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The
Princeton
Review®

Tenafly High School
February 1, 2024

SAT[®], ACT[®], or Both?

Presented by: Lisa Richter
Lisa.Richter@review.com

Agenda

- **What are the SAT and the ACT? + Similarities and Differences**
- **Changes to College Admissions Testing**
- **Testing Strategies**
 - **Essentials, SAT and ACT Specific**
 - **Testing Timeline**



What are the Digital SAT & ACT?



WHAT DO THESE TESTS MEASURE?

Admission tests..	True	False
... measure intelligence?		✓
... can be used to award aid?	✓	
... reflect your GPA in high school?		✓
... predict your college GPA?		✓
... can be prepared for?	✓	
... should be prepared for?	✓	
... test what you've learned in HS?	?	?

Standardized Tests are Completely Different from Your High School Tests

HIGH SCHOOL TESTS
Limited Subject Matter
Content Knowledge
Plenty of Time
Partial Credit or Extra Credit
Human Graded
One Element of Overall Grade

STANDARDIZED TESTS
Years of Material
Testing Strategy
Rigorously Timed
Right or Wrong Answers
Machine Graded
Only Your Final Score Matters




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ACT® vs. SAT®

Side By Comparison

ACT®

Digital
SAT®



Format	Exclusively multiple choice	Mostly multiple choice
Content areas	English, Math, Reading, Writing, Science	Math, Reading, Writing
Scoring per section	1 – 36	200 – 800
Timing	2:55 (3:35)	2:14
Questions	215	98

DIGITAL SAT SECTIONS

READING & WRITING

1ST MODULE

- “25 Operational Questions and 2 Pretest Questions”
- 32 Minutes
- Multiple-Choice
- 1 Passage per Question

2ND MODULE

- “25 Operational Questions and 2 Pretest Questions”
- 32 Minutes
- Multiple-Choice
- 1 Passage per Question

MATH

1ST MODULE

- “20 Operational Questions and 2 Pretest Questions”
- 35 Minutes
- Multiple-Choice and Student-Produced Response

2ND MODULE

- “20 Operational Questions and 2 Pretest Questions”
- 35 Minutes
- Multiple-Choice and Student-Produced Response

ACT SECTION BY SECTION

SECTION	TIME	QUESTIONS
English	45 minutes	75 questions
Math	60 minutes	60 questions
Reading	35 minutes	40 questions
Science	35 minutes	40 questions
TOTAL	175 minutes	215 questions



SAT SCORING

MATH	200 – 800
READING AND WRITING	200 – 800
TOTAL	400 – 1600

ACT SCORING

ENGLISH	1-36
MATH	1-36
READING	1-36
SCIENCE	1-36
COMPOSITE	1-36



WHAT ABOUT THE ESSAY?

- The SAT has dropped the Essay from their exam.
- Students can still take the optional essay on the ACT.
- As of 2023 only 3 schools that require the ACT essay for admission & 4 schools that recommend it
- We suggest you take the essay, *but don't sweat it!*

WHAT IS A GOOD SCORE?

A good score is the score that gets you into your dream college.

**WHERE
WILL YOUR
SCORES
TAKE
YOU?**



SCHOOL	SAT 25%	SAT 75%*	ACT 25%	ACT 75%*
Northwestern University	1440	1550	33	35
Amherst College	1410	1550	31	34
University of Virginia	1340	1520	30	34
Stanford University	1440	1570	32	35
Harvard University	1460	1570	33	35
University of Texas	1230	1480	27	33

* SAT scores are reflective of the Critical reading and Math scores. The data is self-reported from the schools and represents data during the 2018-2019 school year. * ACT scores are self-reported from the schools and represent data during the 2018-2019 school year.

HIGH SCORES CAN LEAD TO SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS

SCHOOL	SAT*	ACT*	AVG. MERIT AWARD**
Santa Clara University	1380	31	\$18,264
Dickinson College	1350	31	\$16,952
University of North Carolina, Charlotte	1270	29	\$16,455
Quinnipiac University	1100	25	\$17,000
University of Maine	1100	24	\$10,800
Saint Louis University	1070	23	\$16,794

* SAT scores are reflective of the Critical reading and Math scores. The data is self-reported from the schools and represents data during the 2015-2016 school year. * ACT scores are self-reported from the schools and represent data during the 2015-2016 school year.

** Average merit award for qualifying individuals provided by schools.



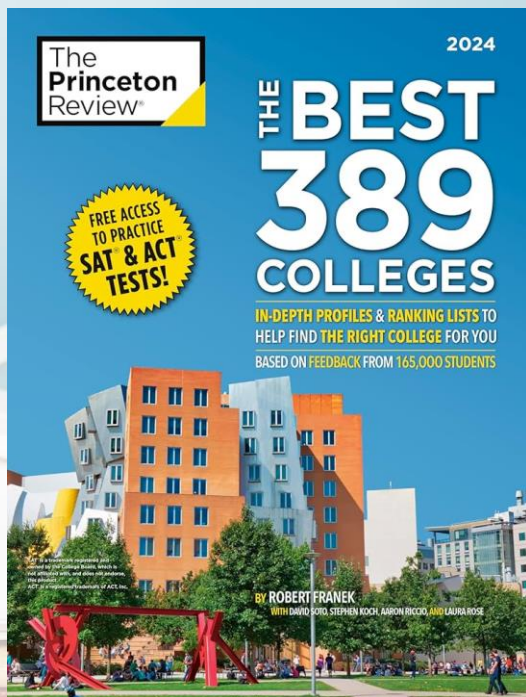
Changes to College Admission Testing



**THE SAT AND
ACT ARE
NOT GOING
ANYWHERE**

**WE KNOW ONE
THING ABOUT
STANDARDIZED
TESTING**

Do SAT and ACT Scores Still Matter?



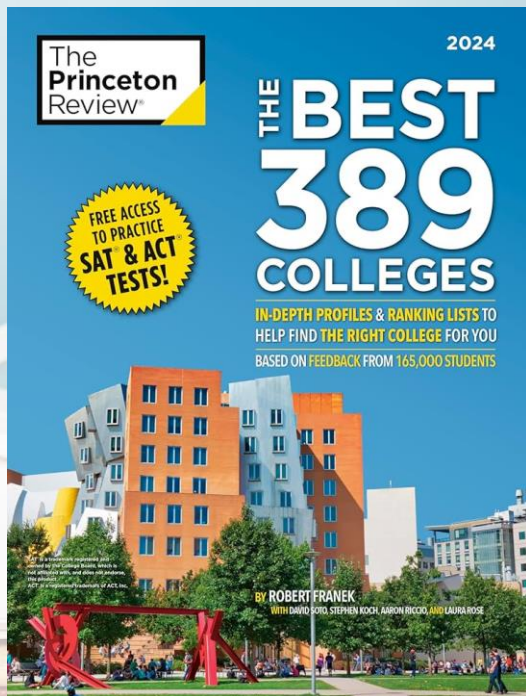
TEST REQUIRED
6% of SCHOOLS

TEST FLEXIBLE
3% of SCHOOLS

TEST OPTIONAL
85% of SCHOOLS

TEST FREE
7% of SCHOOLS

Do SAT and ACT Scores Still Matter?



93% of SCHOOLS
WILL STILL
WANT TO SEE
HIGH TEST
SCORES
IF SUBMITTED

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What About Test Optional Admissions?

If a school you apply to **considers** test scores a good score can help you

If a school you apply to says it prefers to see test scores you are **BETTER** taking either test

If a school you apply to is test-optional, you **don't** have to send a mediocre score

If any school you are applying to **requires** test scores then you **MUST** take the SAT or ACT and do well



**THE SAT
IS GOING
DIGITAL**

**NOT
ONLINE**

STAYING THE SAME

Skills and Knowledge

**Mostly
Multiple Choice**

Types of Questions

Scoring

Still Taken In Person

Proctored

CHANGING

**Taken on
Laptop or Tablet**

Bluebook App

2 Hours vs. 3 Hours

Computer Adaptive

**Calculator Allowed
On All Math Sections**

**Shorter Sections and
Fewer Questions**

A Computer Adaptive SAT[®]

FIRST MODULE
Same difficulty for all

SECOND MODULE
More Difficult

HIGH SCORE
800

LOW SCORE
Floor

SECOND MODULE
Less Difficult

HIGH SCORE
Capped

LOW SCORE
200



Test Strategies & Timeline

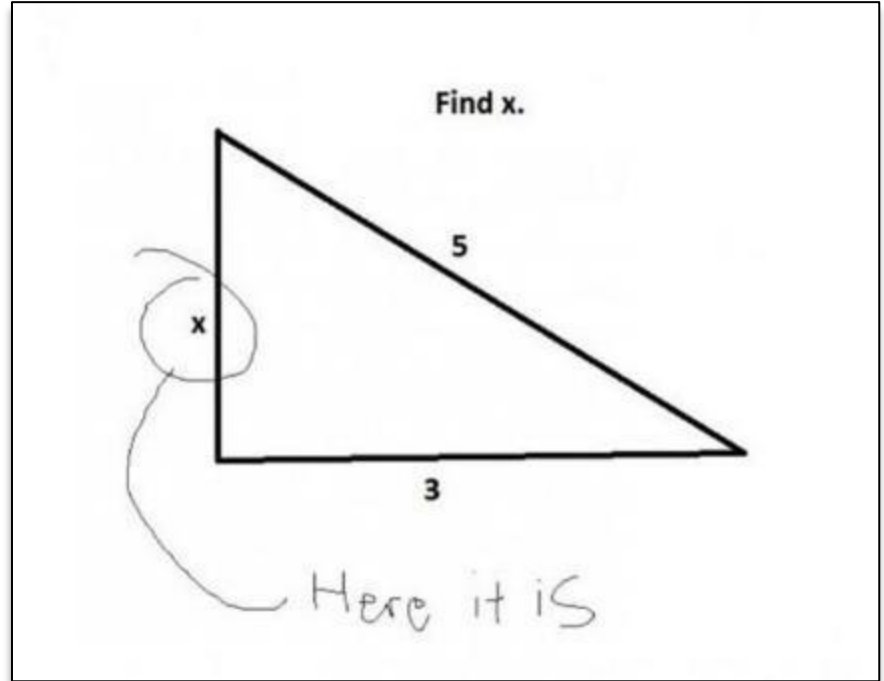
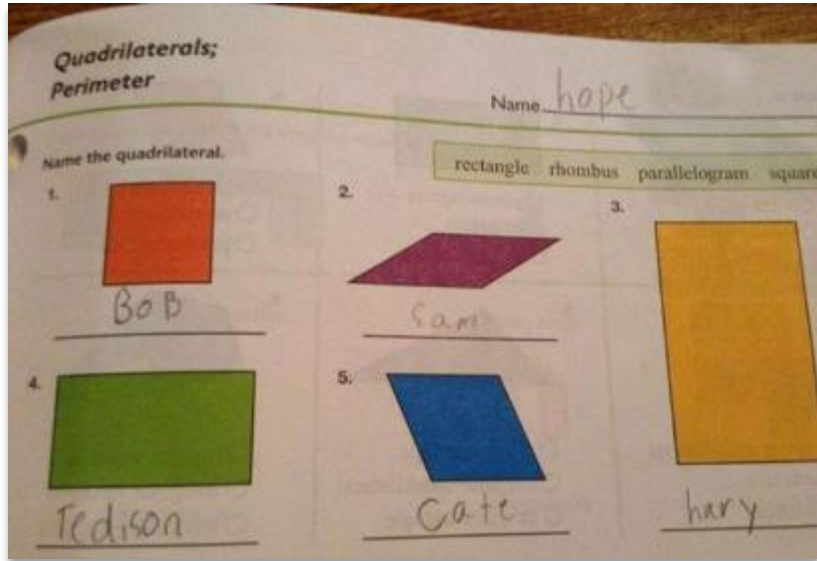




Test-Taking Essentials



THESE TESTS REQUIRE TESTING SAVVY



COMMON MISTAKES

Answering questions
too quickly

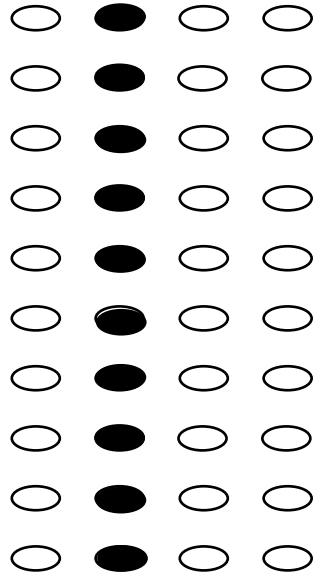
Choosing answers
carelessly

Doing work
in your head

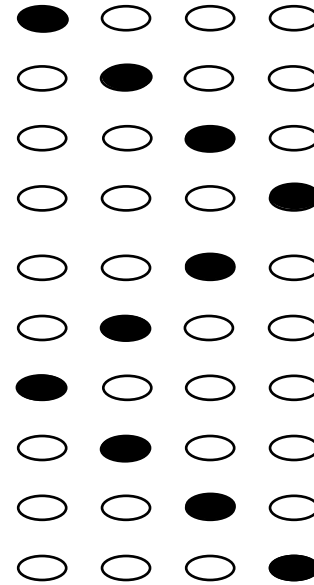
Misreading the
problem

Not understanding
what to do

LETTER OF THE DAY



Scores Higher



Scores Lower

Pacing Example

SAT Reading/Writing

27
Questions
in
32 Minutes

1 Minute,
10 Seconds
per
Question

**PERSONAL
ORDER
OF
DIFFICULTY**

- **Don't do each question in order**
- **Do YOUR best questions first**

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Digital SAT Specific Strategies



A dimly lit classroom with rows of light blue chairs and white desks. In the background, there is a whiteboard, a round wall clock, and two long rectangular light fixtures hanging from the ceiling. The text is overlaid on this scene.

Your first strategy with a
computer-based test
is to know exactly what the
testing environment is like

Section 1: Reading and Writing

Module 1

Directions ▾

31:44

Hide

TIMER

NOTES

Annotate More

The intergenerational Bulgarian female choir group Bistritsa Babo preserve customary songs and dances from the Shopluk region since 1939. Through these _____ performances, members of Bistritsa Babo hope to keep this centuries-old ritual of expression alive. In 2005, the group was added to the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage for Eastern Europe.

FLAG

1 Mark for Review

MARK OUT

Which choice completes the text with the most precise word or phrase?

(A) traditional

(B) obscure

(C) discreet

(D) eccentric

PASSAGE

QUESTION

THESE ARE NOTHING

Question 1 of 27 ▲

Back

Next

REVIEW SECTION

Section 1: Reading and Writing

Module 1


Directions ▾

14:39





Hide

Annotate  More 

American avant-garde jazz composer and guitarist Mary Halvorson's musical discography includes *Dragon's Head*, an album created with bassist John Hébert and drummer Ches _____ a solo album; and *Away with You*, which featured pedal steel player Susan Alcorn, cellist Tomeka Reid, and saxophonist Ingrid Laubrock.

21  Mark for Review 

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A Smith; *Meltframe*, 
- B Smith; *Meltframe* 
- C Smith, *Meltframe*, 
- D Smith, *Meltframe*: 

Question 21 of 27 ▲

Back

Next



7

Mark for Review



- 265 Students
- 39% O+
- 6% MoE

Spread out
answer
choices

A random sample of 75 students in a first-year medical school class of 265 students was surveyed to determine the distribution of blood types among the students. Based on the survey, it is estimated that 39% of the students have O-positive blood type, with an associated margin of error of 6%. Based on these results, what is a plausible number of students out of the entire first-year class who have O-positive blood type?

 A 16 B 39 C 74 D 100

Ballpark it!

~250

students

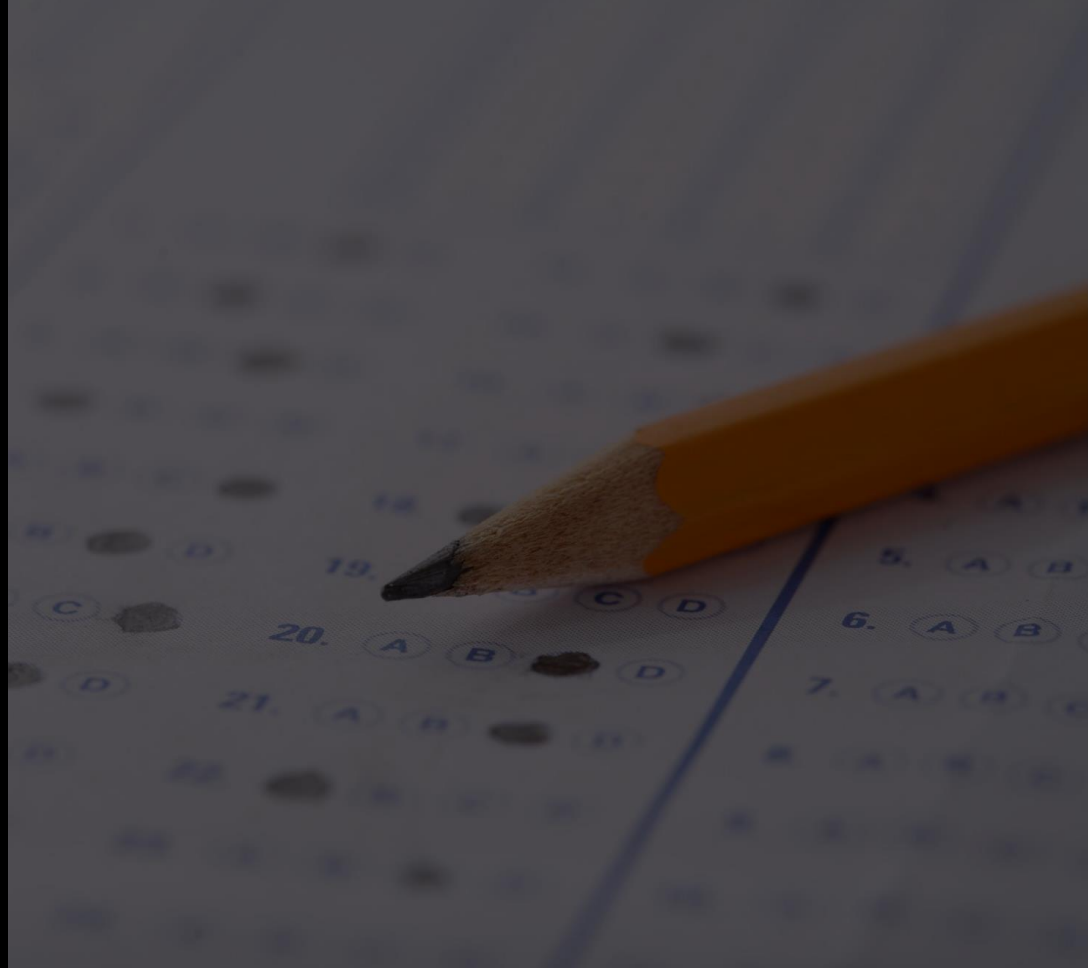
~40% O+

$250 \times .4 =$

100

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ACT Specific Strategies



English Strategy

57. These fudge shops are so numerous and abundant that the local residents have even developed a special nickname for these tourists: I call the tourists “fudgies.”

Plural

A. NO CHANGE

Singular

B. one calls

Singular

C. it calls

Singular

D. they call

Plural

Math Strategy

From The Princeton Review's ACT Practice Test Online

24. A rectangular rug has an area of 80 square feet, and its width is exactly 2 feet shorter than its length. What is the length, in feet, of the rug?

$$L-2=W$$

$$L \times W = 80$$

A. 8

B. 10

$$-2=8$$

$$10 \times 8 = 80$$

~~C. 16~~

$$-2=14$$

$$16 \times 14 = 224$$

~~D. 18~~

~~E. 36~~

Plug

In

The

Answers

Reading Strategy

- ~~A.~~ uses extreme language like “never” or “always” or “all”
- ~~B.~~ recycles phrases directly from the passage
- ~~C.~~ says something true but is not explicitly in the passage
- D.** is an answer you might not love
but is still the BEST ANSWER
or perhaps LEAST BAD answer

SCIENCE STRATEGY

Table 2
Measured period (sec)

Trial	Lead cube	Tin Cube
6	2.10	2.12
7	2.04	2.06
8	2.05	2.07
9	2.12	2.11
10	2.00	2.10

The average periods were 2.06 sec and 2.09 sec for the lead and tin cubes respectively. The average accelerations were 9.3 m/sec² for lead and 9.0 m/sec² for tin.

In Experiment 2, if an additional trial were conducted using the lead cube, the cube's measured period would most likely be nearest:

- A. 1.90 sec.
- B. 2.05 sec.
- C. 2.15 sec.
- D. 2.20 sec.

SAT & ACT TEST DATES

SAT TESTING DATES 2023-2024

August 26

October 7

November 4

December 2

March 8

May 4

June 1

ACT TESTING DATES 2023-2024**

July 15

September 10

October 22

December 10

February 11

April 15

June 10

**approximate dates

Should you retest?

Score Improvement with retakes

ACT¹

45% took test multiple times

57% improved score

Superscoring!²

**Schools will take the best individual section scores
and combine them**

Date	Verbal	Math	Total
October	640	530	1170
December	590	600	1190
Superscore!	640	600	1240

90% of schools superscore the SAT

68% of schools superscore the ACT

Planning Your Prep

JUNIOR YEAR

August

- PSAT Prep

September

- PSAT Prep

October

- PSAT Administration

November

- PSAT Scores Released

December

- Sign Up for Test Prep

January

- Start SAT Prep

February

- SAT Prep

March

- First SAT Exam/AP Prep

April

- AP Prep

May

- AP Exams

June

- Second SAT Exam

July

- Possible ACT Exam

SENIOR YEAR

DONE WITH TESTING!!! Work on College Applications



THE RIGHT PREP

**MAKES ALL THE
DIFFERENCE**





**THERE ARE
MANY WAYS
TO PREP**

Take a **Practice Test**

Buy a **Prep Book**

Self-Prep Online

Take a **Course**

Work with a **Tutor**

Student and Family Resources

AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION PREMIUM Prep
2021

- Full-length practice tests
- Answer explanations for practice tests
- Language context articles
- Preparation advice

9 KEY CONCEPTS FOR AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
12:59

COVID-19 SERIES
Helping Students Know What to Know

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
An Inside Look
4:44

Important Updates About SPRING 2021 AP EXAMS

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BY ROBERT FRANKE
WITH SARAH CHAN, CHIEF COLLEGE STRATEGIST

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Prep from wherever is most convenient to you.			
<p>Essays That Kicked Ass: 55 Unforgettable College Application Essays That Got Students Accepted</p> <p>Nov 8</p> <p>How Optional Is Test-Optional?</p> <p>Nov 14</p>	<p>Wed 8:00 PM-9:30 PM EST</p> <p>\$0 use</p> <p>See Details</p> <p>Register</p>		
	<p>Tue 8:00 PM-9:30 PM EST</p> <p>\$0 use</p> <p>See Details</p> <p>Register</p>		

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*Prices are for full-term and exclude taxes for in-person.

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HOW TO NAVIGATE YOUR COLLEGE JOURNEY FROM START TO FINISH

BY THE HIGH SCHOOL EXPERTS AT THE PRINCETON REVIEW



**Let's
stay in
contact!**

Lisa Richter | The Princeton Review

Outreach Specialist, High School Programs
Northern New Jersey
201-762-9012
Lisa.Richter@review.com