



Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT): Format and FAQ

Time	2 hours and 30 minutes
Math Section	All multiple choice: 50 questions on arithmetic, algebra, probability, data analysis, geometry. Current 9 th grade students are also tested on trigonometry.
Verbal Section	All multiple choice: 30 reading comprehension questions, 10 logical reasoning questions, and 5 scrambled paragraphs (e.g., put the sentences of the paragraph in order).

How is the test scored?

Students receive points by answering questions correctly, but do not lose points for questions answered incorrectly or left blank. The raw score is converted into a scaled score. The scaled score formula changes each year and is kept confidential by the New York City Department of Education. Scaled scores are 400-800 points per section and added together for the composite score.

Which schools require the SHSAT for admission?

- Bronx High School of Science
- The Brooklyn Latin School
- Brooklyn Technical High School
- High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College
- High School of American Studies at Lehman College
- Queens High School for the Sciences at York College
- Staten Island Technical High School
- Stuyvesant High School

What score does my child need to achieve to get into one of the Specialized high schools?

The minimum, or “cut-off,” scores for admission vary for each school from year to year. For example, one year, the lowest score of a student admitted to Stuyvesant may be in the mid-500s, while that of Bronx Science could be in the low 500s. For this reason, it is not possible to pinpoint the exact score that will admit your child to a school. A general rule of thumb is to ensure students are well prepared so that they score to their highest potential.

Which is the best Specialized high school?

Determining the best Specialized high school involves evaluating several factors unique to your child and family’s requirements including distance from home, whether the student has friends attending the school, etc. However, some parents find the rankings provided by *US News and World Report*¹ helpful in making application decisions. The rankings of public schools are based on a set of standards which includes, among other factors, class size, student to teacher ratio, number of AP classes, etc. In 2012, the publication provided rankings for five of the eight² Specialized high schools that require the SHSAT:

- Queens High School for the Sciences at York College #7
- High School of American Studies at Lehman College #42
- Stuyvesant High School #58
- Bronx High School of Science #63
- The Brooklyn Latin School #1,351

¹*US News and World Report*®, 2012 High School Rankings.

²Brooklyn Technical High School, High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College, and Staten Island Technical High School were not ranked due to data reporting errors by the New York City Department of Education.