

Standardized Tests



PSAT

- ▣ PSAT/NMSQT measures reading, writing, language, and math skills developed over many years, both in and out of school.
 - Does not ask students to recall facts/formulas
 - Instead, measures reasoning and critical thinking skills
- ▣ Designed as a practice for the SAT
 - Colleges do NOT see actual scores


PSAT FORMAT

FOUR Sections:


1. Reading Test (60 mins., 47 questions)
 - *Reading and vocabulary in context*
2. Writing & Language Test (35 mins., 33 questions)
 - *Grammar and usage*
3. Math Test, No Calculator Portion (25 mins., 17 questions)
4. Math Test, Calculator Portion (45 mins., 31 questions)
 - *Algebra, problem-solving, & data analysis; advanced math (geometry, trigonometry, & pre-calculus)*

SAT

- 3 hours, 154 questions (1 min. 10 sec. per question)
- 3 sections (+1 optional)
 1. Math
 2. Evidence-Based Reading
 3. Writing
 4. Optional 50 min. Essay (check to see if colleges require this)
- Cost: \$45/\$57



Focus on: Algebra (linear equations and systems); Problem Solving & Data Analysis (quantitative literacy); Advanced Math & Topics (manipulation of complex equations, geometry, trigonometry)



Both sections focus on: Multiple choice questions, passage-based; some use informational graphics (tables, graphs, and charts)

SAT SUBJECT EXAMS

- ▣ SAT Subject Tests in 5 general subject areas (English, History, Languages, Mathematics, and Science)
- ▣ Purpose: to test your knowledge of subjects on a high-school level
- ▣ Duration: 1 hour
- ▣ Format: Multiple choice questions, scored on 200-800 scale
- ▣ Cost: \$26 + \$20 USD per test
- ▣ 20 tests are offered on every SAT date, but only specific ones depending on testing centre (cannot take SAT & Subject Exams on the same day)
 - Some tests require special equipment (CD Player)

ACT

- ▣ Duration: 2 hours, 55 minutes (49 seconds, per question)
- ▣ Cost: \$42.50/\$58.50
- ▣ 4 sections + optional 40 minute essay
 - English
 - 75 questions, 45 minutes
 - 5 passages (with multiple choice questions)
 - Assesses English conventions, writing production, language knowledge
 - Math
 - 60 multiple choice questions, 60 minutes
 - Knowledge of basic formulas and computational skills assumed
 - Pre/Intermediate calculus, algebra, trigonometry, functions, statistics, modelling, geometry

ACT

- ▣ 4 sections + optional 40 minute essay
 - Science
 - 40 multiple choice questions, 35 minutes
 - Measures interpretations, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills required in natural sciences

 - Reading
 - 40 multiple choice questions, 35 minutes
 - Reading comprehension

MORE ABOUT ACT/SAT TESTING

▣ WWW.FAIRTEST.ORG

- List of universities/colleges (+800) that are SAT/ACT optional (in the US)

▣ Some universities (outside the US, may not require SAT/ACT)

▣ Score choice

- You decide which composite of scores to send to colleges

▣ Superscoring

- Process in which colleges can consider your highest selection scores (across all dates you took SAT) rather than *one* date

THE ONE YOU
WANT FOR
UNIVERSITY
APPLICATION

IELTS

- ▣ 2 Types: **Academic** & General Training
- ▣ 4 sections (no breaks in between)

Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 40 questions● 30 minutes (10 min to transfer answers)● 4 recordings (conversation, monologue in social context, group discussion, monologue on academic subject)● Multiple choice, matching, labelling, completion, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 40 questions● 60 minutes● 3 different passages that are descriptive and factual (from books, journals, etc.)● Fill in the gaps, matching text to diagram/charts, multiple choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2 prompts● 60 minutes● Describe, summarize, explain information given to you in graph, table, or chart● Task 1: explain graph/visual (20 mins)● Task 2: write essay (40 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 11-14 minutes● 3 parts● Part 1: Answer general questions (to examiner)● Part 2: Talk about particular topic (1 minute to make notes)● Part 3: Further questions from Part 2● Purpose: discuss abstract issues and ideas

UPCOMING IELTS TEST DATE 2020

Registration Date	Test Date
January 9, 2020	April 11, 2020
TBD	October 24, 2020 (tentative)