



HSPT Practice Questions

We begin today providing daily practice questions, so that busy students can keep working steadily toward full preparation for the High School Placement Test. Answers will be posted 24 hours later (in the evening).

Sample questions – DAY ONE

***** ANALOGIES *****

judge: mediate

- a. run: track
- b. excite: bore
- c. grin: humor
- d. proclaim: dialogue
- e. doctor: nurse

Answer D.

To judge is to render a decision of right/wrong, to mediate is similar, but a 'softer' form, helping to work to find a compromise. In answer D, the word proclaim is a strong word for telling something, and dialogue is to talk together about something.

amuse: grin

- a. wallflower: dance
- b. entice: alienate
- c. anger: fume
- d. push: struggle
- e. delay: schedule

Answer C.

When amused, you grin, which sets up an analogy of causation (one thing causes another). In C, when you are angered, you fume, or show your anger and resentment through words or expression.

***** ALGEBRA WORD PROBLEMS *****

Employees at the car dealership receive a 10% discount off the regular price. Jim, a mechanic at the dealership, paid \$18,000 for a new truck. What was the regular price?

- a. \$18,000.
- b. \$25,000.
- c. \$20,000.
- d. \$22,222.20
- \$18,181.20

Answer C. This is a very common question, that of percent discounts and taxes, usually in this reverse question type. Like all algebra, you should create the equation.

Step 1 — $\$18,000 = (x)(0.9)$

Step 2 — Divide both sides by 0.9

$\$18,000/0.9 = (x)(.09)/0.9$

Answer — $\$20,000 = x$

***** READING COMPREHENSION *****

Pope John Paul II: "Today we are celebrating the Solemnity of All Saints. On this festive occasion the pilgrim Church on earth lifts her gaze to heaven, to the immense throng of men and women to whom God has given a share in his holiness. As the Book of Revelation teaches, they come "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues" (*Rv* 7: 9). During their earthly life they were committed to always doing his will, to loving him with all their heart and their neighbour as themselves. For this reason they also suffered trials and persecutions, and now enjoy their great and eternal reward in heaven (cf. *Mt* 5: 11).

Dear friends, this is our future! This is the most genuine and universal vocation of all humanity: *to form the great family of God's children* by striving to anticipate its essential traits here on earth. We are drawn to this goal by the shining example of our many brothers and sisters whom, down the centuries, the Church has recognized as blessed and saints, offering them as examples and guides to everyone. Today *we call upon their common intercession*, that every person will open himself to God's love, the source of life and holiness."

John Paul II, the author of the passage, writes that saints _____.

- a. can come from most nations.
- b. suffer for their decisions.
- c. come from a select group of families and neighborhoods.
- d. come from specific eras

Answer B.

As JP II states, the suffered trials and persecutions for deciding to do God's will. In A, the word most cancels that answer, as does the word select and specific in answers C and D.

The Catholic Church, as a "pilgrim Church," _____.

- a. is always colonizing new lands
- b. settles new lands
- c. builds up the Communion of Saints
- d. journeys to be closer and closer to God

Answer D.

The word pilgrim in this case means toward heaven (which is later in that sentence). The other answers deal with more basic uses of the word pilgrim in relationship to settlement and colonization.