B,C or D** fits most logically and simply into the space with the ?. The rule is that the box at the right of each row is made by combining the shapes in the first two boxes of the row.

3.



**(Abstract Reasoning Answers: 1 A; 2 B; 3 D);**