

Testing . . .

College Entrance Examinations

Many of you have already taken the PSAT. Other tests you are likely to take are the SAT I Reasoning Test and the SAT II Subject Tests. All of these tests are published by the College Board in Princeton, NJ. Some of you will also choose to take the ACT from the American College Testing Program, which is the competitor to the College Board.

SAT I Reasoning test

The SAT I is a three-hour-and-forty-five-minute test that measures the critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, and writing skills that students need to do college-level work. The test's three sections are divided into nine subsections, including a 25-minute essay, which are timed separately:

Section	Tests Ability To
Critical Reading (3 sections)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">understand and analyze what you readrecognize relationships between parts of a sentenceunderstand word meaning in context
Math (3 sections)	Solve problems involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none">algebra and functionsgeometry and measurementnumber and operationsdata analysis, statistics, and probability
Writing (3 sections)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">use standard written Englishidentify sentence errorswrite an essay and develop a point of view

SAT I scores are to be used, together with your high school record and other information about your academic and personal background, in making decisions about your readiness to undertake successful study at different colleges and universities. A detailed description of the SAT I and a complete sample test and answer key are included in *Taking the SAT I* which is available in the Guidance Office.

SAT II subject tests

SAT II Subject tests (formerly Achievement Tests) measure knowledge in a given subject area. Since these tests measure what you have already learned in a given subject, it is best for Juniors to take them as late as possible in the year. When you register for the SAT II you will be asked to indicate which specific Subject Test you plan to take on the test date you select. You may take one, two or three tests on any given test date; your testing fee will vary accordingly. Your selections at the time of registration are not binding; you may change your mind on the day of the test and select from any of the Subject Tests offered on that day. If you wish to take an additional test (one that you have not already paid for), you may do so and you will be billed for the additional fee. SAT II: Subject Tests are required by many of the more competitive schools for admission purposes, but a large number of colleges and universities do not require any of these tests. At some colleges, the scores from these exams are used to place entering students in particular freshman courses. Students should check with individual colleges to see which tests are required, if any, and speak to their guidance counselor to design a testing timetable. A practice booklet, titled *Taking the SAT II*, is available in the Guidance Office.

ACT

The ACT, an alternative to the SAT Reasoning Test, is administered by the American College Testing Service. While many colleges prefer the SAT I Reasoning Test and SAT II Subject Tests to the ACT, an increasing number of colleges will accept either test. Students should check a dependable college handbook or even a college's catalog if they are unsure of which test might be needed for particular colleges. The main difference between the ACT and the SAT is that the ACT is a yardstick of both reasoning ability and knowledge of specific subject matter covered in classes. If students need more information about the ACT, they should seek out an ACT guide or check with their guidance counselors. ACT registration packets are available in the Guidance Office or online at www.act.org

Test	Content
English	Measures standard written English and rhetorical skills.
Mathematics	Measuring mathematical skills students have typically acquired in courses taken up to the beginning of grade 12.
Reading	Measures reading comprehension.
Science	Measures the interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills required in the natural sciences.
Optional Writing Test	Measures writing skills emphasized in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses.

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AP Exams

The Advanced Placement program provides an opportunity for high school students to take college-level courses and exams. Each individual college determines the level of achievement it will accept for course credit. Scores on the exams range from a low of 1 to a high of 5.

TOEFL

Test of English as a foreign language. The TOEFL is designed for students for whom English is not a native language and whose score on the SAT would obviously be affected by the language difference. More information about this exam is available in the Guidance Office.

ELPT

English Language Proficiency Test. Students attending high school whose primary language is not English and who have had two to four years of English language can take the ELPT which measures a student's Proficiency in English.

Testing for Students with Disabilities

Students who have special needs that require testing accommodations such as extended time, alternate location, large type, a reader, etc. for school tests and exams may have the same accommodations for their college admission tests. The registration process for these students is different and requires special forms that are available in the Guidance Office. Please contact your counselor before you register so that your testing modifications can be set up according to the requirements of the Individualized Education Plan or 504 Plan.

When to take the college entrance exams

Junior Year

October – Take the PSAT (practice SAT)

May/June – Take the SAT or ACT

June – Take SAT II Subject Tests

Senior Year

October/November – SAT, ACT or SATII

SAT Program Test Dates

March 10, 2007

May 5, 2007

June 2, 2007

October 6, 2007

November 3, 2007

December 1, 2007

ACT Assessment Test Dates

April 14, 2007

June 9, 2007

October 27, 2007

December 8, 2007

Registration materials for the SAT's and ACT's can be found in the Guidance Office. You may also register online at www.collegeboard.com (SAT's) or www.act.org (ACT's).

Our school code is 331695 (you will need this when you register).