

# HSRT Practice Test

5 Questions · One per skill area · Full explanations

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The HSRT (Health Sciences Reasoning Test) measures critical thinking across five skill areas: Analysis, Inference, Evaluation, Inductive Reasoning, and Deductive Reasoning. Unlike the TEAS or HESI, it tests reasoning ability — not science or medical content knowledge. Each question below represents one skill area you will encounter on the actual exam.

## QUESTION 1 OF 5 — ANALYSIS

A hospital administrator states: "Our patient satisfaction scores improved after we added more nursing staff last quarter." A nurse manager responds: "But we also renovated the patient rooms and changed our meal service during that same period." What is the nurse manager most directly doing?

- A) Denying that staffing levels affect patient satisfaction
- ✓ B) Identifying additional factors that could explain the improvement
- C) Arguing that room renovations are more important than staffing
- D) Claiming the administrator's data is inaccurate

### Answer & Explanation

**Correct answer: B** — The nurse manager is pointing out that the improvement happened alongside multiple changes, making it impossible to attribute the outcome to staffing alone. This is analysis of a causal claim — noting that alternative explanations exist.

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## QUESTION 2 OF 5 — INFERENCE

A study followed 400 respiratory therapy students at 8 community colleges. Students who scored above 70 on the HSRT had a 91% program completion rate. Students who scored below 70 had a 64% completion rate. Which of the following is most strongly supported by this data?

- A) The HSRT causes students to complete respiratory therapy programs
- ✓ B) HSRT scores above 70 are associated with higher program completion in this sample
- C) All students who score above 70 on the HSRT will complete their program
- D) Respiratory therapy programs should require a minimum HSRT score of 70

### Answer & Explanation

**Correct answer: B** — The data shows a correlation in this specific sample. Option B accurately reflects what the data shows without overreaching into causation (A), certainty (C), or policy recommendations (D).

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## QUESTION 3 OF 5 — EVALUATION

A nurse argues: "We should use aromatherapy for post-operative pain management because a patient told me it helped her, and she's a very reliable person." What is the primary weakness in this argument?

- A) The nurse has personal bias against alternative medicine
- ✓ **B) A single patient's report is insufficient evidence to establish a general clinical practice**
- C) The patient may not have been reliable
- D) Post-operative pain cannot be managed without opioids

#### Answer & Explanation

**Correct answer: B** — The argument relies on anecdotal evidence from one person to support a general clinical practice. One case cannot establish whether aromatherapy works broadly — this is the classic error of generalizing from an insufficient sample.

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#### QUESTION 4 OF 5 — INDUCTIVE REASONING

A dental hygiene program administrator reviews HSRT scores for 3 years of admitted students. Students scoring 65-74 passed board exams at 72%. Students scoring 75+ passed at 94%. The administrator concludes: "Applicants who score below 65 will very likely fail their board exams." How strong is this conclusion?

- A) Strong — the pattern clearly extends below 65
- ✓ **B) Weak — the data includes no students who scored below 65**
- C) Strong — a 22-point difference justifies the extrapolation
- D) Weak — board exam pass rates are not related to HSRT scores

#### Answer & Explanation

**Correct answer: B** — The conclusion is weak because it extrapolates to a group (below 65) not represented in the data. Inductive conclusions should be limited to the range of actual observations.

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#### QUESTION 5 OF 5 — DEDUCTIVE REASONING

All patients admitted to the ICU must be assessed within 30 minutes of arrival. Patient Rivera was admitted to the ICU at 2:15 PM. The assessment was completed at 3:00 PM. Which conclusion necessarily follows?

- A) Patient Rivera received adequate care
- ✓ **B) The protocol was not followed for Patient Rivera**
- C) The 30-minute rule is unreasonable
- D) Patient Rivera's condition was too complex for a 30-minute assessment

#### Answer & Explanation

**Correct answer: B** — If all ICU patients must be assessed within 30 minutes (the rule), and Rivera's assessment took 45 minutes, the protocol was not followed. This conclusion is guaranteed by the premises alone.

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