

## Errata & Overview for the 2022 NYC HS GUIDE AND NYC SHSAT HANDBOOK v1.0 7/29/2021

Disclaimer: This document was produced by Greg's Tutoring NYC and is not affiliated with nor endorsed by NYC's DOE in any manner. This document is solely intended to be representative clarifications and suggested information for families and their students considering NYC HS enrollment, or taking NYC's Specialized High School Admissions Test aka SHSAT.

Hi! The 2022 NYC SHSAT HANDBOOK is now available! Last year it was provided along with the NYC HS GUIDE as one combined document, in two sections. So far the 2022 NYC HS GUIDE has not been released. The title of this year's SHSAT document is "NYC Guide to the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test – SHSAT for 2022 Admissions."

I've provided video instructions for downloading the handbook on my YouTube channel. That along with some additional complementary words about the handbook can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/eaWM0d5LQdY>

### Tentative 2022 NYC HS Guide Overview Comments

As the NYC HS GUIDE has not been released, I therefore cannot discuss its actual details at this time.

However, the most significant concern with last year's HS Guide was with Screened Admissions, and that will be of concern again this year too. Many Screened HSs use various metrics from 7th grade such as attendance, state test scores, and report card grades. However, because of coronavirus and DOE politics, some of those metrics have temporarily changed: school buildings were closed therefore attendance is being done differently, NY State has cancelled the Math and ELA State Tests two years ago, there were problems with state testing last year, the DOE decided to not give final marking period grades to middle school students in the same manner as they have in the past, and lotteries were introduced among many changes. Therefore, changes to the HS Guide must be forthcoming on this matter to provide new metrics and to discuss any additional new policies for this upcoming admission cycle. As of this writing, THE DOE HAS NOT MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THOSE NEW METRICS.

### 2022 Registration Timeline

2022 registration for NYC HSs is not yet open. Registration normally occurs in the fall a few weeks after school begins. Currently the registration deadline for NYC Specialized HSs is unknown, and for other HSs the deadline is also unknown. For the specialized HSs, SHSAT testing is often in late October through November, and for LaGuardia HS, auditions usually take place from the end of Oct though Dec. What will happen this year we don't know yet. But as an example, last year the SHSAT was delayed and held in late Jan through Feb. THEREFORE, GIVEN THE CURRENT DYNAMICS OF CORONAVIRUS, SCHOOL CLOSINGS, DOE POLITICS, ETC. PLEASE BE AWARE OF ANY FUTURE CHANGES IN ANY OF THESE DATES. Again, they are all currently unknown.

### 2022 NYC SHSAT HANDBOOK Overview Comments

In general the structure of the 2022 SHS Handbook is quite similar to recent years:

- \* The number of questions per main section remains 57 for Math and 57 for ELA.
- \* The number of field questions in the past was 10 questions per each main section. The handbook does not discuss field questions at all this time, which may indicate a change.
- \* Math is still broken down into 5 grid-ins and 52 multiple choice.
- \* ELA is still presented broken down into up to a dozen questions in Revising/Editing A and Revising/Editing B, and the remaining about 3–4 dozen questions in Reading Comprehension. However, it no longer explicitly details this distribution breakdown, which may indicate a change.
- \* Multiple choice questions have 4 choices each
- \* Scoring will still occur as it has in the past, which is not completely known.
- \* There are still wild card situations (questions per section, scoring, subtopics choices, poetry, etc.)

Note that most of the questions and passages in Form A and Form B of this handbook are literally based on previous handbooks' questions and passages verbatim. Although redundant, it's an ok mix of questions and passages.

#### Errors and Formatting Concerns

Last year there were a number of errors and formatting concerns in the handbook. This year I did not find too many. Those I found are detailed below.

I've categorized the concerns loosely; MANY ARE NOT A BIG DEAL, but some can have an impact. Either way, they provide a complete picture for you.

In general the number of formatting problems reduced to almost zero. That's a plus for students, and one less thing to worry about.

In reviewing the last few years' handbooks, I've felt that math questions were slightly easier while ELA questions were slightly harder. This year's handbook seems on par with those observations again. I do feel that even though as mentioned above that these are repeated questions from past years that the combination isn't too bad for the ELA section and makes for a challenge.

This said, note that these are practice tests. They do not necessarily reflect what will be occurring on test day exactly. Remember that questions in the handbook are only representational and are intended to get some sense of the exam, but they are not the exam. No matter if you find the handbook questions very challenging, challenging, reasonable, or easy, don't be led astray. Test day is a beast for many students, and all topics need to be known sufficiently whether they appear in this handbook or not. The handbook is authentic and handy, but it's not the be all and end all.

Furthermore, you must be able to adapt to questions asked in novel ways and you don't know exactly what they will be until live during the actual test. No ands, ifs, or buts about it here. For instance, last year it seems students were given less geometry. Two years ago, students were given 3 and in some cases 4 poetry passages. Such wildcards exist every year, and you're either prepared for them or you're not.

#### 2022 SHSAT HANDBOOK Overview Comments -- Specifics

There are always a number of issues and differences in many years' SHSAT handbooks. They fall into a few categories: format, formatting, fonts, notation, sloppiness, and outright errata. In some cases issues fall into more than one category. I will discuss each in turn. In some cases I will not note every such concern or occurrence, and as mentioned already some are not a big deal.

As in the past, answer explanations provided are not all encompassing, often DEVOID OF INFORMATION, etc. Sloppy ELA explanations saying answers are correct "because they are" have improved over the past few years. However rationales without supporting details still exist. This applies to math explanations too, often they are just plopped on the page and a student who does not know how to solve the problem often still will not be able to even after viewing the explanation in the handbook as it often does not discuss concepts, combinations of steps, or how it is a simplification solution. In short, many have a lack of mathematical explanation, with no narrative in their explanations whatsoever. Therefore be observant as you weigh the real meanings of explanations to LEARN from. For many such examples, you will need external help.

#### SOME SLOPPY CONCERNS include

\* Form A Page 88, this is the page with problem 114.

It contains an overlay for page 54, which this is not.

There is some sort of sloppy formatting or overlay problem at bottom of the page.

This results in a duplicate page footer.

#### These final points are ERRATA TYPE CONCERNS:

\* Form B answers, Page 232, Question 72

It says "... because you can't purchase half an egg."

However, that does not apply. The units are dozens, not eggs.

But you would still round up, and so the answer for 72 is still (F) 23

- \* Form B answers, Page 237, Question 93  
The denominator in the solution shows 29.600 instead of 29,600
- \* Grade 9 Answers, Page 247, Question 10  
Where it shows  $10.2 \times \dots$  the denominator shows 10 it should be 10 the power of 4
- \* Grade 8 grid-in samples answers, Page 252, Question 4  
This provides an incorrect answer based off an incorrect solution.  
The question states: "Point Q is... one-third of the way from Point P to Point R"  
Therefore Point Q is 3 unit from P not 3 units from R.  
Therefore Point Q is  $-5 + 3 = -2$   
The midpoint of PQ is  $-5 + -2 / 2 = -7/2 = -3.5$

It's July, please consider your HS preparations now!

40+ years experience with Grade 8 SHSAT and Grade 9 SHSAT!  
Any questions? Don't hesitate to contact us!

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