

The selective school exam, state by state, and a 20-question practice set

State	Program and entry	Sat in	The test	When
NSW	Selective high schools, Year 7 entry	Year 6	Computer-based: reading 45 min, mathematical reasoning 40, thinking skills 40, writing 30; equal weighting; no calculator	Applications Nov to Feb; test early May (30 April to 2 May 2027 for 2028 entry); outcomes August
NSW	Opportunity Classes, Year 5 entry	Year 4	Reading 40, mathematical reasoning 40, thinking skills 30; no writing	Early May
Victoria	Melbourne High, Mac.Robertson, Nossal, Suzanne Cory; Year 9 entry	Year 8	ACER: reading, mathematics, verbal and numerical reasoning, two written pieces; not beyond Year 8	Applications March to April; exam a Saturday in June; offers from August; about 1,000 places (85% merit, 10% equity, 5% principal); 4% cap per source school
Victoria	SEAL streams, Year 7 entry	Year 6	Each school's own test, with its own fee	June to August
Queensland	Queensland Academies (science and maths, Toowong; health sciences, Southport; creative industries, Kelvin Grove)	The year before entry	The academies' entry test plus selection criteria	Set each year by the academies
WA	GATE programs, Perth Modern; Year 7 entry	Year 6	ASET: reading, writing, quantitative and abstract reasoning	Applications close early February; test in March; results June
SA	Ignite (Glenunga, Aberfoyle Park, The Heights); Year 7 entry	Year 6	ACER: reading, mathematics, abstract reasoning, writing	First half of Year 6

No state publishes cut-off scores or school rankings; students are ranked on the test and offered their highest preference with a place left. Published cut-offs are estimates.

Mathematical reasoning: ten questions, no calculator, about 20 minutes

1. A box holds 24 apples. How many apples in three and a half boxes?
2. Tickets cost \$7. Sam pays with \$50 and gets \$8 change. How many tickets?
3. The mean of four numbers is 12. Three are 10, 11 and 15. The fourth?
4. A rectangle's perimeter is 30 cm and its length is twice its width. Its area?
5. In a class of 30, two fifths are boys. How many girls?
6. A train leaves at 7:45 am and arrives at 10:20 am. How long is the journey?
7. The next number: 2, 6, 12, 20, 30, ...
8. A tank three quarters full holds 36 litres. Its full capacity?
9. 25% of a number is 18. The number?
10. Four friends share a \$92 bill; one pays \$20 more than each of the others. How much do the other three each pay?

Thinking skills, and the answers with the reasoning

Thinking skills: ten questions, about 20 minutes

11. All squares are rectangles. Some rectangles are red. Which must be true? (A) All squares are red (B) Some squares are red (C) Some red shapes are rectangles (D) No squares are red
12. The next letter: A, C, F, J, O, ...
13. If BOOK is written in code as CPPL, how is PAGE written?
14. Five children in a line. Ann is in front of Ben. Cal is behind Dee. Ben is directly in front of Dee. Eve is last. Who is in the middle?
15. If it rains, the match is cancelled. The match was not cancelled. What follows?
16. Which number does not belong: 3, 7, 11, 15, 18, 23?
17. Triangle + triangle = 10. Triangle + square = 13. Square - circle = 4. The circle?
18. Tom says: 'Every student who studied passed. Maya passed, so Maya studied.' What is wrong?
19. A cube is painted red and cut into 27 equal small cubes. How many have exactly two red faces?
20. Tuesday is three days after the day before yesterday. What day is today?

Answers

No.	Answer	Reasoning
1	84	$3 \times 24 + 12$
2	6	$(50 - 8) / 7$
3	12	$48 - 36$
4	50 cm ²	$2(w + 2w) = 30, w = 5, l = 10$
5	18	3/5 of 30
6	2 h 35 min	7:45 to 10:20
7	42	Differences 4, 6, 8, 10, 12
8	48 L	$36 / 3 \times 4$
9	72	18×4
10	\$18	$3x + (x + 20) = 92, x = 18$; the fourth pays \$38
11	C	Red rectangles exist, so some red shapes are rectangles; nothing is known about red squares
12	U	Gaps of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
13	QBHF	Each letter one forward
14	Dee	Ann, Ben, Dee, Cal, Eve
15	It did not rain	The rule's consequence is false, so its condition is false
16	18	The others rise by 4 and are odd
17	4	Triangle 5, square 8, circle $8 - 4$
18	Reversed rule	Studying guarantees passing; passing does not guarantee studying
19	12	One per edge of the big cube
20	Monday	Day before yesterday + 3 = tomorrow = Tuesday

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