

OC [Opportunity Class] FAQs [Frequently asked questions]

1] What is an OC test?

A] The OC test, is also called Opportunity Class test. The OC test is an extremely competitive test. The Opportunity Class Placement Test is written by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). It is a secure test and papers cannot be viewed before or after the test session. The test does not normally contain any questions used in previous tests and measures ability rather than performance on the school curriculum.

There are two parts to the test each comprising 35 multiple-choice questions in:

- English
- Mathematics
- General ability

2] What is Opportunity class?

A: Opportunity Classes (OC) are offered in selected government schools across NSW and cater for academically gifted and talented children in Years 5 and 6. They provide a rich and intellectually stimulating educational environment.

3] What type of child is suitable for OC test/class and how can I prepare my child for an OC test?

A: If your child has been receiving As or Bs in their school reports for past few years, it is a good indication that he/she can sit for OC test. Also focus on their reading and comprehension from early years of education.

4] Is the OC test competitive?

A: The OC placement test is an extremely competitive test. Each year, over 10,000 Year 4 students across NSW sit the OC placement test and only 1800 gain a position.

5] Does tutoring guarantee good OC test results?

A: No. Tutoring does not guarantee good OC results. However for gifted and talented students, additional support from school and home environment can help in achieving great results in OC and Selective placement test.

6] What is the syllabus for OC test?

A: You can look into past papers online and other resources available in local book stores for OC test.

7] Is OC test a pathway to Selective school?

A: Students' ability and performance of students can change over the time since they applied for opportunity class placement. Not all students from opportunity classes are successful for selective high school entry.

8] For selection into OC class, is it only OC test mark that is considered?

1. A: No. Entry into OC class is determined by two factors: 1) Students' results in the OC Test – English (reading comprehension), Mathematics and General ability. 2) Student school assessment scores of their performance in English and Mathematics in Year 4 and occasionally Year 3.

9] How do I apply for my child to sit OC test?

A: Parents of prospective applicants for OC must complete an "Intention to Apply" form provided by the school, then complete an online application. For further information please click here.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/application-process>

10] What is the selection process for OC class?

A: The High Performing Students Team selects students based on academic merit demonstrated by a calculated placement score. This score is calculated using moderated school assessment scores and scaled results of the Opportunity Class Placement Test. Visit this link for more information on Selection Process <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/selection-process>

11] What are the residency requirements for applying for an OC test?

A: Applicants must be Australian citizens or Permanent residents of Australia. Applicants who do not meet residency requirements at the time of applying – but expect to meet them before mid October when initial offers are made – can sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test but will not be offered a place in an opportunity class unless permanent residency has been granted.

12] How many schools can I choose for OC class?

A: You can choose two schools from the list of 76 NSW schools.

13] What should I consider while choosing a school for OC class?

A: Consider carefully the school choices and the order of school choices when you are choosing an opportunity class. The OC class only runs in selected government schools. If your child's existing school doesn't offer OC class then your child will have to move schools. While choosing the school you need to keep in mind the travel time and distance .

14] Can I change the school of choice?

A: Changes of choice cannot normally be made after placement outcome information is released and you cannot transfer between primary schools with opportunity classes. You can contact the High Performance Test Unit for further information, email at ssu@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 1300 880 367 or fax (02) 9266 8435.

15] Where can I get further information?

A: You can visit this link for any further information : <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/information-for-applicants>