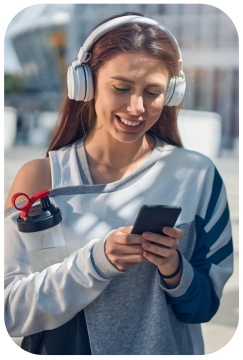
US TESTING 1.0.1











ROCHAMBEAU
THE FRENCH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

AGENDA

1. WHY US EXAMS EXIST
2. SAT vs ACT
3. PSAT
4. ENGLISH PROFICIENCY
5. AP EXAMS
6. TEST OPTIONAL
7. TIMELINE
8. QUESTIONS ?

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MEET THE TEAM



Erika Toren

Head of Department and
Grade 11/1ere Coordinator

Our Admissions Leader



Karine Gaultier

French Specialist

Should we bother taking these exams for France?



Maggie Martin

Grades 8/4eme
& 9/3eme Coordinator

The best guide for when you begin to consider testing.



Maelle Gasquet

Testing Coordinator
& Grade 10 Coordinator

Your contact for all Testing questions!

WHY US EXAMS EXIST

1

No National Leaving Exam

Universities (MIGHT) need proof that students are ready for college level classes and exams.

This is done through exams such as SAT / ACT and APs.

2

Holistic Review

Universities look at:
Grades (transcript)
Letters of Recommendations
Application Essays
Activities / Clubs

AND (maybe) TESTS

3

Gauge College Readiness

Scores can help determine student's level

Georgetown University Average:

1470 SAT
33 ACT

SAT

2 Sections	Reading and Writing, Math
2 Adaptive Modules Per Section	Performing well on the first module will result in a more challenging second module
Scoring	Each section is scored on a scale of 200-800 giving the student a combined score of 400-1600
Audience	The SAT is an aptitude test, designed to project what kind of student a child will be when they are 18+
Takeaways	Advantages students who are strong problem solvers

ACT

3 Core Sections	Reading, English, Math
2 Optional Sections	Science, Essay
Scoring	Students receive a score of 1-36 on each section and are provided an overall composite score which is an average of the 3 core sections
Audience	The ACT is aimed at students aged 16-18 which means that the language is often more straightforward and clear
Takeaways	Advantages students who are strong in math and science

University Testing Policies

Test Optional

Up to the student

Test Required

All applicants must submit scores



Test Preferred

Students should submit scores if available

No Harm Policy

The school will only consider a students scores if they benefit the student.

**Some schools are also test-flexible and may accept IB for BF/BFI results or predictions.

Test OPTIONAL DOES NOT MEAN TEST IRRELEVANT

Universities are not always forthcoming

- Rice University: Cited as "***test-recommended***," suggesting scores are heavily favored.
- Auburn University: ***Test-preferred***

Look at the Acceptance Statistics

- Emory University: 81% of admitted students submitted scores in a recent test-optional cycle.
- Notre Dame: Over ***90%*** of admitted students submitted scores.

So. What Should You do?

If you are considering the USA at all, *we highly recommend you take the SAT or ACT.*

Universities are constantly changing their policies, and are often still deciding on their policies even the summer before applications begin.
One "test optional" university might become test "required" between July and August.

Better Safe than Sorry



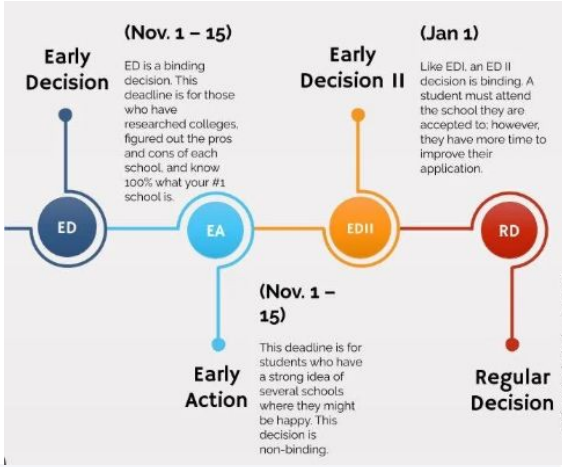
Early Action / Early Decision & Admission Rounds

Certain Application deadlines are very early in the Fall

Oxbridge: October 15
Early Action/Decision: Anytime starting October to November
Bocconi Round 1 : End of September

Students are REQUIRED to send their scores at the same time they submit their application.
If a student marks "Submit Test Scores" on their application but then doesn't send their scores, they are marked as INCOMPLETE and DENIED

Some universities are flexible. ***Many are not***.
It is best to have everything by the time students submit applications.



Session	Online Bocconi test	Online application	Results
Early Session	available from mid July 2025 until early April 2026	3 - 26 September 2025 (3:00pm Italian time)	12 November 2025 (late afternoon)
Winter Session		28 November 2025 - 23 January 2026 (3:00pm Italian time)	11 March 2026 (late afternoon)

PSAT: WHY?

PSAT NMSQT

1. Good Practice

- ***As Rochambeau does not provide any SAT guidance***, this is the best way to practice for students in realistic conditions

2. Better Prepared for SAT

- Students know what to expect for the actual SAT and will not be surprised.

3. National Merit Scholarship*

- Students with high scores can qualify for a scholarship. (for US residents and Green card holders only)
- For PSAT NMSQT 10/11 grades only

****This is VERY rare however***

What to do with the SAT/ ACT scores?

Over 2000 accredited universities are test optional or test free.

A disappointing SAT/ACT score does not make or break a successful college education.



Some examples of test optional or blind:

Duke University
Vanderbilt University
Columbia University*
The California State System (UCLA, Berkeley etc.)
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
Northeastern University
Stanford University
Bowdoin College
Swarthmore College
Pomona College
Princeton University

* *Test optional for this year only.*

It is the student's responsibility to send their scores to universities.

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English Proficiency TEST



Different Types

Some Universities can accept the SAT/ACT ***INSTEAD OF*** English Proficiency.

Most universities will take it in additional (UK etc.)

TOEFL

Test of English as Foreign Language
$270 in the US
2 to 3 hours

Considered hardest exam
Mostly computer based, multiple choice, mic recorded speaking

IELTS

International English Language Testing System
$ 215 to 340
Conversational speaking, diverse question types

Most popular worldwide
2 hours and 45 minutes

Entrance Exam

Some Universities REQUIRE an entrance exam plus English Proficiency (Cambridge etc.)

Some have the option of an entrance exam
OR the SAT / ACT (Bocconi)

Example:

- A minimum score of 90 on the TOEFL; OR
- A minimum score of 6.5 on the IELTS; OR
- A minimum score of 61 on the PTE Academic; OR
- A minimum score of 120 on the Duolingo English Test



AP EXAMS: YES OR NO?

1

What they are:
Subject based exams at first year university level

Designed to measure how well student has mastered the content and skills of a specific AP courser

2 to 3 hours long

2

Meant to show academic rigor

Highlights academic ambition and dedication. Strengthens college applications by preparing students for college-level work through critical thinking and study skills

3

Can strengthen applications, earn college credit

Example:

A student scores a 5 on AP Psychology, earning 3 credits at their university and bypassing introduction to psychology

4

WHY YOUR CHILDREN MIGHT NOT NEED IT:

AP score is no longer a college credit guarantee
> cannot predict <

Universities more likely to give college credit for IB / BAC than AP exam.

IB and BAC already demonstrates student is ready for college level classes

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Example:

Subject	Track	System	US Equivalent	AP Course	Key Counselor Note
Mathematics	**Spécialité Maths**	French Bac / BFI	***≈ AP Calculus AB — stronger proof emphasis. Exceeds AP in theoretical depth.***	***AP Calculus AB / AP Calculus BC***	Specify it was a Spécialité (rigorous, chosen). Mention proof-based exams. Frame as AP Calc AB as a floor, not a ceiling.
Mathematics	**Maths Expertes**	French Bac / BFI	***≈ AP Calculus BC + intro college Linear Algebra. Among the most rigorous HS math anywhere.***	***AP Calculus BC + (college Linear Algebra)***	Highlight this explicitly. Note it is taken ON TOP of Spécialité. Rare globally. Frame as college-level linear algebra at minimum.
Mathematics	**Maths Complémentaires**	French Bac / BFI	***≈ Precalculus / Algebra II level. NOT equivalent to any AP math course.***	***Precalculus / Honors Algebra II***	Be transparent: student took this instead of continuing Spécialité. Do not oversell. Pair with strong grades elsewhere.
Mathematics	**BFI (all math tracks)**	French Bac / BFI	Same as French Bac equivalents. Bilingual diploma adds distinct value.	Same as French Bac track equivalent	Clarify bilingual context. Note BFI follows the French national curriculum. Bilingual math writing is a differentiator.
Mathematics	**IB Math AA HL**	IB	***≈ AP Calculus BC. Very high rigor — comparable to Maths Expertes.***	***AP Calculus BC***	AA HL is the gold standard for IB math STEM applicants. Comparable to Expertes.
Mathematics	**IB Math AA SL**	IB	***≈ AP Calculus AB. Solid but lighter than AA HL.***	***AP Calculus AB***	Respectable but flag if student is STEM-focused — HL preferred.
Mathematics	**IB Math AI HL**	IB	***≈ Precalculus + AP Statistics. Strong applied focus.***	***AP Statistics / Precalculus***	Good for social science / business tracks. Weak signal for pure STEM programs.
Mathematics	**IB Math AI SL**	IB	***≈ Algebra II / Precalculus. Accessible level.***	***Algebra II / Precalculus***	AI SL alone is NOT a strong signal for STEM. Clarify to admissions readers.


IT'S A TRAP.

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AP Exams: Yes or No?

Academic & College Benefits

- Earn college credit or advanced placement, potentially skipping intro college courses
- Demonstrates academic rigor on college applications
- The exam may feel significantly easier than for non-immersion students, boosting chances of a high score (4 or 5)
- Shows student ambition and growth:
  Taking an AP exam in a class not offered at Rochambeau demonstrates to universities that the student is eager to learn and explore!



Low Challenge, Low Growth

- The course may feel redundant or too easy for fluent speakers, offering little new learning
- Students might coast rather than being genuinely pushed, making it a poor use of a class slot

Mismatch with Exam Format

- This is an exam of French as a second language: Students sometimes *overestimate* their readiness and underprepared

Diminishing Returns

- Colleges may not grant credit for AP French if a student is already flagged as a native-level speaker — ***policies vary by school***

Unnecessary Penalties

- ***Less than 5/5 is an automatic deny for Cambridge***
- ***4/5 in AP French might be a great risk to universities***

The best answer ever:

*IT DEPENDS**

**Ask our team!*



TIMELINE

Explore interests, focus on academic excellence, build foundational skills.

8th/4eme
9th/3eme

Narrow focus, seek leadership roles, start testing journey.

First PSAT in the Fall?

10th/2nde

Take the SAT / ACT / APs
PSAT in Fall - SAT in Spring

Last test should be BEFORE 12th grade.
Grades can help determine college list.

11th/1ere

Finalize applications with a strong writing and stellar recommendations.

12th/T

KEY REMINDERS

- *PSAT recommended in 10th & 11th grade Good practice!*
- *SAT/ACT recommended in Winter / Spring of Junior year for the 1st time.*
- *RECOMMENDED testing in summer BEFORE SENIOR YEAR AT THE LATEST*
- *Thousands of excellent colleges do not require any tests scores.**

**Our office recommends your child take at least one test if interested in the USA, just in case.*



STILL UNSURE?

Talk to our Team!

- ★ 11th & Head of Department: Erika Toren
- ★ 10th & Testing Advisor: Maelle Gasquet
- ★ 8th & 9th grade: Maggie Martin
- ★ France: Karine Gaultier



Finally:

Do ***ANY*** of these exams that we just discussed matter for French Applications?


NO

DO WE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?



Slides will be available in French

FIN

LAUNCH TIMELINE

Month | Month | Month | Month | Month | Month | Month

Start date - End date

Start date - End date

Start date - End date

Start date - End date

CAMPAIGN STAGE: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



In a few lines, explain what needs to happen during the opening stages

of the campaign.

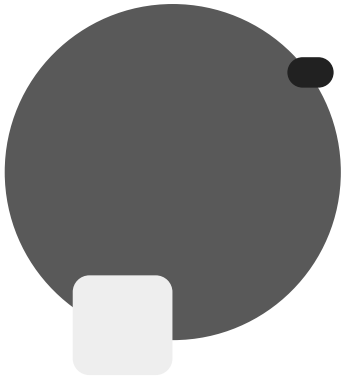


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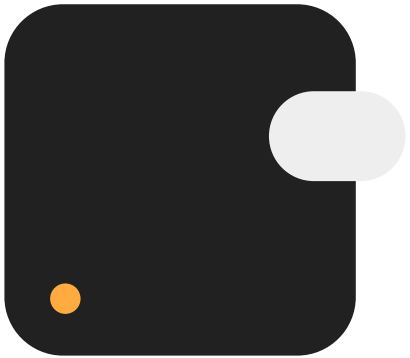
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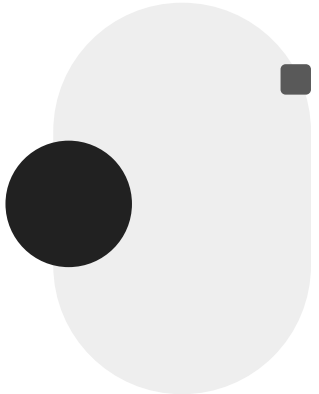


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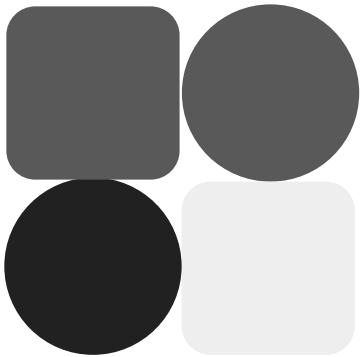


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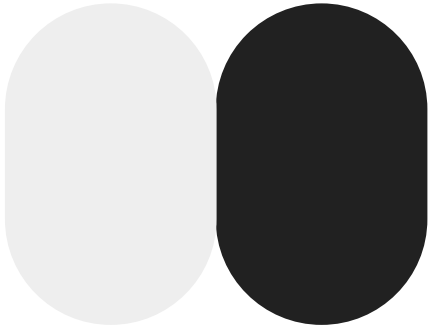
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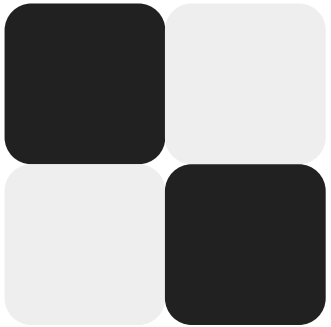


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CAMPAIGN STAGE: EXECUTION AND LAUNCH



With the planning out of the way,

it’s time to make the

campaign a reality.



Depending on the nature of your campaign, this might involve creating

your marketing content, hiring external contractors, or partnering with influencers.



You can also mention the specific asset types that you'll be producing as part of the campaign.

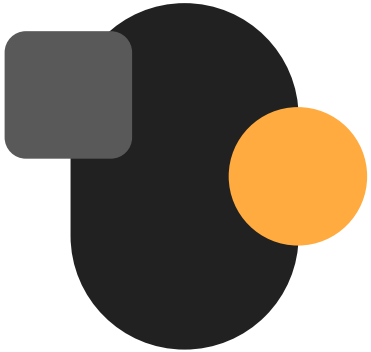
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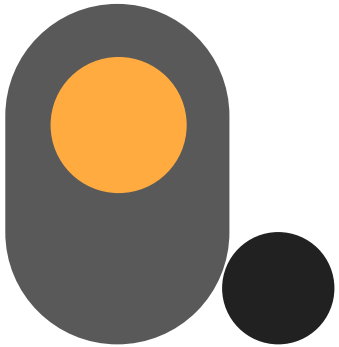
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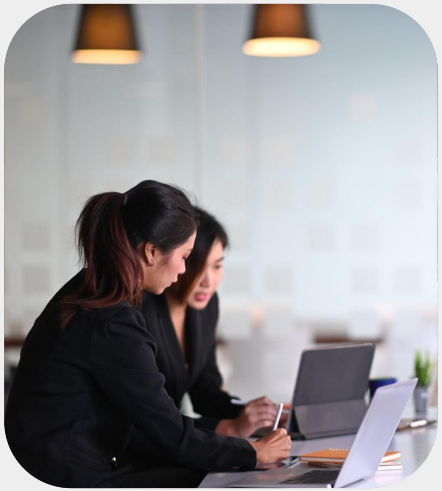


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CAMPAIGN STAGE: MONITORING AND ANALYSIS



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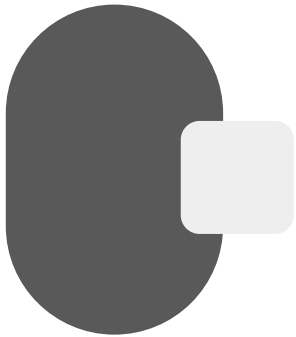


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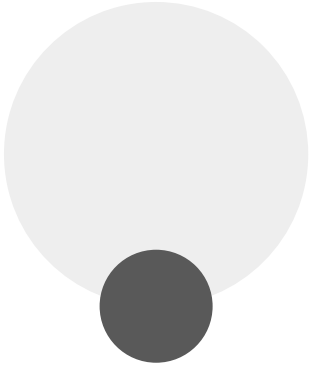


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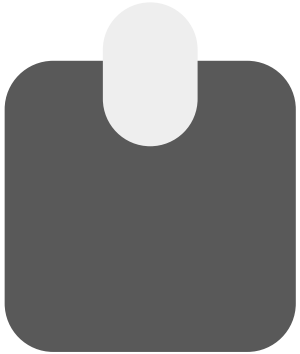
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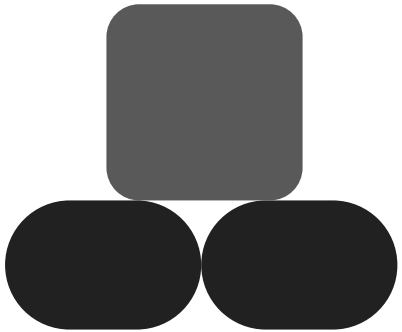


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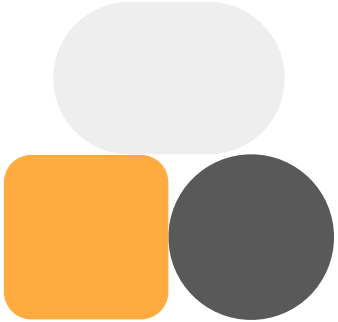


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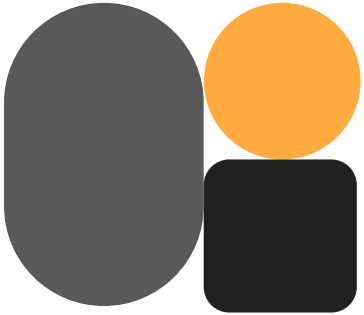
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BUDGET

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Stage 1 | Stage 2 | Stage 3

NEXT STEPS

1 RECAP A KEY TAKEAWAY

Make this takeaway actionable. Suggest what your company or organization can do in response to your analysis.

2 RECAP A KEY TAKEAWAY

Make this takeaway actionable. Suggest what your company or organization can do in response to your analysis.

3 RECAP A KEY TAKEAWAY

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4 RECAP A KEY TAKEAWAY

Make this takeaway actionable. Suggest what your company or organization can do in response to your analysis.

THANK YOU!

Use this space to encourage your audience to reach out if they have any questions, doubts, or concerns about the contents of this presentation.

Share relevant contact details and invite your audience to continue the conversation at a later date.

CONTACT OUR TEAM
name@example.com