



INCOMING FRESHMAN
PLACEMENT TEST BLUE PRINTS
2026-2027



INTRODUCTION

St. Thomas High School conducts placement tests for students entering ninth grade in math, science, and world languages. The placement tests aim to identify the right courses for each student, ensuring they start in classes that align with their academic readiness. These assessments are not part of the admissions process and are given only after a student has been admitted and enrolled.

PLACEMENT TEST OVERVIEW

All enrolled students will take a mathematics placement test. Science and world language placement tests are optional; however, we strongly recommend that all students take them to ensure accurate placement and readiness.

MATHEMATICS PLACEMENT

Used to place students into one of the following courses:

- Algebra 9
- Algebra I
- Advanced Algebra I / Geometry
- Advanced Geometry
- Advanced Algebra II / Trigonometry

Note: Only scientific calculators may be used during the mathematics placement test. Graphing calculators are not permitted.

SCIENCE PLACEMENT

Used to place student in Biology or advanced biology.

WORLD LANGUAGE PLACEMENT (French, Latin, Mandarin, & Spanish)

Used to place students into Level I or Level II of the elected language. These placement tests cover reading and writing only.

BLUEPRINT OVERVIEW

This guide includes examples for each section to help students better understand how to use blueprints to create an effective exam study plan.

Section 1: Exam Overview - The exam overview section will tell you what types of questions to expect on the exam, as well as how much each type of question will be worth toward your total score.

Section 2: Essential Standards/Objectives - The Essential Standards/Objective section outlines which objectives or topics will be assessed on the placement test, and indicates which ones will carry the most weight toward your overall score. Use this section to identify what to review and practice. Prioritize the more heavily weighted topics over the ones that will make up a smaller percentage of your score.



PRE-ALGEBRA: FRESHMEN PLACEMENT TEST BLUEPRINT

Exam Overview

Question Type	Number of Questions	Point Value/Percentage of Total Score
Multiple Choice	16	16 points
Free Response	24	72 points

Essential Standards/Objectives Breakdown

Essential Standard/Objective or Topic	Number or Percentage of Questions
Solving and creating linear equations	12.5%
Properties of linear equations	25%
Understanding and identifying functions	10%
Writing and interpreting inequalities	2.5%
Rigid transformations	5%
Area, volume, surface area, and distance	17.5%
Interpreting and analyzing data	5%
Real number systems	10%
Simple interest and growth	2.5%
Simplifying algebraic expressions	10%



ALGEBRA/GEOMETRY: FRESHMEN PLACEMENT TEST BLUEPRINT

Exam Overview

Question Type	Number of Questions	Point Value/Percentage of Total Score
Multiple Choice (Algebra)	25	25 points
Free Response (Algebra)	15	45 points
Multiple Choice (Geometry)	10	10 points
Free Response (Geometry)	10	30 points

Essential Standards/Objectives Breakdown

Essential Standard/Objective or Topic (Algebra)	Number or Percentage of Questions
Linear Equations and Inequalities	30%
Functions and Graphs	12.5%
Systems of Equations	10%
Linear Equations in multi-variables	5%
Exponential Expressions	5%
Polynomials and Factoring	22.5%
Quadratic Functions and Graphs	15%
Real number systems	10%
Simple interest and growth	2.5%
Simplifying algebraic expressions	10%
Essential Standard/Objective or Topic (Geometry)	Number or Percentage of Questions
Angle Relationships	20%
Triangles	10%
Trigonometry	15%
Quadrilaterals	5%
Circles	15%
Similarity	10%
Polygons	5%
Area & Volume	20%



SCIENCE: FRESHMEN PLACEMENT TEST BLUEPRINT

Exam Overview

Question Type	Number of Questions	Point Value/Percentage of Total Score
Multiple Choice (Biology)	22	22 points
Multiple Choice (Chemistry)	14	14 points
Multiple Choice (Physics)	11	11 points
Multiple Choice (reading a graph)	3	3 points
Free Response (Graphing)	7	21 points
Free Response (CER)	1	4 points
Free Response (Dimensional Analysis)	1	5 points
Free response (Biology)	3	20 points

Essential Standards/Objectives Breakdown

Essential Standard/Objective or Topic (Biology)	Number or Percentage of Questions
System interactions and homeostasis	8%
Matter cycling, energy flow, and enzymes in living organisms	4%
Biological structures and function	21%
Scientific method and explaining scientific phenomena	39%
Evolutionary theory	2%
Essential Standard/Objective or Topic (Chemistry)	Number or Percentage of Questions
Matter	2%
Atomic theory	4%
The structure and properties of matter	6%
Energy transfer and energy conservation	4%
Essential Standard/Objective or Topic (Physics)	Number or Percentage of Questions
Force, motion, and energy	7%
Energy in waves	3%



FRENCH: FRESHMEN PLACEMENT TEST BLUEPRINT

Exam Overview

Question Type	Number of Questions	Point Value/Percentage of Total Score
Short written response	5	5/125
Paragraph-length written response	1 (23 pts)	23/125
Organize vocabulary	12	12/125
Matching	23	23/125
Fill in the blank	62	62/125

Essential Standards/Objectives Breakdown

Essential Standard/Objective or Topic	Number or Percentage of Questions
Students can produce the elements of a basic conversation	10/125
Students can identify school subjects and supplies	7/125
Students can talk about preferences	7/125
Students can talk about schedules and days of the week	13/125
Students can describe friends and family	38/125
Students can provide the appropriate article for a given noun	12/125
Students can identify numbers 1-100	10/125
Students can conjugate the verbs avoir, etre, aller, faire, and regular -ER verbs	24/125
Students can negotiate the past tense (indicates French 3 placement)	10/125



LATIN: FRESHMEN PLACEMENT TEST BLUEPRINT

Exam Overview

Question Type	Number of Questions	Point Value/Percentage of Total Score
Identification / labeling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying person, number, tense of verbs • Identifying verb conjugation • Identifying noun declension • Identifying principal parts • Identifying case and number of nouns 	34	60 points 29%
Short answer / chart completion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb paradigm charts (present, imperfect, future, perfect) • Imperative forms (singular and plural) • Adjective agreement forms 	28	64 points 31%
Multiple choice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb tense/person selection in context • Correct case selection after prepositions • Subject/object identification • Adjective agreement in sentences 	18	36 points 18%
Reading comprehension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short passage followed by comprehension questions (details, inference, sequence) 	10	20 points 10%
Translation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence-level Latin to English translation • Includes participles, relative clauses, comparison, indirect context 	12	24 points 12%



LATIN: FRESHMEN PLACEMENT TEST BLUEPRINT

Essential Standards/Objectives Breakdown

Essential Standard Objective or Topic	Number or Percentage of Questions
Verb morphology and usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person and number identification • Present, imperfect, future, perfect tense recognition • Active voice only • Imperatives (singular and plural) • Principal parts and their functions • Correct tense selection based on English cues 	44%
Noun morphology and syntax <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declension identification (1st, 2nd, 2nd neuter, 3rd) • Case and number identification • Dictionary entry components (nominative, genitive, gender) • Case usage in context (subject, direct object, object of preposition, possessive) 	24%
Adjectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement with nouns in gender, number, case • Correct form selection in isolation and in sentences • Comparative adjective recognition and translation (callidior quam) 	8%
Pronouns and special forms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal pronouns (mihi, tecum) • Relative pronouns (quem) • Demonstratives (illum) • Reflexive context (sē) 	3%
Reading comprehension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding a short narrative passage • Extracting factual information • Following sequence of events • Identifying subjects, actions, and outcomes 	10%
Translation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literal comprehension-based translation • Participles (present active) • Ablative absolute • Relative clauses • Comparative constructions • Impersonal expressions (necesse est) 	12%



MANDARIN: FRESHMEN PLACEMENT TEST BLUEPRINT

Exam Overview

Question Type	Number of Questions	Point Value/Percentage of Total Score
Free Response	16	39 / 113 points (~35%)
Fill in the Blank	23	23 / 113 points (~20%)
Short Answer (answer in English)	14	14 / 113 points (~12%)
Multiple Choice	8	8 / 113 points (~7%)
Unscramble & Translation	7	29 / 113 points (~26%)

Essential Standards/Objectives Breakdown

Essential Standard/Objective or Topic	Number of Questions
Interpersonal Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express and exchange personal opinions or preferences in written conversation • Tell others what they need to, should, or must do in written conversations 	16 questions
Interpretive Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key words and details from fiction and non-fiction texts • Infer meaning of unfamiliar words or phrases in highly contextualized text 	14 questions
Chinese Sentence / Word Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sentence order in general • placement of time and place in a sentence • order of time words 	11 questions
Vocabulary Usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbs • Adverbs • Conjunctions • Measure Words • Uses of 了 	27 questions



SPANISH: FRESHMEN PLACEMENT TEST BLUEPRINT

Exam Overview

Question Type	Number of Questions	Point Value/Percentage of Total Score
Fill in the Blank	55	55 pts. / 73% of Total
Short Answer	2	20 pts. / 27% of Total

Essential Standards/Objectives Breakdown

Essential Standard/Objective or Topic	Number of Questions
TEKS (2) (A) - Interpretive reading, presentational writing	57 questions
Students will be able to identify and define regular present tense -AR, -ER, and -IR verbs.	14 questions
Students will be able to use conjugations of regular present tense -AR, -ER, and -IR verbs in a complete sentence.	14 questions
Students will be able to identify and define irregular/stem-changing present tense -AR, -ER, and -IR verbs.	21 questions
Students will be able to use conjugations of irregular/stem-changing present tense -AR, -ER, and -IR verbs in a complete sentence	21 questions
Students will be able to identify conjugations of regular preterite tense -AR, -ER, and -IR verbs.	18 questions
Students will be able to conjugate regular preterite tense -AR, -ER, and -IR verbs and use them in complete sentences	18 questions
Students will be able to conjugate the irregular preterite tense verbs hacer, ir, and ser and use them in complete sentences	2 questions



