

COLLEGE BOUND TESTING – WHAT? WHEN? WHY?

ACT TESTING DATES (2011-2012 – register 5-6 weeks ahead of time)

Cost: \$34 no writing - \$49.50 with writing

September 10, 2011	February 11, 2012
October 22, 2011	April 14, 2012
December 10, 2011	June 9, 2012

SAT TESTING DATES (2011-2012 – Register 4-5 weeks ahead of time)

Cost: \$49 regular, \$75 late

October 1, 2011	March 10, 2012
November 5, 2011	May 5, 2012
December 3, 2011	June 2, 2012
January 28, 2012	

SAT SUBJECT TESTING DATES (2011-2012)

Cost: \$22 per test date, plus \$11 per test or \$22 for a language test

2011/12 dates same as SAT dates, no Subject Tests in March. Language w/ Listening tests only available in November.

Subject test availability may change by date (World History and Language).

See www.sat.collegeboard.org for more information.

ACT VS. SAT – WHICH ONE? WHY?

- Both tests widely accepted, without prejudice (although ACT w/ the optional writing frequently required)
- Some students perform better at one over the other, many students perform about the same.

TEST CONTENT:

- The ACT test is 20 minutes shorter – it has four sections (English, Reading, Math and Science) followed by an optional essay. In contrast, the SAT has an essay and nine sections (each section will be Critical Reading, Math or Writing - each a shorter timeframe than an ACT section).
- Good time management/prompt responses help to achieve a higher ACT score. Some sections allow an average of 1-1.5 minutes/question.
- The ACT includes a Science section, which is actually more graphic interpretation – for almost all questions all of the science knowledge required will be included in the test; you just have to be able to interpret the information given.
- Math content varies by test. The SAT and ACT both cover Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II and some statistics concepts. The ACT includes some trigonometry questions as well and it is structured more like a regular test you might encounter in school.
- The SAT rewards students with a rich vocabulary; the ACT favors students that read well and relatively quickly. The English portion of the ACT is more a test of punctuation and sentence and paragraph structure.
- For the SAT, it is easier to write essays that use illustrative examples rather than argument. For the ACT, the essays are typically argumentative, persuading with ideas even if you lack perfect recall of facts and figures.

TEST SCORING:

- For the ACT, a composite score between 1-36 is given based on the average of 4 ACT sections, each scored on a scale from 1-36. For the SAT, the scores of each of the three subjects are added together. Each subject score will range from 200-800, with the total being a maximum of 2400.
- You may take either the ACT or SAT as many times as you want. Both test scores are reported on a by-test basis. For the ACT, you may select the test on which you performed the best (i.e. got the highest composite score) and send only that score to the colleges to which you are applying. Some schools “super score” the SAT which means they take your best section scores from multiple test dates and then put them together for your best possible total score.
- The ACT does not penalize for guessing (the SAT takes off $\frac{1}{4}$ point for each incorrect answer).
- Compare mock ACT score w/ PSAT score and use tables to compare scores from the two tests available at <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/data-reports-research/sat/sat-act>.

Table 1 Concordance between ACT Composite Score and Sum of SAT Critical Reading and Mathematics Scores

SAT CR+M (Score Range)	ACT Composite Score	SAT CR+M (Single Score)
1600	36	1600
1540-1590	35	1560
1490-1530	34	1510
1440-1480	33	1460
1400-1430	32	1420
1360-1390	31	1380
1330-1350	30	1340
1290-1320	29	1300
1250-1280	28	1260
1210-1240	27	1220
1170-1200	26	1190
1130-1160	25	1150
1090-1120	24	1110
1050-1080	23	1070
1020-1040	22	1030
980-1010	21	990
940-970	20	950
900-930	19	910
860-890	18	870
820-850	17	830
770-810	16	790
720-760	15	740
670-710	14	690
620-660	13	640
560-610	12	590
510-550	11	530