

## SLHS MOCK SAT/ACT TESTING

Q: Why is the Academic Boosters offering mock tests?

A: The Academic Boosters feels there are several benefits to offering mock SAT and ACT tests at SLHS. First, it gives the students a chance to try the ACT test without having to worry about their scores being officially recorded. Second, practice tends to improve scores – especially when the student reviews what s/he got wrong. Third, the detailed score reports will give exact information on what types of questions were missed, thus allowing the student to focus his/her study time. Fourth, test-taking strategies are reviewed at the feedback session, giving the students an opportunity to improve.

Q: How do I know which test my child should take?

A: The ACT and the SAT have several differences – such as a heavy focus on vocabulary in the SAT, while the ACT has a Science section (which is primarily graph interpretation). To better understand the test similarities and differences, please see the following article:

<http://www.appelrouthtutoring.com/blog/2008/08/26/sat-vs-act/>

Q: Is registration required?

A: Registration is not required, but it is recommended. In the past, the test has sold out. If it does not sell out, then walk-ins will be accepted. However, seating is limited and will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

Q: How much will the test cost? What payment options are available?

A: If you register on-line, using PayPal on the PTSA web site, the cost to take one mock test is \$10. If you register with a paper form or walk in, then the cost is \$15 (we will accept a check made payable to “SLHS PTSA” or exact change). There are free passes available from Ms. Burke for any students in need.

Q: Is the mock test environment similar to the real test environment?

A: Yes – the mock test will follow the exact timeframes allowed for the official test – 3 hours 35 minutes for the SAT and 3 hours 15 minutes for the ACT. There will be a couple of brief bathroom/snack breaks, so we estimate the testing should be done by 1:00.

Q: Who will have access to my student’s scores?

A: You or your student will receive a hard copy of their scores at the feedback session. Appelrouth Tutoring will also have an electronic copy of each student’s scores. The scores are kept confidential and not shared with anybody other than the test-taker.

Q: When will the test scores be available?

A: The test results will be available one-two weeks after the test is taken. Please attend the feedback session to receive your student’s detailed score report and to learn some of the test-taking strategies that could improve your student’s score the next time they take the test.

Q: What information will I get in addition to the test score?

A: A detailed score report includes: the total overall score, total score by section, student's answer, correct answer and type of question for each question, # correct for each level of difficulty and how score would change if the student omitted questions that he had gotten wrong. For the SAT, the student will receive recommended practice questions in the College Board SAT Review book, based on the questions he answered incorrectly. A sample score report is on the Academic Boosters page of the PTSA web site (see the bottom of the page).

Q: Who should consider taking this test?

A: Sophomores (or juniors!) may want to consider taking the ACT so they can see if they do well in that testing scenario or have a limited number of topics that need improvement. Any student may want to take the mock SAT to see what types of questions they get wrong and then they may plan their study time accordingly. Research has found that students need a chance to fail (retrieval failures) in order to strengthen or replace their memorization strategies. You don't know you need a new strategy until the one you are relying upon comes up short. Use the mock tests to identify which strategies work for you and which don't.