

Chapter 18

Answers to HSPT Practice Test 1

The following explanations are for HSPT Practice Test 1, which is in Chapter 17. Take your time reviewing them, making sure to read everything. We guarantee you'll pick up valuable pointers for eliminating wrong answers and choosing the right ones if you do. **Note:** If you don't have the time to read through each answer explanation, flip to the end of this chapter to check your answers using the short 'n' sweet answer key.

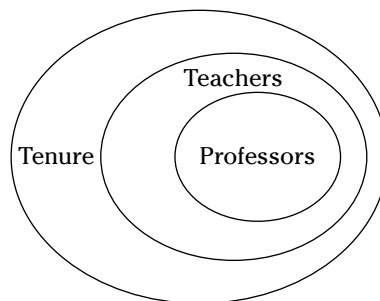
Section 1: Verbal Skills

1. **B.** Conservative is the opposite of liberal. The answer that's most opposite to pepper is salt, Choice (B). Seasoning and spice are more descriptive of pepper than opposites, and soda is unrelated.
2. **A.** The best answer is Choice (A), restaurant. All the other choices name places where people live. A restaurant is where they eat.
3. **D.** Choices (A), (B), and (C) are synonyms for giving in; Choice (D) isn't.
4. **A.** If you know that a crypt is a burial chamber, you may be tempted to pick Choice (C). But a tomb isn't called a crypt because it's frightening; *cryptic* means "hidden, secret, or mysterious," which is Choice (A).
5. **A.** Visualize this logic question by creating a line diagram that lists the cities in order of closest to farthest from the lake based on the information in the first two statements: Dillon → Sommerville → Derbyville. Dillon is the closest, which means the third statement is true, Choice (A).
6. **D.** *Wretched*, *miserable*, and *glum* are words that mean "sad." Choice (D) is an antonym.
7. **C.** For this analogy question, tell yourself that a patient belongs in a hospital. A student could belong in a school or on a bus, so you need to make your sentence more specific. A hospital is a structure that houses patients, and a school is a structure that houses students. A bus provides transportation for students, but it doesn't house them; Choice (C) is your answer.
8. **B.** This synonym question may be a little tricky because you may think that genial sounds sort of like genius. But *genial* actually means "friendly." Therefore, the best answer is Choice (B), *amiable*, which also means "friendly or agreeable."
9. **D.** To be *daft* is to be goofy or silly. The best answer is Choice (D).
10. **D.** *Advise*, *apprise*, and *instruct* mean "to inform"; *reprimand* means "to scold," which means it's not like the other words. Pick Choice (D).
11. **A.** To *incarcerate* is the act of placing someone in jail. To *deposit* is the act of placing something in an account (not a store, apartment, or prison). Go with Choice (A).
12. **A.** Simple doesn't belong with the other three choices, all of which mean to be determined or stubborn. Choice (A) is the best answer.

13. **B.** Create a line diagram from youngest to oldest: Maggie → David → Stuart. Stuart is older than Maggie, which means the third statement is false, Choice (B).
14. **C.** Look for the word that means the same thing as actor. An actor isn't a stage. Some actors can be directors, but an actor and a director don't do the same things. Playing music and acting aren't the same. The process of elimination shows you that the answer must be Choice (C); another word for actor is *thespian*.
15. **B.** Savory has to do with how something tastes; eliminate Choices (C) and (D). A savory taste is pleasant, so cross out Choice (A). Choice (B) is the best answer.
16. **B.** A field is a place where wildflowers grow just as a pond is a place where lily pads grow. You may be tempted to select Choice (C), frog, but the primary relationship involves plants, which makes the better answer Choice (B).
17. **A.** Something *sinister* is evil or threatening. The best synonym is Choice (A), menacing. Choice (B) may sound evil, but *insipid* just means "dull or bland."
18. **C.** *Tepid* water is neither hot nor cold; it's lukewarm, Choice (C). It can also describe a person's indifference. Choices (A) and (B) are antonyms, and Choice (D) is unrelated.
19. **D.** An hour is a whole made up of minutes. A year is a whole made up of days, Choice (D). If you picked Choice (A), you reversed the relationship. A year isn't made up of a bunch of centuries; a century is made up of 100 years.
20. **C.** Choices (A), (B), and (D) are synonyms for extrovert. Choice (C) is the opposite.
21. **B.** Sensible, Choice (B), is the opposite of *ludicrous*, *farcical*, and *absurd*, all of which mean "silly or ridiculous."
22. **B.** The line diagram from owning more trophies to fewer looks like this: Micky → Donald → Cal. Cal doesn't have more trophies than Micky, so the third statement is false, Choice (B).
23. **C.** From longest to shortest, the roads are Colfax Avenue → Speer Street → Downing Drive. There's no prior reference for Mitchell Road, which means the premises don't give you the information you need to determine whether Downing Drive is longer than Mitchell Road. The statement is therefore uncertain, Choice (C).
24. **B.** A *shrewd* investment is a smart one, which makes Choice (B) the best answer. Choice (A) is opposite, and Choices (C) and (D) are unrelated.
25. **A.** Choices (B), (C), and (D) show extreme lack and devastation. You may need solace or comfort if you find yourself in one of these states, but Choice (A) is different.
26. **B.** Discipline is obedience or control; regulation is a synonym. The word that means the opposite of obedience or control is Choice (B), anarchy.
27. **A.** Draw a Venn diagram of the first two statements to solve this logic question.



When an HSPT question asks you for the *opposite* word, remember that you're looking for an antonym. Inevitably the synonym will be hiding among the answer choices; don't pick it.



Because all professors are included with teachers, the professors are also tenured. Therefore, the statement is true, Choice (A).

28. **A.** The opposite of tension is peace or serenity, Choice (A). Choice (B), strain, is a synonym, and the other options aren't related.
29. **C.** An *irrevocable* agreement is one that can't be broken, which means it's binding, Choice (C).
30. **B.** Choice (B), *meager*, meaning "insignificant," is the opposite of *abundant*, which means "plentiful." Choice (A) also means plentiful, so it's a synonym rather than an antonym.
31. **A.** Choices (B), (C), and (D) are words that mean enlarged. Choice (A) doesn't belong because narrow conveys thinness rather than enlargement.
32. **C.** You must look for the opposite of the verb form of the word *contract*, which means to get smaller. Choice (C), enlarge, is the opposite of getting smaller.



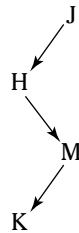
If you can't tell whether the question word is a noun or verb, try looking at the answer choices. If they're all, say, verbs, then you know to use the definition of the verb form of the question word to solve the problem.

33. **B.** To *shift* is to move or change. Eliminate Choices (A) and (C) because they have the same meaning. Shift doesn't mean build, so destroy isn't its opposite. The best answer is Choice (B); *maintain* means "to stay the same or continue in the same way."
34. **D.** Used as a verb, *cloud* means "to make unclear," which means that to cloud is to bring about confusion. To *illuminate* is to bring about clarification, Choice (D).
35. **D.** The first three choices are words that mean to disagree. Choice (D) means to give in or agree, which means it doesn't belong with the others.
36. **C.** The first two statements give you two possible diagrams: Green Mountain → Windy Peak → Smoky Hill or Windy Peak → Green Mountain → Smoky Hill. You don't know whether Windy Peak is lower or higher than Green Mountain, which makes the third statement uncertain, Choice (C).
37. **D.** Choices (A), (B), and (C) are ways to convey an excursion. Choice (D), a *skirmish*, is a minor battle, so it doesn't belong with the other words.
38. **B.** The opposite of labor or work is rest, Choice (B). Choice (A) is a synonym, and the other options are unrelated to work.
39. **A.** A *provisional* government is one that has power until the permanent government is established, which means it's temporary, Choice (A). Provisional doesn't have a political connotation, so Choices (B), (C), and (D) can't be right.
40. **C.** Blunt, dull, and rounded are words that describe something that's not sharp. Choice (C) isn't related to sharpness or dullness, so it doesn't belong.
41. **B.** A *seismograph* is a tool to measure the strength of earthquakes, and a *speedometer* is a tool to measure the velocity of a vehicle, Choice (B).
42. **C.** To mow is to cut a lawn, and to shave is to cut a beard, Choice (C).
43. **A.** There are two ways to order the girls from the one who plays the most sports to the one who plays the least: Daphne → Trini → Angela → Brittany or Trini → Daphne → Angela → Brittany. In both cases, Trini plays more sports than Brittany, so the third statement is true, Choice (A).
44. **B.** Porch, veranda, and terrace name outside sitting areas. A parlor, Choice (B), is inside, so it doesn't belong.
45. **D.** To be *hypocritical* is to say you have feelings or qualities that you don't really have, which makes the best synonym Choice (D), insincere. Although listening to a hypocritical person may be pretty annoying, hypocritical doesn't mean the same thing as annoying.
46. **A.** *Satiated* means "full." If you're full, you're satisfied, Choice (A). Choice (B) doesn't fit, and Choices (C) and (D) have pretty much the same meaning.



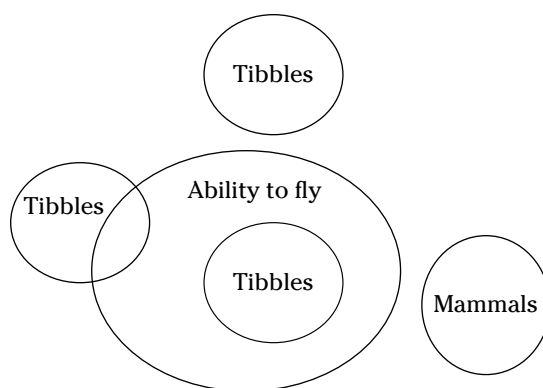
You can't have two right answers for one question, so anytime you see a pair of answer choices that have eerily similar definitions, you know neither can be right.

47. **D.** A horse is housed in a stable, and an airplane is housed in a hangar, Choice (D). Sure, an airplane travels on a runway or in the sky, but housing one in either location is unsafe.
48. **B.** Choices (A) and (C) are synonyms for talkative, so cross them out. Choice (D) is unrelated to talkative. The word that's most opposite is Choice (B), *reserved*, which means "shy."
49. **A.** Choices (B), (C), and (D) are synonyms for self-ruling. Choice (A), *subordinate*, means "inferior," so it's unrelated to the other words.
50. **A.** The last three answers have similar meanings; all of them refer to strict attention to detail. Choice (A) is an antonym. *Remiss* means "careless or lax."
51. **C.** Resist the temptation to pick Choice (B) here. To be engaged isn't the same as being married. *Engaged* literally means "to be occupied or involved," Choice (C). Choices (A) and (D) are more opposite in meaning than similar.
52. **C.** *Emancipated* means "liberated or freed." The opposite of freed is restricted, Choice (C). Choices (A) and (B) are more similar in meaning to emancipated, and Choice (D) doesn't show lack of freedom so much as lack of exposure.
53. **B.** The relationships in this logic question can't be expressed in a straight line, so your diagram will be crooked.



There's no way Marshdale can be north of Jamestown if it's south of Hooterville. The third statement has to be false, Choice (B).

54. **A.** To be *grounded* is to be firmly fixed or established, Choice (A). Although being grounded means that you have your feet placed firmly on the ground, it doesn't mean that your feet are dirty, Choice (B). The other choices are unrelated.
55. **D.** If something's major, it's important. The opposite is Choice (D), trivial. Stay away from Choices (A) and (B) because they're synonyms of major.
56. **B.** Arrange the vehicles from smallest to largest like this: Economy Car → Full-Size Car → Luxury Car → SUV. The SUV is the largest vehicle, so saying it's not as large as the full-size car is false, Choice (B).
57. **D.** An *indigenous* plant is one that's native to the area where it's growing. The best answer is Choice (D). Choice (A) is an antonym, and the other choices are unrelated.
58. **D.** Celebrity, star, and luminary are names for famous people. An *upstart*, Choice (D), is someone who's unknown and therefore doesn't fit in with the others, poor thing.
59. **A.** You top yummy ice cream with delicious caramel sauce, and you top a plump hot dog with thick ketchup. Buns may surround a hot dog, but they don't top them in the way caramel sauce tops ice cream. Choice (A) fits the best. (Feeling hungry yet?)
60. **C.** When you make a Venn diagram from the first two statements, you draw a circle for the ability to fly and a separate circle for mammals. You can put the circle for tibbles anywhere in relation to the ability to fly so long as it doesn't intersect with the mammal circle. This figure shows the possibilities.



The tipples circle could go completely inside the fly circle, completely outside the fly circle, or partially inside and out. What does that tell you? That how many tipples fly is uncertain, Choice (C).

Section 2: Quantitative Skills

61. C. The sequence progresses by +4, which means the next number is 45, Choice (C).
62. C. First figure out 20% of 100. 20% is the same as 0.2 and *of* means \times , so take 0.2×100 to get 20. 5 less than 20 is the same as $20 - 5$, which is 15, Choice (C).
63. B. $40 + 45 + 50 + 55 + 40 = 230$; $230 \div 5 = 46$. But don't stop there and pick Choice (A)! Remember to subtract 10: $46 - 10 = 36$, Choice (B).



The *average* is the sum of a set of numbers divided by the amount of numbers in the set.

64. D. Write down the shaded portion of each of the figures: (a) is $\frac{1}{2}$ shaded, (b) is $\frac{3}{4}$ shaded, and (c) is $\frac{1}{4}$ shaded. Then eliminate answers. You know that (a) is less shaded than (b), so cross out Choice (A). Because (b) is more shaded than (a), you don't have to read any further to know that Choice (B) is wrong. (c) is less shaded than (a), which means so far so good for Choice (C). But (c) isn't more shaded than (b), so you can eliminate it. Choice (D) is correct: $\frac{1}{2}$ is $< \frac{3}{4}$ and $> \frac{1}{4}$.



The HSPT questions that ask you to examine and evaluate aren't usually difficult, but they do require you to undergo a lengthier problem-solving process because you must consider and compare several values. If you notice you've spent more than 30 seconds trying to solve this question (and others like it), next time mark your best guess and move on. You can always go back to the question if you have time at the end of the section.

65. B. The numbers in this sequence decrease by 6. $63 - 6 = 57$, which is Choice (B).
66. A. Half of 32 is 16. When you add 16 to 16, you're back at 32, Choice (A).
67. A. Count the circles in each picture (don't guess!) and write down the totals: (a) has 8 circles, (b) has 10, and (c) has 15. So (a) $<$ (b) $<$ (c). Choice (A) is right; (a) has fewer circles than (b). Don't waste your time checking the other options in this case because the answer's so obvious.
68. A. The operation from 3 to 6 could be $+3$ or $\times 2$. $6 \times 2 = 12$, so the operation is $\times 2$. $24 \times 2 = 48$. The only answer that lists 48 as the next number is Choice (A).
69. D. The cube of 3 is $3 \times 3 \times 3$, which equals 27. $27 \div 3 = 9$, Choice (D).
70. D. $\frac{1}{6} \times 30 = 5$, or 5, which is Choice (D).

71. **B.** $63 - 56 = 7$, which means the sequence probably increases by 7. What do you know? $63 + 7 = 70$, Choice (B).
72. **D.** (a) = \$0.75, (b) = \$0.75, and (c) = \$0.75. Looks like (a) = (b) = (c), Choice (D).
73. **C.** (a) and (b) have the same value because $0.3 \times 90 = 0.9 \times 30$. Both equal 27. Based on the information in (a) and (b), you can eliminate Choice (A) and pick Choice (C) as the correct answer. You don't even have to figure out that the value of (c) is $0.3 \times 0.9 = 0.27$.
74. **A.** You may need to create an equation for this one. Let x stand for "what number." *Added* means +, *is* means =, and *of* means \times . So the equation looks like this: $x + 30 = \frac{1}{4} \times 124$. Solve for x : $x + 30 = 31$; $x = 1$. Pick Choice (A).
75. **C.** Based on the first two numbers, the operation is either -500 or $\div 2$. $500 \div 2 = 250$, which means the operation is $\div 2$. Look at the second and third numbers in the sequence. $125 \div 2 = 62.5$, Choice (C).
76. **D.** This sequence is a little trickier because you don't have a third number to test the first operation with. 10 is either 5 more than 5 or twice 5. If the operation were $+5$, the third number would be 15, and the fourth would be 20. But the fourth number isn't 20, which means the operation is $\times 2$. The missing number is 20, Choice (D).
77. **B.** Change (b) to $\frac{1}{2}$. $\frac{1}{2} < \frac{2}{3}$, which means (a) $>$ (b). You can eliminate Choice (A). Without computing the value of (c), you can guess that 4.2×0.65 is > 1 . So you know that (c) $>$ (a) $>$ (b). This is the answer in Choice (B).
78. **A.** Set up the equation: $x \div 4 = \frac{1}{8} \times 72$; $x \div 4 = 9$; $x = 36$, which is Choice (A).
79. **C.** Because the triangle is isosceles, which means $AB = BC$, cross out Choice (A). $AB = 6$ and $AC = 2$, so AB isn't twice as long as AC ; Choice (B) is wrong. Consider Choice (C). Because $AB = BC$, it makes sense that $AB + AC = BC + AC$ ($6 + 2 = 6 + 2$). The answer is likely Choice (C), but you should check Choice (D) just to be sure: $AB - BC = 0$, and $AC = 2$, which means AC isn't 1 m shorter than $AB - BC$.
80. **D.** The numbers decrease by 4. The next number is $271 - 4 = 267$, Choice (D).
81. **B.** The equation is $\frac{1}{3} \times x = 5 \times 8$. Solve for x : $\frac{1}{3} \times x = 40$; $x = 40 \times 3$; $x = 120$. Pick Choice (B).
82. **A.** Each of the three figures has 6 boxes, which means you just have to compare the value of the shaded boxes. (a) has 2 shaded boxes, (b) has 1.5 shaded boxes, and (c) has 2.5 shaded boxes. So (c) $>$ (a) $>$ (b), Choice (A).
83. **A.** This sequence features more than one operation. The first operation is $+5$ followed by -4 . $5 + 5 \rightarrow 10 - 4 \rightarrow 6 + 5 \rightarrow 11 - 4 \rightarrow 7$. The missing number is 7, Choice (A).
84. **C.** Create an equation and solve for x : $50 - x = 3(36 \div 9)$; $50 - x = 3(4)$; $50 - x = 12$; $-x = -38$; $x = 38$. Choice (C) is the answer.
85. **B.** The equation is $\frac{1}{4} \times x = 10 \times 4$. Solve: $\frac{1}{4} \times x = 40$; $x = 40 \times 4/1$; $x = 160$. Pick Choice (B).
86. **D.** Find the value of the three products. The value of (a) is 3, the value of (b) is 9, and the value of (c) is 5, which means (b) $>$ (c) $>$ (a). Eliminate Choices (A) and (C). Choice (D) is right, so you don't have to figure out Choice (B).
87. **D.** This sequence alternates between $\times 2$ and $+8$: $3 \times 2 \rightarrow 6 + 8 \rightarrow 14 \times 2 \rightarrow 28 + 8 \rightarrow 36 \times 2 \rightarrow 72$. The missing number is 36, Choice (D).
88. **B.** This sequence alternates between regular numbers and Roman numerals, which means the missing number *isn't* a Roman numeral. Eliminate Choices (A), (C), and (D). The answer is Choice (B), and the operation is $+5$.
89. **B.** The value of (a) is 8×8 , or 64, and the value of (b) is 16×16 (or 16^2). Without calculating the value of (b), you know that (b) $>$ (a) and can eliminate Choices (A) and (C). That leaves you with Choices (B) and (D). Choice (B) states that (b) = (c). Is that true? 2^8 is the same as $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2$. $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 16$, which means 2^8 is the same as 16×16 . Therefore, (b) = (c) — Choice (B).

90. **D.** Here's the equation: $0.40x + 0.80x = 144$. Solve for x : $1.2x = 144$; $x = 120$, Choice (D).
91. **B.** The operations for this sequence are either $+4$ then -1 or $\times 2$ then -1 . If you apply the first set of operations, the missing number would be 11 ($7 + 4 = 11$). But $11 - 1$ doesn't equal 13, which means the second set of operations must be correct. $7 \times 2 = 14$; $14 - 1 = 13$. 14, Choice (B), is the missing number.
92. **C.** The triangle is a right triangle because it contains a 90° angle. The line opposite the right angle is called the hypotenuse and is the longest of the three sides. All of that tells you Choice (A) is incorrect and Choice (C) is right. Based on the Pythagorean theorem, you know $AB^2 + AC^2 = BC^2$, which isn't the same as $AB + AC = BC$; Choice (B) can't be right. Choice (D) isn't right because the sum of the other two angles is equal to the right angle: $180^\circ - 90^\circ = 90^\circ$.
93. **D.** The equation is: $x = 4^3 - 7$. $x = 64 - 7$, and $x = 57$. Pick Choice (D).
94. **C.** Say the pattern to yourself: -4 then -2 then 0 then $+2$ then $+4$. The pattern appears to decrease by even numbers and then increase by even numbers. The even number after 4 is 6. Add 6 to 47, and you get 53. Choice (C) begins with 53, and its second number is $53 + 8$ (61). The only answer that follows the pattern is Choice (C).
95. **A.** The value of (a) is $28 + 2$, or 30; (b) is $35 - 7$, or 28, and (c) is $27 + 1$, or 28. So (a) $>$ (b) = (c). The best answer is Choice (A).
96. **A.** You know that 10 less than $\frac{7}{8}$ of 112 isn't 16 or 56 because those numbers are half of 112 or less, and $\frac{7}{8}$ is much more than half. Eliminate Choices (C) and (D). Figure out $1\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{7}{8}$. You can factor out 8 from 112 on top and 8 on the bottom to create this problem: $1\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{7}{8}$. $14 \times 7 = 98$. When you subtract 10 as instructed, you get 88, Choice (A).
97. **D.** The letters progress alphabetically, so the next letter must be D. Cross out Choices (A) and (B). The even numbers are subscript, which means the answer is Choice (D).
98. **C.** Look through the answers to see which ones are the easiest to evaluate. You know that the figure is a square because its sides are equal in length. The area of a square is s^2 , and the side length is 6. That means the area of this square is 36 in^2 , Choice (C). Go ahead and check the other answers to be certain. The diagonals of a square form right angles, which means the four triangles formed by the diagonals are equal right triangles. Choice (A) is therefore wrong. CA is the hypotenuse of the right triangle, which makes it longer than the other sides; cross out Choice (B). $\angle BAD$ and $\angle BFC$ are right angles and equal, which means Choice (D) isn't right.
99. **A.** First things first: Solve (a), (b), and (c). (a) is 27×10 , or 270; (b) is $\frac{2}{3} \times 150\%$, or 300% , or 60; (c) is $\frac{1}{2}$ of 144, or 72. You now know that (a) $>$ (c) $>$ (b), which means you can eliminate Choices (B), (C), and (D). Choice (A) is the answer because it's true that $270 > 60 + 72$ (or 132).
100. **C.** The sequence has a set of three consecutive numbers then $+15$ followed by a sequence of three consecutive numbers and $+17$. The next two numbers should be 138 and 139 to complete the pattern of three consecutive numbers, so cut Choices (B) and (D). Choice (A) can't be right because it has a fourth consecutive number. Choice (C) is the best answer.
101. **A.** Say the pattern to yourself as you read through the sequence: $+15$ then -14 then $+18$ then -14 and so on. Hmm. That doesn't make sense, does it? The first operation could be $\times 4$: $5 \times 4 = 20$, $6 \times 4 = 24$. That means the missing number is 40 because $10 \times 4 = 40$. Tada! That's the option in Choice (A).
102. **B.** Your equation looks like this: $5 + 76 = x^2$. $5 + 76 = 81$. 81 is 9^2 . $x = 9$, Choice (B).
103. **A.** Create the equation and solve: $7x = 4 + 80$; $7x = 84$; $x = 12$. Pick Choice (A).
104. **C.** You know that the value of (b) is greater than (a) because a number squared is greater than that same number times 2 (unless of course that number is 2, which isn't the case here). (c) has to be less than (a) because the value of twice the total of 45 and 25 is greater than 45 plus twice the value of 25. So, (b) $>$ (a) $>$ (c), and Choices (A) and (B) are wrong.

- $45 + 25 = 70$, which means the value of (b) is 70×70 , or 4,900. The value of (a) is 140, and the value of (c) is 95. 4,900 is much greater than 140 and 95, so the answer has to be Choice (C).
105. **D.** The sequence of letters is every other letter in the alphabet, and the numbers are all odd. Eliminate Choices (A) and (C) because they have even numbers. Skip O and you find that the next letter in the sequence is P. The answer is Choice (D).
106. **B.** The graph tells you that the value of D is probably 5, C is 20, B is 30, and A is 10. Choice (A) is wrong because $5 + 10 \neq 20$. Cross out Choice (C) because $10 + 20$ isn't greater than 30. And $10 + 30$ isn't $2(5 + 20)$, which means Choice (D) is wrong. $30 - 20 = 10$; Choice (B) is the correct answer.
107. **C.** At first the numbers seem to be consecutive, but the pattern isn't strictly consecutive. You may need to try plugging in the answer choices to see the pattern. The only number that repeats is 25, so you can cross out Choice (D). In fact, 25 seems to repeat every two numbers. The last number in the sequence is 25. To follow the pattern of introducing 25 every two numbers, the correct answer must end in 25. That leaves you with Choices (B) and (C). Choice (B) begins with 28, 29, and Choice (C) starts with 29, 30. Choice (C) makes the most sense because it maintains the pattern of adding 2 to the number before 25 to get the number that comes after 25.
108. **D.** The next perfect cube that comes after 70 is 125. $125 - 70 = 55$, which is the option in Choice (D). $55 + 70 =$ a perfect cube (125).
109. **C.** Solve this equation: $x - 0.2x = 72$; $0.8x = 72$; $x = 90$. Choice (C) is the answer.
110. **C.** (a) is 27, (b) is 16, and (c) is 16. Therefore, (a) > (b) = (c). Cross out Choices (B) and (D). $16 \neq 2 \times 16$, which means Choice (A) is wrong, and Choice (C) is right.
111. **D.** The angles along a straight line equal 180° , and $\angle A$ measures 90° . You don't know the individual measurements of the other two angles, but you do know that added together they equal 90° . That means the answer is Choice (D).
112. **C.** The equation for this question is $x = (\frac{2}{3} \times 15) - 3$. Solve for x : $x = 9 - 3$; $x = 6$. Pick Choice (C).

Section 3: Reading

113. **C.** The author concludes the second paragraph by saying that legalizing some victimless crimes would save money. Consequently, you know that Choice (A) isn't right and that Choice (C) is probably the right answer. The author doesn't say anything about the ease of prosecuting crimes, which makes Choice (B) unlikely. The passage isn't about society's role in determining criminal behavior, so toss out Choice (D).
114. **C.** The last paragraph covers vocational training for inmates. Choice (A) is wrong because creating new jails isn't related to vocational training. The passage doesn't discuss white-collar crimes, so eliminate Choice (B). Decriminalizing victimless crimes is a separate issue from vocational training, which makes Choice (D) incorrect. If inmates don't get jobs, vocational training isn't valuable; Choice (C) is therefore the best answer.
115. **A.** Substitute the answer choices into the passage: Many legislators are advocating for *legalizing*, *declaring unconstitutional*, *outlawing*, or *prosecuting* some current crimes. The one that keeps the meaning is Choice (A), legalizing.
116. **A.** The middle paragraph says that the government spends \$256 million on victimless crimes, which means \$256 million is what could be saved, Choice (A).
117. **B.** Gainful employment would most likely reduce the rate of repeated criminal behavior (which is the definition of recidivism), Choice (B). The other options don't make sense.

118. **A.** This passage expresses an opinion about a current topic. It'd fit best in the editorial section of a newspaper, Choice (A). Clearly, it's not about biology or sports.
119. **C.** *Vocational* is used throughout the passage to describe the type of training proposed for inmates. The last paragraph says that vocational training prepares inmates for a career, which makes Choice (C), job, the best answer.
120. **D.** The only answer not covered in the passage is Choice (D). The author doesn't propose a novel-writing program.
121. **D.** Eliminate Choices (A), (B), and (C) because they concern victimless crimes rather than vocational training. Choice (D) is best; if training doesn't decrease recidivism, it's not a worthwhile investment for taxpayers.
122. **B.** The passage doesn't mention confession or specify the kinds of positions inmates would be trained for; eliminate Choice (A). It doesn't compare the cost of imprisoning victimless criminals with other criminals, so Choice (C) is wrong. The passage does say that jobs may prevent repeat crimes, but that doesn't mean the repeat criminals will never get jobs. You don't have to assume too much to select Choice (B), which just so happens to be correct.
123. **C.** *Determined* appears in the second paragraph to describe the kinds of complaints neighbors make about recycle bins. The next sentence says that the neighbors' complaints are frequent. The word that fits best is Choice (C), resolute. The neighbors are unwavering in their complaining.
124. **C.** The last paragraph discusses successful recycling collection efforts on the behalf of Choice (C), entrepreneurs. The passage doesn't mention Choices (A) or (B), and it implies that the efforts of grocery stores are in fact unsuccessful.
125. **D.** *Contented* is used in the last paragraph to describe the customers of successful recycling efforts. These customers are satisfied, Choice (D).
126. **C.** The second paragraph says that the neighbors complain that the bins are unsightly, which means the bins are ugly, Choice (C).
127. **B.** To answer this question correctly, you need to know that a *lament* is a deep regret. Eliminate Choices (A), (C), and (D) because the author wouldn't deeply regret these positive statements. That bins have become trash cans, Choice (B), is regrettable.
128. **D.** The second paragraph includes tattered mattresses and TV dinners in its description of the kinds of trash that end up in recycle bins. Because at least two of the answers are right, Choice (D) must be the answer. Newspapers also end up in recycle bins.
129. **A.** The author is positive about the entrepreneurs described in the last paragraph. The only positive answer option is Choice (A), grateful.
130. **B.** Eliminate untrue answers. The first sentence suggests that people care about the environment, which makes Choice (A) untrue. The point of the second paragraph is that recycle bins are ineffective; cross out Choice (C). There's a monthly fee for recycle pickup, so Choice (D) is wrong. Given the first sentence, Choice (B) is the best answer.
131. **A.** The entrepreneurs pick up recycling; they don't provide drop-off bins. Choice (A) isn't one of their business practices and is, therefore, the correct answer.
132. **D.** Bedding, Choice (D), isn't included in the list of recyclable materials at the end of the second paragraph.
133. **B.** The first sentence of the last paragraph lists examples of trades. The answer that isn't included in this list is Choice (B), psychologist.
134. **D.** The last paragraph states that vocational grads often attend private trade schools, which makes Choice (D) the best answer.



135. **B.** Eliminate Choice (C) because it contains the debatable word *all*. Nothing in the passage justifies the statement that every single plumber, electrician, and mechanic has a trade school degree. Likewise, Choice (D) assumes too much by completely doing away with liberal arts programs. Choice (A) is wrong because there's no rule about who can work as a technician. Because unemployment rates for trade positions are low, demand for trade positions must be high, Choice (B).

Debatable words (such as *all*, *none*, and so on) are often clues that the answer option in question is incorrect.

136. **A.** The conclusion in the last sentence is that vocational education should receive more funding. This is the author's main point, so the best title is Choice (A). Choices (B) and (C) contain debatable language such as *only* and *useless*. Choice (D) is too broad for the topic.
137. **A.** Look at the second paragraph for the origins of the Bill of Rights. The only answer that's not included in the list is Choice (A), the U.S. Constitution.
138. **D.** The first paragraph tells you that the Fourteenth Amendment, Choice (D), is what applied the Bill of Rights to the states.
139. **C.** Incorporation, Choice (C), is defined in the first paragraph as the name of the process that applied the Bill of Rights to the states.
140. **D.** You discover in the second paragraph that 75 percent of the 14 states ratified the Bill of Rights. Seventy-five percent of 14 is about 11 states, Choice (D). Yes, you may encounter math in reading questions. Oh well.
141. **A.** The last paragraph lists all the rights in the answers except the one in Choice (A). A group can stage a protest as long as it's *not* violent.
142. **B.** In the first paragraph, you discover that the Bill of Rights consists of the first ten amendments to the Constitution, Choice (B). Choice (A) refers to the 30 liberties and rights it protects, and 14, Choice (D), is the number of states in existence when the Bill of Rights was ratified.
143. **B.** *Embedded* appears in the first sentence of the paragraph that describes how big a part the Bill of Rights plays in daily life. Because the Bill of Rights is deeply *rooted* in everyday life, Choice (B) is your answer.
144. **D.** The purpose of the passage is to instruct about the Bill of Rights, which is a part of the U.S. Constitution; Choice (D) sounds best. The passage isn't impassioned or opinionated, so Choices (A) and (B) can't be right. Nor is the passage about science, which means Choice (C) is incorrect.
145. **C.** Choice (A) isn't true because other inventors had tried and failed. Cut Choice (B) because the Wrights flew the aircraft in 1903, but the government didn't purchase it until 1908. The Wrights successfully flew and controlled the aircraft in 1903, so forget Choice (D). Choice (C) is right; the last sentence implies that the government had been considering the Wright brothers' proposals for more than four years.
146. **C.** The passage says that the first aircraft was an Army aircraft purchased by the War Department. The best answer is that the airplane was used by the military, Choice (C).
147. **A.** The passage uses *prevailing* to describe the current sentiments about the future of the balloon. The word that fits best is Choice (A), existing: *Existing* (not *triumphant*, *crushing*, or *minority*) sentiments held that the immediate future still belonged to the balloon.
148. **D.** The statement that's *not* true is Choice (D). The government bought the first airplane in 1908, which is less than six years after the first flight succeeded in 1903. If the future *still* belonged to the balloon, it must have already existed. Choice (B) is a paraphrase of the second sentence, and North Carolina is on the East Coast.
149. **D.** Choices (A), (B), and (C) are way too general for the one-paragraph topic. The paragraph is about the Wrights' aircraft, and its purchase is described as a "minor miracle."

150. **C.** The paragraph recounts a bit of American history, which makes a historian, Choice (C), the most logical author. Pilots probably discuss flying planes, and an Army officer may talk about war strategies. Nothing in the paragraph relates to senators.
151. **B.** The paragraph follows its mention of the “minor miracle” with an explanation that the government had refused to accept that man could fly in a heavier-than-air craft. Choice (B) paraphrases this explanation. The paragraph states that most people thought the future was in balloon travel, but it doesn’t say that this was because of cost or effectiveness. The government wasn’t interested in Langley’s failed invention, but it must have needed an airplane, or else it wouldn’t have invested in Langley at all.
152. **D.** Because the government waited so long to purchase the airplane and didn’t believe a heavier-than-air craft could fly, its attitude must have been skeptical, Choice (D). It certainly wasn’t confident or ecstatic. And Choice (B), agitated, is too strong an emotion.
153. **B.** You’d think the vocabulary questions in the Verbal Skills section would be enough for the HSPT people, but apparently they’re not because the Reading section has about 20 more. A *paltry* sum is a small one. The best synonym is Choice (B), insignificant.
154. **B.** If something smells foul, it smells really gross. Another word that means “really gross” is *repulsive*, Choice (B).
155. **A.** Something *tedious* is boring, which means a state of *tedium* is a state of boredom, Choice (A).
156. **A.** *Zealous* fans are over the top, which means you can eliminate Choices (B) and (D). And Choice (C), continual, doesn’t begin to express the enthusiasm a zealous fan feels. The best answer is Choice (A), ardent.
157. **C.** A *debilitating* disease is one that causes great suffering and weakness. It’s devastating, Choice (C). Debilitating doesn’t suggest length of time, which rules out Choices (A), (B), and (D).
158. **B.** To mind your manners is to pay attention or put your mind to them, Choice (B). It doesn’t mean to ignore, object to, or worry about manners.
159. **D.** You usually hear a *eulogy* at a funeral where loved ones pay tribute, Choice (D), to the deceased.
160. **D.** Don’t be tempted by Choice (B). To propose isn’t to marry; it’s to suggest getting married. To propose is to suggest, Choice (D).
161. **A.** A *commemorative* plaque is one that dedicates the memory of a person or event, which means the best synonym is Choice (A), dedicatory. Commemorative has nothing to do with how old the plaque is or what it’s made of.
162. **C.** Delightful is a positive word; eliminate words with negative connotations, such as objectionable and dull. Choice (C) is an agreeable answer choice and the best synonym for delightful.
163. **B.** To *abhor* something is to hate it, and *abhorrent* means “hateful.” A synonym for hateful is Choice (B), but if you’re not familiar with the meaning of odious, you can at least eliminate positive choices such as likeable and pleasant.
164. **A.** A *realm* is the jurisdiction that those in power rule over. Its synonym is kingdom, Choice (A).
165. **B.** A *literal* interpretation is one based on the facts, Choice (B). Its opposites are symbolic or fictitious.
166. **B.** A person with a *congenial* disposition is outgoing and friendly. Sociable, Choice (B), is a good synonym, and it’s the only positive answer choice of the four.
167. **C.** You may not know what vilify means, but because it’s paired with enemy, it’s probably not a positive verb. Cross out positive answer choices, such as compliment and justify. The answer is Choice (C). To *vilify* is to criticize or disparage.

168. **C.** Eliminate positive answer choices such as ally and companion because heckler is paired with discourteous. If you've seen standup comedy, you know that a heckler is an audience member who distracts the comedian. The answer is Choice (C), detractor.
169. **A.** *Cantankerous* sounds awful, and it means "crabby or grumpy," Choice (A).
170. **A.** Cosmo refers to world, and a cosmopolitan has experienced it all. The best synonym is Choice (A); a *sophisticate* is someone with experienced taste. Choice (D), *plebeian* means "commoner" and is an antonym.
171. **D.** To *discombobulate* is to confuse. The word even looks confusing! A synonym for confuse is Choice (D), confound.
172. **D.** An obvious truth is one that's known, which means you can eliminate Choices (A) and (B) because they're opposites. *Flimsy* means "weak," which isn't the same as known. By process of elimination, pick Choice (D). *Axiomatic* means "clear and obvious."
173. **B.** If an interloper is unwanted, he's probably not a citizen or an affiliate. A hermit likes to hide from people, so she wouldn't be around enough to make herself unwanted. The answer is Choice (B); an intruder and an interloper are both gatecrashers.
174. **C.** To *conjure* a memory is to call it up. Suppress and destroy are more opposite in meaning than similar. The most similar word is summon, Choice (C).

Section 4: Mathematics

175. **B.** The tenths place is the number to the right after the decimal point, which is 6 in this case. Round 6 to 7 because the number to the right of 6 is greater than 5. The answer is Choice (B), 54.7. Choice (D) improperly rounds the tenths place, and the other choices write the number to the incorrect place.
176. **C.** The only answer that describes a type of angle is Choice (C). An *obtuse angle* is one that's greater than 90° . The other choices describe a type of theorem, a kind of quadrilateral, and types of lines.
177. **A.** The order of operations tells you to solve the exponents first: $-5 \times -5 = 25$. Then multiply: $2 \times 25 = 50$, which is Choice (A).
178. **D.** The intersection sign means you look for the set of numbers that appears in both sets. Both sets contain 4 and 7, which is the answer in Choice (D).
179. **B.** *Consecutive numbers* are numbers that follow in sequence. The answer with two consecutive numbers is Choice (B) because 3 comes right after 2 on the number line. The numbers in Choice (D) are called *reciprocals* because one is the inverse of the other.
180. **A.** 0.23 is 23 hundredths, which means the number expressed as a fraction is $\frac{23}{100}$, Choice (A).
181. **D.** Move the decimal point to the right one place for every zero. 100 has two zeros, so you move the decimal point to the right two places, Choice (D).
182. **A.** The radius of a circle is $\frac{1}{2}$ the diameter. $6 \times \frac{1}{2} = 3$, which is Choice (A).
183. **C.** $\frac{3}{5}$ written as a mixed fraction is $11\frac{3}{5}$. The integers between $11\frac{3}{5}$ and 17.4 are 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. That's a total of 6 numbers; the answer is Choice (C).



Integers don't include decimals or fractions. Flip to Chapter 10 for a refresher on the various types of numbers.

184. **D.** 95 falls between the perfect squares of 81 and 100, but don't stop there and pick Choice (B). The question asks for the square root. 81 is 9^2 , and 100 is 10^2 . The square root of 95 is somewhere in between 9 and 10, Choice (D).

185. **C.** *Cent* means 100. A meter consists of 100 centimeters, Choice (C).
186. **A.** This question tests what you know about performing operations with negatives and positives. You probably know that Choices (B) and (C) are true, which means you can eliminate them. Choice (A), however, isn't true. When the absolute value of the positive number is greater than the absolute value of the negative number, the sum is positive. For example, $4 + (-2) = 2$, a positive number.
187. **B.** Create an equation and solve for x . Because the ratios of the two numbers is 4 to 1, you can express the two numbers as $1x$ and $4x$. The equation is $1x + 4x = 60$; $5x = 60$; $x = 12$. The smaller number is 12, and the larger number is $4(12)$, or 48, Choice (B).
188. **D.** The fraction that comes between $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{3}{8}$ is $\frac{2}{8}$, which reduces to $\frac{1}{4}$, Choice (D).
189. **B.** Examine each answer. Choice (A) isn't true; $3.5 \times 10 = 35$. $3.2 \times 10^3 = 3,200$, which means Choices (C) and (D) aren't true either. The answer must be Choice (B). Multiplying by $(\frac{1}{10})^2$ means you move the decimal point two places to the left.
190. **C.** The total number of degrees in a circle is 360. 40° of 360° is $\frac{40}{360}$, which reduces to $\frac{1}{9}$, Choice (C).
191. **A.** The equation for this word problem is $x = \$20 \times 0.30$. $x = \$6$, Choice (A).
192. **A.** Eliminate Choices (B) and (D) because they aren't prime. The remaining choices are 5 and 7. 7 isn't a factor of 30, which means the correct answer is Choice (A).
193. **B.** To find the percentage of nonvoters, subtract $27 + 43$ (70) from 100: $100 - 70 = 30$. 30% means 30 per 100, or $\frac{30}{100}$. Reduce to $\frac{3}{10}$, Choice (B).
194. **C.** A quadrilateral has four sides. Octagons have eight sides, pentagons have five, and hexagons have six. The answer is Choice (C) because a rhombus has four sides.
195. **B.** Check the possible answers for the lowest number that both 3 and 5 go into evenly. 3 doesn't go into 5, and 5 doesn't go into 12. Therefore, the least common multiple of 3 and 5 is 15, Choice (B).
196. **D.** Because XYZ and XVW are similar, their corresponding sides are in the same proportions. The correct answer compares corresponding sides of each triangle. The ratios in Choices (A), (B), and (C) compare sides of the same triangle; the ratios in Choice (D) compare the sides of each triangle.
197. **A.** The associative property of addition states that you can add the same numbers in different orders and still get the same sum. Choice (A) demonstrates that this property is true. Choice (C) is straight addition, and Choices (B) and (D) aren't true.
198. **B.** Because they make up a straight line, the 120° angle and the angle next to it equal 180° . That means the bottom-left angle of the triangle equals 60° ($180^\circ - 120^\circ = 60^\circ$). The angles in a triangle add up to 180° , which means that $60^\circ + 60^\circ + x = 180^\circ$. $x = 60^\circ$, Choice (B).
199. **A.** The equation for the word problem is $x = (8 \times \$4.35) + (5 \times \$3.78)$. Solve for x : $x = \$34.80 + \18.90 ; $x = \$53.70$, Choice (A).
200. **D.** A year consists of 12 months, which means Mr. Black spends an average of $\$630 \div 12$. The average per month is $\$52.50$, which rounds up to $\$53$, Choice (D).
201. **C.** Subtract x and 15 from both sides: $15 + 3x = 30$; $3x = 15$; $x = 5$, Choice (C).
202. **A.** Subtract to find the difference. First, make the fractions improper: $2\frac{1}{2} = \frac{5}{2}$ and $1\frac{3}{4} = \frac{7}{4}$. The common denominator is 4, which makes the equation $\frac{10}{4} - \frac{7}{4} = x$. $\frac{3}{4} = x$. Choice (A) is your answer.
203. **D.** $(-5) + (-4) = -9$, and $3 + 8 = 11$. $-9 + 11 = 2$. The correct answer is Choice (D).



When you have positive and negative numbers mixed together in an addition problem, add the negative numbers first and then the positive numbers. Then the problem becomes much easier to work with.

204. **C.** Substitute 10 for C in the formula and solve for F: $F = \frac{1}{2}(10) + 32$; $F = 18 + 32$; $F = 50^\circ$. Choice (C) is the answer.
205. **B.** $(-6) + (-2) + (-2) = -10$; $-10 + 5 = -5$. Pick Choice (B).
206. **A.** Create an equation from the words. Let w = Wade's cards: $w = 3(106) - 5$; $w = 318 - 5$; $w = 313$. Looks like Wade has 313 cards, Choice (A).
207. **C.** Change $1\frac{3}{4}$ to an improper fraction: $\frac{7}{4}$. $\frac{7}{4} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{7}{8}$. Pick Choice (C).
208. **D.** Set up a ratio: $\frac{15}{1} = \frac{x}{5}$. Cross multiply: $x = 15 \times 5$; $x = 75$. Kathy can do 75 problems in 5 hours, Choice (D).
209. **B.** A pound is 16 ounces, which means 8 ounces is a half a pound. The cost for 1.5 pounds of meat is $\$3 \times 1.5$ pounds, which is \$4.50. Pick Choice (B).
210. **D.** Because $3 + \text{the other number} = N$, the other number = $N - 3$. Three times the other number is $3(N - 3)$, Choice (D).
211. **C.** First, solve for x : $2x - 3 > 5$; $2x > 8$; $x > 4$. Then square both sides: $x^2 > 16$. The answer is Choice (C).
212. **A.** If $a + 3$ is the same number as $b + 8$, then a has to be greater than b . You can verify this by subtracting 3 and b from both sides of the equation: $a - b = 5$, which means that a must be 5 greater than b . The answer is therefore Choice (A).
213. **D.** Your equation looks like this: $K = 2(48) - 6$. $K = 96 - 6$; $K = 90$, Choice (D).
214. **B.** To find the price of the bike before tax, you need to figure out what number \$8.60 is 4% of: $\$8.60 = 0.04 \times x$; $215 = x$. The price of the bike is \$215, Choice (B).
215. **B.** Substitute the values for x and y in the equation and solve: $(4)^3 + 5(\frac{1}{2}) - 7$. $64 + 2.5 - 7 = 59.5$, or $59\frac{1}{2}$ — the answer in Choice (B).
216. **A.** The area of the carpet is length \times width, which is 10×16 , or 160 square feet. The total price is $160 \times \$5$, which is \$800. Choice (A) is your answer.
217. **D.** The formula for the volume of a rectangular solid is $V = l \times w \times h$. Substitute the values for the figure into the formula: $V = 6 \times 9 \times 4$; $V = 216 \text{ cm}^3$. The answer is Choice (D).
218. **A.** Set up an equation and solve: $0.04 \times x = \$47.50$. The original loan amount, or x , was \$1,187.50 — Choice (A).
219. **B.** Substitute the values and solve: $3 \times 3 \times 5 \times 2 = 90$, Choice (B).
220. **C.** The sum is 7.129, Choice (C).



When you're working with decimal problems, make sure you line up the decimal points before adding or subtracting the numbers.

221. **A.** Substitute 16 for a in the equation and solve for b : $4b - 8 = 16$; $4b = 24$; $b = 6$, Choice (A).
222. **D.** Add x to and subtract 6 from both sides: $6x = 3$; $x = \frac{3}{6}$, which reduces to $\frac{1}{2}$, Choice (D).
223. **B.** z is between -8 and -13 . The integers between -8 and -13 are -9 , -10 , -11 , and -12 . Only -10 and -12 are even, and -10 isn't an answer choice. Pick Choice (B).
224. **B.** You don't have to completely multiply this problem to find the right answer. The number of places to the right of the decimal point in the product equals the total number of decimal places in the two multiplied values. The first number has two values after the decimal, and the second has three, which means the right answer will have five as long as the last number isn't 0. Choice (B) has five numbers after the decimal, and its last number isn't 0, so it's the correct answer.
225. **C.** It may be obvious to you that 30 days is 3 times 10 days, so Stan loses 3 times as many buttons in 30 days. To be sure, though, you can set up a proportion. Stan loses 3 buttons in 10 days ($\frac{3}{10}$) and x buttons in 30 days ($\frac{x}{30}$): $\frac{3}{10} = \frac{x}{30}$. Cross multiply: $10x = 3(30)$; $10x = 90$; $x = 9$. Choice (C) is your answer.

226. **A.** Multiply to find 30% of \$40: $0.3 \times \$40 = \12 . Jessie saves \$12 per week. In four weeks, she saves $4 \times \$12$, or \$48 — Choice (A).
227. **D.** The fastest way to solve this problem is to substitute answer choices. Because you're looking for the number that makes the left side *greater* than 17, start with the largest number in the answer choices, which is 8 in Choice (D). $3 \times 8 = 24$ and $24 - 5 > 17$. 8 is a possible value for x . Choice (D) is the answer; you don't have to try the others.
228. **A.** You know that 2.5455 goes into 4.31 at least once but not more than twice. Eliminate answers that are less than 1 and more than 2. The answer is Choice (A).
229. **B.** If four movies cost \$23.40, the cost of two movies is half that much: $\$23.40 \div 2 = \11.70 , Choice (B).
230. **D.** Solve for x : $\sqrt{x} + 6 = 11$; $\sqrt{x} = 5$. Square both sides to find that $x = 25$, Choice (D).
231. **A.** To divide the fraction, multiply both sides of the equation by the reciprocal: $x = 40 \times \frac{2}{3}$; $x = 80$. So the value of $\frac{3}{4}x = \frac{3}{4} \times 80$; $x = 60$, Choice (A).
232. **B.** Carefully multiply 436 and 42 to get a product of 18,312, Choice (B).
233. **D.** Figure out what you know. If Sally is 25 today, then 10 years ago she was 15 ($25 - 10 = 15$). Sally's mother was 3 times as old as Sally 10 years ago, meaning 10 years ago Sally's mother was 45 ($3 \times 15 = 45$). Don't stop there and pick Choice (C), though. The question asks you for Sally's mother's age today, 10 years later. $45 + 10 = 55$. Sally's mother is 55, Choice (D). If you picked Choice (A), you assumed that Sally's mother is still 3 times as old as Sally today, which isn't possible.
234. **B.** To find the ratio, divide the fractions: $\frac{3}{4} \div \frac{1}{6}$. Multiply by the reciprocal: $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{6}{1} = \frac{18}{4}$, which simplifies to $\frac{9}{2}$, Choice (B).
235. **C.** Square both sides of the problem and solve for x : $x + 10 = 8^2$; $x + 10 = 64$; $x = 54$, Choice (C).
236. **D.** Let N stand for the money Andrew's sister has saved. Andrew's savings are $2N$. When Andrew gives his sister \$5, his savings minus \$5 will equal his sister's savings plus \$5. Therefore, $2N - 5 = N + 5$. Solve for N : $2N = N + 10$; $N = 10$. Andrew's sister saved \$10, and Andrew saved twice that. Andrew saved $2(\$10)$, or \$20 — Choice (D).
237. **A.** Eliminate Choices (C) and (D) because they're odd numbers. y is either 6, Choice (A), or 8, Choice (B). y is less than 8, which means it can't equal 8. Choice (A) is your answer.
238. **B.** Find the area of the square and add it to the area of the four semicircles. The area of the square is s^2 , which means this square is 8^2 , or 64 m^2 . The formula for finding the area of a circle is $A = \pi r^2$. The four semicircles are equal to two full circles with diameters of 8 (radii of 4). Figure out the area of one circle and times it by 2 to get the area of the four semicircles: $A = \pi(4)^2$; $A = 16\pi$. The area of two circles (four semicircles) is $2(16\pi)$, or 32π . Therefore, the area of the figure is $(64 + 32\pi) \text{ m}^2$, Choice (B).

Section 5: Language

239. **B.** Choice (B) has a capitalization error. The complete holiday name, Valentine's Day, should be capitalized.
240. **A.** The error is in the first word of Choice (A). "Him and Mary" is the subject of the sentence, which means the pronoun should be in the subjective form, "He and Mary." If you take "and Mary" out of the sentence, "him" doesn't sound right.
241. **C.** Choice (C) contains a usage error. People sit down; they don't set down.
242. **A.** The three verbs in Choice (A) are in different tenses. *Were growing* is past tense, so *tells* and *is* should also be past tense (*told* and *was*).

243. **D.** None of the answers contains a problem with usage, punctuation, or capitalization. Select Choice (D).
244. **A.** Choice (A) has a double negative (hardly never), which is a no-no in standard English. Changing *never* to *ever* corrects the problem.
245. **D.** The punctuation, capitalization, and usage are all fine in this question.
246. **B.** Dates require commas between the day and the year. Choice (B) should be “October 21, 1995.”
247. **C.** *Nor* follows *neither*. Choice (C) should be “Neither my brother *nor* I. . . .”
248. **B.** When you compare more than two, you use the suffix *-est* rather than *-er*. In Choice (B), Matt is the youngest of five, not the younger.
249. **C.** Use *less* for nouns that can’t be counted and *fewer* for nouns that are countable. You can count the flu cases, which means in Choice (C), there have been *fewer* cases, not less cases.
250. **B.** Choice (B) isn’t a question; it’s a statement that states what Gladys asked me. Consequently, it should end with a period rather than a question mark.
251. **D.** Nothing’s wrong with any of the answers; Choice (D) is correct.
252. **D.** *Set* is proper for things like books. All is well in these answers. Pick Choice (D).
253. **A.** *They’re* is a contraction for *they are*. The guys haven’t waited all of *they are* lives in Choice (A). The proper form in this sentence is *their* because it shows possession.
254. **A.** Adverbs describe verbs. Computers run *efficiently*, not efficient; Choice (A) contains the error.
255. **B.** Choice (B) features the improper form of *to*. You use *too* to mean more than enough: Paul had eaten *too* much for dinner.
256. **B.** Choice (B) forms the possessive of father incorrectly. I have only one father, which means it’s my father’s coat. *Fathers’* means the coat belongs to many fathers.
257. **C.** The proper verb form in Choice (C) is *would have*; the phrase *would of* is never proper.
258. **C.** Because the dependent clause comes after the independent clause, the comma after *chocolate* in Choice (C) is incorrect.
259. **D.** The first three answer choices are constructed correctly. Go with Choice (D).
260. **A.** *It’s* is a contraction of *it is*. The puppy didn’t run with *it is* tail between *it is* legs. Use *its* to show possession.
261. **B.** Choice (B) has a capitalization error. The full name of the airport is Kennedy Airport.
262. **C.** In Choice (C), *who’s* is a contraction of *who is*. You wouldn’t say, “Do you know *who is* book this is?” The possessive form of *who* is *whose*.
263. **B.** There’s a nasty double negative in Choice (B). It should read “don’t tell anyone” or “tell no one” instead.
264. **D.** *Effects* in Choice (A) and *himself* in Choice (C) are used properly. Choice (B) is a question, which means the question mark at the end is okay. Choice (D) is right.
265. **C.** A company is a single entity, which means the pronoun that refers to company should be singular. *Their* in Choice (C) should be *its*.
266. **D.** The three sentences in this question are clean. Pick Choice (D) and move along.
267. **B.** Choice (B)’s use of an adjective to describe a verb is improper. The cat chased the mouse *quickly*, not quick.
268. **D.** Choices (A), (B), and (C) are fine as written. Choice (D) is your answer.

269. **C.** The past tense of *lie* is *lay*, not *lied*. Choice (C) contains the error.
270. **B.** The snowboards in Choice (B) belong to Carl and Cathy, which means the snowboards are *their* snowboards. *There* isn't the possessive form of *they*.
271. **C.** In Choice (C), *me* should be *I*. The idea is that Nellie is better than *I am*. So, Nellie is better than *I*.
272. **C.** *Circus* in Choice (C) is a general term, not a title; it shouldn't be capitalized.
273. **A.** The verbs in Choice (A) are in different tenses. They should both be past tense or present tense: The party *ends*, and they *wash* OR the party *ended*, and they *washed*.
274. **A.** Coney Island is the full name of the location in Choice (A). *Island* should be capitalized, too.
275. **B.** Choice (B) joins together two independent clauses with a comma and no conjunction, which makes it a comma splice. Changing the comma to a semicolon fixes the problem.
276. **B.** The comma separating the clauses in Choice (B) should be eliminated because the dependent clause "if I'm wrong" comes after the independent clause "correct me."
277. **D.** Choices (A), (B), and (C) are properly punctuated and constructed. Pick Choice (D).
278. **C.** As it's used in Choice (C), *east* is a direction and not a location. It shouldn't be capitalized.
279. **A.** *Recieved* in Choice (A) violates the *i-before-e-except-after-c* rule.
280. **B.** The stress in *examine* isn't on the last syllable, which means you don't double the *n* before adding *-ing*. Choice (B) has the spelling error.
281. **D.** Tricky words such as *tournament* and *restaurant* are spelled correctly in these sentences, which means the answer is Choice (D).
282. **A.** In Choice (A), you should drop the *ce* in *science* before adding *tist* to create *scientist*.
283. **D.** *Traveling* and *humorous* are spelled correctly, which means all three sentences are error free.
284. **B.** *Immediately* should have two *m*'s. Choice (B) contains the error.
285. **C.** *Forefathers* is spelled with an *e*, which means Choice (C) has the misspelling.
286. **C.** The problem with Choice (C) is that *independent* shouldn't contain any *a*'s.
287. **A.** *Equipment* doesn't have a *t* in it. Choice (A) has the error.
288. **B.** Don't skip over the error in Choice (B). *Columns* is properly spelled with an *mn*.
289. **B.** This sentence has a beginning phrase; choose an answer that clearly demonstrates that *I am* doing the gazing out the window. Choices (A) and (C) convey that the herds of deer are gazing out the window. Choice (D) contains redundant language; a herd is a group. Choice (B) is the best option.
290. **C.** Pick the transition word that makes the most sense. The second clause conveys a contrasting idea, and the answer that shows contrast is Choice (C), *however*.
291. **D.** College didn't graduate from high school; Sam did. Eliminate Choice (A). *Then* and *next step* convey similar ideas; using them both in the same sentence is redundant. Cross out Choices (B) and (C). Choice (D) is the best construction of the four options.
292. **D.** The paragraph is about using fantasy as a means to educate children. The last sentence, Choice (D), throws in science fiction stories out of the blue.
293. **A.** Find the answer that gives information that's relevant to finding a summer job. The resumes and interviewing skills mentioned in Choice (A) are relevant to finding a job. Drinking liquids and popular vacation times aren't.

294. **A.** The idea is that because Doug has done something in the past, he'll do the same thing in the future. Choose the transition word that shows a cause-and-effect relationship. Choice A, *therefore*, shows cause and effect; Choices (B) and (C) show contrast.
295. **D.** Choices (B) and (C) contain passive voice and other problems; cross them out. Choice (A) makes it sound like the meeting may be held on my desk. Choice (D) is clearer.
296. **C.** Eliminate Choices (A) and (B) because the "putting" and "hats and mittens" didn't hear about the weather. Choice (D) contains passive voice. The clearest sentence is Choice (C).
297. **C.** Choices (A) and (B) lack clarity because they separate the verb "cross" and its object "the river" with the phrase "without my waders and snorkel." Choice (D) is less clear than Choice (C) because it improperly makes "attempting to cross" the subject rather than "I."
298. **B.** The statement begins with *Therefore*, which means it comes after the idea that gives a reason for the government to permit private companies to take over transportation. So, it definitely doesn't work before the first sentence; you can cross out Choice (A). Eliminate Choice (D) also because the sentence is relevant to the paragraph. Sentences 2 and 3 talk about toll roads; it doesn't make sense to split these similar ideas with a sentence that talks about privatization. The best place for the sentence is in between Sentence 1 and Sentence 2, Choice (B). Private companies do a better job; therefore, they should be allowed to take over.

Answer Key for HSPT Practice Test 1

Section 1: Verbal Skills

1. B	13. B	25. A	37. D	49. A
2. A	14. C	26. B	38. B	50. A
3. D	15. B	27. A	39. A	51. C
4. A	16. B	28. A	40. C	52. C
5. A	17. A	29. C	41. B	53. B
6. D	18. C	30. B	42. C	54. A
7. C	19. D	31. A	43. A	55. D
8. B	20. C	32. C	44. B	56. B
9. D	21. B	33. B	45. D	57. D
10. D	22. B	34. D	46. A	58. D
11. A	23. C	35. D	47. D	59. A
12. A	24. B	36. C	48. B	60. C

Section 2: Quantitative Skills

61. C	72. D	83. A	94. C	105. D
62. C	73. C	84. C	95. A	106. B
63. B	74. A	85. B	96. A	107. C
64. D	75. C	86. D	97. D	108. D
65. B	76. D	87. D	98. C	109. C
66. A	77. B	88. B	99. A	110. C
67. A	78. A	89. B	100. C	111. D
68. A	79. C	90. D	101. A	112. C
69. D	80. D	91. B	102. B	
70. D	81. B	92. C	103. A	
71. B	82. A	93. D	104. C	

Section 3: Reading

113. C	126. C	139. C	152. D	165. B
114. C	127. B	140. D	153. B	166. B
115. A	128. D	141. A	154. B	167. C
116. A	129. A	142. B	155. A	168. C
117. B	130. B	143. B	156. A	169. A
118. A	131. A	144. D	157. C	170. A
119. C	132. D	145. C	158. B	171. D
120. D	133. B	146. C	159. D	172. D
121. D	134. D	147. A	160. D	173. B
122. B	135. B	148. D	161. A	174. C
123. C	136. A	149. D	162. C	
124. C	137. A	150. C	163. B	
125. D	138. D	151. B	164. A	

Section 4: Mathematics

175. B	188. D	201. C	214. B	227. D
176. C	189. B	202. A	215. B	228. A
177. A	190. C	203. D	216. A	229. B
178. D	191. A	204. C	217. D	230. D
179. B	192. A	205. B	218. A	231. A
180. A	193. B	206. A	219. B	232. B
181. D	194. C	207. C	220. C	233. D
182. A	195. B	208. D	221. A	234. B
183. C	196. D	209. B	222. D	235. C
184. D	197. A	210. D	223. B	236. D
185. C	198. B	211. C	224. B	237. A
186. A	199. A	212. A	225. C	238. B
187. B	200. D	213. D	226. A	

Section 5: Language

239. B	251. D	263. B	275. B	287. A
240. A	252. D	264. D	276. B	288. B
241. C	253. A	265. C	277. D	289. B
242. A	254. A	266. D	278. C	290. C
243. D	255. B	267. B	279. A	291. D
244. A	256. B	268. D	280. B	292. D
245. D	257. C	269. C	281. D	293. A
246. B	258. C	270. B	282. A	294. A
247. C	259. D	271. C	283. D	295. D
248. B	260. A	272. C	284. B	296. C
249. C	261. B	273. A	285. C	297. C
250. B	262. C	274. A	286. C	298. B