

YEAR 5 OPPORTUNITY CLASS PLACEMENT IN 2015



TEST INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

1. THE TEST

Students seeking Year 5 opportunity class placement in 2015 must take the Opportunity Class Placement Test.

2. TEST FORMAT

There will be two test papers, each containing a mixture of reading, mathematics and general ability (thinking skills) questions. The tests will consist of multiple-choice questions with answers recorded on computer-marked answer sheets. Each test paper will be thirty minutes in length and will comprise thirty-five questions.

3. TEST DATE

Wednesday 23 July 2014.

4. TEST TIMETABLE

Activity	Start	Finish
Candidates arrive	Before 9.00 am	
Administration and practice	9.00 am	9.50 am
Part 1 (30 minutes)	9.50 am	10.20 am
Short break	10.20 am	10.30 am
Part 2 (30 minutes)	10.30 am	11.00 am
Candidates are dismissed		11.15 am

This timetable is provided as an example. Apart from the arrival time and test duration this timetable is approximate and will vary according to the size and location of the test centre.

5. TRANSPORT

Parents must arrange transport to and from the test venue. All students must be collected from the test centre by 11:15 am. It is strictly forbidden for parents to park or wait on school premises unless invited by the school to do so.

To minimise disruption during the test all students should go to the toilet before leaving home.

6. CLOTHING

Students should wear school uniform including a warm jumper to the test. Before the test students will be assembled in primary school groups outside the test centre. The wearing of the school uniform helps the supervisors running the test to organise the students more easily.

7. EQUIPMENT

Students SHOULD bring:	Students SHOULD NOT bring:
Two black ball point pens	Pencil cases
Letter or email from the High Performing Students Unit which shows their student number	Note paper or other materials such as dictionaries
Clear plastic water bottle – with no writing on it except for the brand name (to be stored under the seat to avoid spills)	Equipment such as rulers, calculators, computers, mobile phones, watches that calculate or are set to beep

8. COMPUTER-MARKED ANSWER SHEETS

The presiding officer (the person in charge of the test centre) will show students how to fill out the computer-marked answer sheets at the beginning of the first test session. Students will be given a chance to practise recording their answers. Students who need further help should raise their hand.

9. CONDUCT

Students must be careful not to look at the work of others during the test. Students found to be cheating risk disqualification from the test. Students must follow the presiding officer's and supervisor's instructions both during the tests and in the breaks. Please remember that candidates for the Opportunity Class Placement Test and their families are guests at the test centre. Parents are not permitted to enter the test room and must leave the school grounds during the test.

10. LATE ARRIVAL

Tests will start promptly. Students who arrive late may be allowed to take the test but will be required to finish at the same time as other students.

11. TEST MATERIALS

Students must leave all test materials in the room at the end of the test. No booklets may be removed by students under any circumstances.

12. TEST CENTRE CLOCKS

The test time will be determined by the test room clock. The presiding officer will tell students where the test room clock is. If they cannot see it, they should raise their hand. There will be no time warnings during the test. Once the test starts students will need to check the test room clock to find out how much time they have left.

13. ABSENCE FROM THE TEST

Students unable to take the test will not be eligible for placement in an opportunity class unless there are exceptional circumstances. If a child misses the test because of exceptional circumstances parents should download an illness/misadventure form and return the completed form within 14 days of the test or contact the Unit. Parents may submit illness/misadventure claims if the students took the test while suffering from an illness or misadventure which prevented them from doing their best. It is generally better to do the test and lodge a claim than to miss the test. Although there is an appeals process later in the year, appeals based on illness will be considered only in exceptional circumstances at that time.

HOW TO DO YOUR BEST IN THE TESTS

1. There is nothing you should study especially for the tests. It is most important to think clearly and to use your ability to deal with new problems and situations to arrive at an answer. These skills are usually developed over a long time, rather than through intensive practice or coaching. A sample set of Opportunity Class Placement Tests is available on the internet from:
http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/oc_sampletest.php
2. Pay attention when the presiding officer talks to you and shows you where to record the answers for each part of the test.
3. Each part of the test takes 30 minutes. Each part has a set of instructions that the presiding officer will go through with you. At the beginning of the first part there will be some practice questions.
4. Wait until the presiding officer has completed all instructions and tells you when to open the question booklet before you do so. If you have any problems understanding the instructions put your hand up and the presiding officer or a supervisor will answer your question.
5. You should not spend too much time on any single question. Marks are awarded for each correct answer. Incorrect or blank answers score zero.
6. Read each test question carefully before you start answering it. Think about what it asks you to do. Be careful not to make careless mistakes by rushing. Work steadily. Choose the answer that you think is best. If you find a question too difficult, do not spend a long time on it. Mark the answer you think is best and come back to that question if you have time.
7. If there are questions you do not know the answer to, you should indicate your best guess. Try not to leave any answers blank. Marks are not deducted for incorrect answers.
8. It is very important to mark your answers on the answer booklet, not on the question booklet.

9. Keep checking that the number of the question you are working on in the question booklet is the same as the number you are marking in the answer booklet.

As you work through the questions, you will see messages like this to remind you:



ANSWER CHECK: Look at your answer sheet — was the last bubble you filled in for Question 11? If it was, keep going. If it wasn't, put your hand up now for help.

10. If you want to work anything out you can write on the question booklet. The question booklets will be collected at the end of the tests, but anything you have written in them will not be counted.

Marking answers in the test

- For the first time this year students are going to use a black pen to mark their answers.
- **Students are to bring two black ballpoint pens.**
- The Unit does not make recommendations or endorsements for specific brands or models of black pen. Students are **not to bring** roller ball type pens which can smudge the paper, erasable pens, pencils, sharpeners, whiteout or rubbers.

Students will colour in the bubble to show the answer they want and will put an X over any answer that they want to change. If they decide to reuse an answer they have crossed out, they must circle the answer. This will all be demonstrated at the beginning of the test.

INSTRUCTIONS

How to show an answer:



Show your answers like this. B is your answer.

How to show a correction:



A is your answer.

(B was your first answer but you crossed it out and now A is your answer)

How to show you want an answer you previously crossed out:



B is your final answer.

(You decided that A was not correct and B was the correct answer after all so you circled B)

You may also refer to the following website which shows students how to mark their answers.

http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/oc_testinfo.php

The marking computer will recognise any line where a student has made more than one mark on the paper. Any such line has to be presented to a human marker who will confirm which answer the student meant to keep.

Enquiries

High Performing Students Unit
Telephone: 1300 880 367 or
Email: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement